

Psalm 49

V: 1-2 This Psalm starts off with a command, an imperative: “Hear this” - “give ear” listen carefully.

- Hear not just in the sense of perceiving, but hear to obey.

It's the same word that is used in:

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 “⁴Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: ⁵And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”

- This is one of the most important verses in the Bible because of the concept that it imparts both to the Jew in that day, and to us as Christians here and now - it's the idea of total commitment, to be fully focused and yielded to the will and purposes of God, so it's the same imperative command - hear with the intent to obey.
- This is an open declaration not just to Israel, but to the inhabitants of the whole world to every man.

Romans 2:11 “For there is no respect of persons with God.”

- Rich and poor alike are subject to God, we are all accountable to God in the end - sadly there are men that only realize this when it's too late for them, they live their lives in contradiction or opposition to God's word all their lives only to realize that they are still accountable to His holy and righteous standard.

V: 3 God's Word is wisdom and understanding:

Psalm 1:1-2 “¹Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ²But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His Law doth he meditate day and night.”

Psalm 19:7-11 “⁷The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the Testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. ⁸The Statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the Commandment of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. ¹¹Moreover by them is Thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.”

- Wisdom and understanding only come from God who gives it.

Proverbs 2:6 “For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.”

V: 4 I will incline my ear, I will pay attention - then I will sing of this mystery with the harp.

- It’s like, “God’s Word is like music to my ears...”

V: 5 The Psalmist is speaking of that time when he’s approaching death; when he’s reminded of his iniquities, his short comings, the way he has lived.

- The word for “heels” is “aqeb” from which we get “Yakov” or “Jacob” - A masculine noun meaning heel. It is taken to refer to the heels of a person but also in a figurative sense of the way of life one’s feet lead. It also means a foe, a deceiver. It is used of one who attacks, withstands, accuses another person to bring them down.

V: 6-7 Money and wealth are only useful in this life, not in the next.

Proverbs 11:4 “Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.”

- Money cannot prevent death: Man can’t redeem others let alone themselves.

Matthew 16:26 “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for His soul?”

V: 8 The redemption of a man’s soul is precious:

1 Peter 1:18-19 “¹⁸Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

V: 9 Because of that redemption, in a “cause & effect” manner, he knows that he will not see corruption, or death - speaking of spiritual death.

Job 19:25-26 “²⁵For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: ²⁶And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:”

- The Psalmist knew the same thing, he was confident that he would see the face of his Lord.

V: 10 He also knew the statistics on death which haven’t changed from his day until now. 100% - even those that were miraculously raised from the dead by the

prophets and later by Jesus, they all died. Jesus is the only one thus far who was raised from the dead and stayed raised from the dead.

Hebrews 9:27 “And as it is appointed men once to die, but after this the judgment:”

James 4:14 “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

- The psalmist is describing that when they die, they leave everything from this world behind.

Job 1:21 “... naked came I out of my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return thither:..”

V: 11-13 They think that things will just keep going the same way, as they always have:

Life being just a vapour we:

James 4:15 “... ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.”

- Most people don’t think about death, they don’t consider that today could be that day. We watch others die suddenly by various means, but we don’t consider that we too could just as well be surprised one day, it may not always be the other person.
- Men call their lands by their own names: We’ll if I can’t take it with me, then I’ll ensure my legacy by naming my property after myself.
- Susanville, used to be named “Rooptown” after it’s founder Isaac Roop who later re-named it after his daughter Susan, Janesville being named after his other daughter Betty...
- Honourable men die as do the not so honourable, like the animals death is part of life for everyone.
- ¹³The folly is that they make no provision for life after death. Most focus on worldly things and make no provision for the life to come, not laying up any treasure in haven.

Jesus taught us:

Matthew 6:19-21 “¹⁹Lay not up for yourselves treasure upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰But lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: ²¹For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

“¹³*This their way is their folly...*” they’ve made no provision for eternity

“... *yet their posterity approve their sayings.*”

“God helps those who help themselves...” (not Biblical)

“A penny saved is a penny earned...”

“I made it the old fashioned way, I earned it...”

V: 14 Death will feed on them, worms consume the decomposing bodies of the dead, the upright, those left standing, the living having dominion over them and their stuff.

