

Psalm 94

V: 1-2 God's requirements for His people are that we "do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God." **Micah 6:8**

- Our God loves justice, mercy, and truth - all of which are only reconciled in Jesus, and for those who love Jesus.
- The Psalmist declares that vengeance belongs to the Lord, vengeance is His domain which also means that it doesn't belong to us, it is not our place!

Nahum 1:2 "God is jealous, and the Lord avenges; the Lord avenges and is furious. The Lord will take vengeance on His adversaries, and He reserves wrath for His enemies;"

- The word "vengeance" is often misinterpreted to mean "revenge" or "being vindictive," as though God were having a temper tantrum, but "to avenge" means to uphold the law and give justice to those who have been wronged.

Paul relates:

Romans 12:19 "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written "vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

- Paul is saying that God is the avenger, that we need to hold back, give Him place, room to do what is right. The Psalmist states the God is his avenger, that this particular function in his life is given to God to perform.

Psalm 18:47 "It is God who avenges me, and subdues the peoples under me:"

- Here in our text as the Psalmist affirms that God is the avenger, that vengeance belongs to Him so he says "shine forth!" Show me, do it, avenge now!
- Rise up and punish the proud, meaning the wicked.

V: 3-7 The same question has been asked by many, "how long Oh Lord?"

Even during the great tribulation:

Revelation 6:9-10 "9When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the Word of God and for the testimony which they held. 10And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

- The Psalmist begins to list the sins of the wicked, why they should be judged:

1. They are insolent and boastful, proud.

Psalm 31:18 “Let the lying lips be put to silence, which speak insolent things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous.”

2. They hurt your people and seek to harm your heritage, your reputation.
 3. They slay widows and strangers (helpless), they murder the fatherless - those who have no protection.
- Talk about provoking God; these are the very people that are expressly protected throughout God’s Word.
 - One of the first places this is mentioned is in the book of Exodus and it gives us a hint as to God’s attitude about how widows, strangers, and the fatherless are to be treated.

Exodus 22:21-24 “²¹You shall neither mistreat a stranger nor oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. ²²You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child. ²³If you afflict them in any way, and they cry at all to Me, I will surely hear their cry: ²⁴and My wrath will become hot, and I will kill you with the sword: your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless.”

James 1:27 “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

- ⁷Then they say, the the Lord doesn’t see or understand - meaning He is impotent, He can’t do anything about it. Huge mistake!

V: 8-11 Psalmist declares that those who think that way are senseless fools.

- Don’t you think that He who designed and created the ear would be able to hear? Or that the One who designed and created the eye - don’t you think that He can see?

Proverbs 15:3 “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”

Romans 11:33 “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!”

- To think that we can fool God is foolishness itself, futile. He knows our thoughts.

V: 12-13 There is inherent blessing in both being teachable, and being willing to receive instruction from the Lord.

Psalm 32:8-9 “⁸I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. ⁹Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding which must be harnessed with the bit and bridle, else they will not come near you.”

- Those who are corrected and learn from their chastisement are blessed.
- Those that are instructed by the Lord, those that have learned from Him know they can trust in Him, they can rest and allow Him to deal with the wicked.

V: 14-15 The Lord is faithful, He will not cast off or abandon His people.

Deuteronomy 31:8 “And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.”

- ¹⁵Judgment returning to the righteousness?
- Our greatest need is not to be informed. It's to be reminded. We're prone to forgetting.
- That's why I come to church. I need to be reminded as I sing the songs, as I examine His Word, as I offer prayer, as I fellowship with my brothers and sisters.
- The day is coming when all our problems will be solved, when all our questions will be answered. Until then, we have to be reminded constantly of eternity.

V: 16-17 Who will defend me? Who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity? Who will stand up against evil doers in general.

Psalm 62:6 “He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved.”

Psalm 94:22 “But the Lord has been (is) my defense, and my God (is) the rock of my refuge.

V: 18-19 It's not so much if our foot slips, but when - He is there.

Jude 24-25 “²⁴Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling / falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. ²⁵To God our savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever, Amen.”

20-21 Describing institutional wickedness, wicked rulers who devise or decree evil through a perverted legal system.

- In WWII - All the wicked things that Adolf Hitler did were legal in Germany, he never broke a single law - because the laws were evil by design.
- You want to talk about an evil law in our land: **Roe vs Wade** is the perfect example that has led to the institutional and legally protected abomination of abortion, infanticide, the whole sale murder and slaughter of the innocents.
- It does exactly what V: 21 describes: They've gathered together against the life of the righteous - those innocent babies haven't done anything wrong - with their / our evil laws we've condemned innocent blood - and God will one day deal with that!
- We shouldn't miss the question asked here in V: 20b.

“Shall the throne of iniquity which devises evil have fellowship with you?”

- Another way to put this is “are you going to allow wickedness into your home?”
- We all know the pat answer - but it really comes down to a real commitment.

Joshua 24:15 “And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

V: 22 Alternate translations each have application.

- In spite of all that...
- The Lord has been my defense - we have a history, God has been my defense and I give Him glory for that.
- The Lord is my defense - presently, I am relying on Him.

V: 23 The wicked bring God's judgment upon themselves: We reap what we sow.

Galatians 6:7-8 “⁷Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”

Psalm 95

- Psalm 95 is an “invitational Psalm” in that it invites us to worship.
 - A Psalm of David (**Hebrews 4:7**) - consistent with David's life and ministry.
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V: 1-3 Praise! Extolling His person, His glory, worshipping Him!

- Singing unto the Lord has always been a very important part of worship within Judaism, and from the Church. David and many others have been inspired to write songs, and hymns, and spiritual songs.

Psalm 100:1-2 “¹Make a joyful shout / noise to the Lord, all you lands! ²Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing.”

Psalm 100:4 “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.”

- Because He is worthy! The Lord is the great God, and the great King above all gods!
- In the old city of Jerusalem, there at the Western Wall - sometimes you'll see different groups of Jews coming into the courts of the Lord singing, and celebrating, rejoicing in the Lord. There is also a rabbinic school near there and there are times when you can see these young men coming down the steps near Solomon's porch doing the same thing, locking arms, dancing, and singing as they come to worship at the Western Wall.
- We should come into His house with the same heart, with the same intent, to worship Him.
- Simply affirming who and what He is, that He is above things, above all kingdoms, all dominions, above all principalities.

Revelation 19:16 “... KING of kings and LORD of lords.”

V: 4-5 KTLA - Channel 5 in So. Cal. Jerry Dunphy was a fixture on TV - “From the desert to the sea, to all of Southern California, a good evening...”

- There is no limit to His reach, He created the deep places as well as the heights. The sea and the dry land, there is no place where His touch has not been felt.
- “No matter where you go, there you are...” No matter where you go, He made it!
- Our life's experiences will take us to the heights at times, and to the deep valley's - His presence is always there.

Psalm 139:7 “Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?”

V: 6-7a Let us worship Him, let us humble ourselves, kneel before Him - for He is the Lord our maker.

1 Peter 5:6 “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.”

- Aerobic worship? (Not in the hyper-pentecostal sense) When the songs says “I stand...” I like to stand, when it says “I bow down...” in my mind I’d like to bow, or when it says “I kneel down...” We should mean what we sing. Generally I just can’t do it fast enough.
- When we sing about “surrendering all to Jesus...” I’m thinking do I do that? Often times I find myself singing the words with my lips, but at the same time asking God in my mind and heart to forgive me for not having done that, or asking Him to make it true in my life.
- Part of it for me is to have cognitive worship or thoughtful understanding when I worship - that I’m not just saying meaningless words.
- Honest worship:

John 4:24 “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth.”

- He is our creator, we are His creation - everything we are we owe to Him.
- We are His and He is ours! Relationship, relationship, relationship!

V: 7b-8 “*Do not harden your hearts...*” Good counsel, appropriate counsel.

- Hardening our hearts means being stubborn, un-teachable, an impenetrable heart, a heart that can’t be reach or effected

Song: “Soften my heart with oil - Open my eyes to see - Fill me with understanding
Soften my heart to receive.”

Ezekiel 36:26-27 “²⁶I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”

“*The day of provocation*” is a reference to the children of Israel who vexed the Lord through the sin of disbelief in the wilderness. Your question might be: “well which time?”

Exodus 17:2-7 (Rephidim) Turn to / read. Thirst / water from the Rock.

Numbers 14 - (Kadesh Barnea) 12 spies / 2 believed the Lord - the nation refused to enter the promised land.

V: 9-10 The children of Israel tested the Lord, they disbelieved that the Lord would take care of them through the sin of un-belief.

- They had seen His “work” the miracles of salvation and deliverance and forgot them just that fast.
- They did two things:
 1. They went astray or erred in their hearts.

Isaiah 53:6 “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, everyone, to his own way;..”

- That is what Jesus saves us from. That is the turning point and we need to stay turned. We need to make a full commitment, which is the commitment of the heart.
- The commitment of your mind is a shallow commitment; people change their minds all the time - but a change of heart is deeper, more significant.
- Like the old song: “***I have decided to follow Jesus...***” that’s awesome if it’s from the heart, then the rest of the lyrics apply “***no turning back, no turning back. Though none go with me still I will follow, no turning back, no turning back.***” If it’s just from the mind, then it’s easy to turn back and not to follow - and many have.

2. They did not know His ways. We want to know His ways!

2 Timothy 2:15 “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.”

John 10:27 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”

Isaiah 28:10 “For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, here a little.”

V: 11 So, because of their disbelief, their un-belief, God swore in His wrath that they would not enter into His rest.

Hebrews 3:7-4:12 offer an excellent commentary on these verses with the bottom line being that the un-faithful will not enter into His rest, but the faithful will enter into His rest.

- He’s looking for a total commitment.

Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Ref.Psalm.094-95