★ V: 15 Is a Messianic verse with a dual fulfillment. First, the Psalmist is secure in his salvation knowing that the Lord his God will redeem him. He’s not trusting in riches for redemption, he’s trusting in the Lord.

He knows as Paul puts it:

Ephesians 1:6 “To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the beloved.”

Confident / secure:

2 Peter 1:10 “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:”

- Then there is the long term fulfillment which is in the resurrection of Jesus:

V: 16-17 Don’t be too impressed, or over awed when you see people made rich, or their household prospering - because when they die they won’t be taking it with them.

- (Descend) Jesus said it would be easier for a camel to step through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to get into heaven!

V: 18-20 People live their lives, taking care of themselves, living for the praise and the admiration of men - having only pleased men and not God, they will go down to destruction and never see not just “the” light, but they will never see light, they will be in darkness.

1 John 2:15-17 “¹⁵Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.”

- These men are like animals that never see beyond this life, they perish in willful ignorance.

Luke 16:19-31 (Practical example)

V: 19 This does not appear to be a “parable” – but a real literal situation, because one of the persons involved is named, Lazarus.

- An un-named rich man who lived and fared sumptuously or lavishly, extravagantly every day. Un-named so we could fill our name in.

V: 20-21 **Lazarus**: “One whom God Helps” – laid at his gate, meaning he couldn’t walk, full of sores, pathetic, and hungry – wishing only to be fed with the crumbs that fell from the rich man’s table.

- People back then didn’t use cloth napkins, they used bread to wipe the sauce or grease off of their hands, then they would toss it away or to the floor for the dogs to eat.
- The rich man was oblivious to Lazarus’ condition but the dogs weren’t, they ministered to him, licking his sores, they were more aware and kind to Lazarus than the rich man who paid no attention to him.
- There are sins of commission and there are sins of omission:

James 4:17 “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is a sin.”

- God takes special note of the plight of the poor:

Proverbs 19:17 “He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.”

V: 22-23 Both men die, no mention of Lazarus’ burial: poor people and beggars were just scooped up and taken to the Hinnom Valley and burned in the fires, cremated.

Death & Hell: Compartments in hell, physical death is not the end!

- Death wasn’t the end, the angels carried Lazarus to Abraham’s bosom – a place of comfort;
- The rich man died, was buried, but that was not the end for him either, he was transported to hell.
- Hell, Hades, the grave, a place of torment and never ending pain.

V: 24 The rich man is being tormented in flames:

Mark 9:47-48 “⁴⁷And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: ⁴⁸where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.”

- Some things about hell:
 1. The fire is never quenched.
 2. The worm / maggot never dies – always feeding. (**Isaiah 66:24**)
 3. Outer darkness – there is no light.
 4. Eternal torment. Weeping, wailing, gnashing of teeth.
- Notice that the rich man was conscious of his tormented condition – he was aware, his body was rotting the in the grave but his soul was aware of the torment.
- Thus the request for a drop of water because of his tormented condition.

V: 25-26 But Abraham... Abraham was a rich / wealthy man – the issue isn't having riches, or being wealthy – the issue how we view them, the hold they have upon us and what we do with it.

1 Timothy 6:9-10 “⁹But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

- Abraham explained that he had enjoyed a lifetime of comfort and pleasure in the world, and that Lazarus had suffered; now things were reversed.
- Lazarus had come to a place of comfort and the rich man to a place of torment and that there was a gulf or gap between these two distinct places between which cannot be bridged.

V: 27-28 2nd request: Send Lazarus to my family, my 5 brothers.

- He knows that they are headed in the same direction unless something changes.

V: 29-30 Abraham tells them they have what they need, they have Moses and the prophets, they have the Word of God – if they'll take heed to it.

- The rich man is under the mistaken perception that if one came from the dead to warn them, they would somehow repent.

V: 31 Abraham tells him, if they won't receive the Word of God then they won't believe just because someone is raised from the dead.

John Ch. 11 Raising of Lazarus from the dead. / Jews plotting to kill Jesus.

- They have Moses and the Law, the Word of God is sufficient.

Romans 10:17 "So then, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

- God says either you believe Me or you don't.