

**PSALMS**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Psalm 49 as we continue our study through the Word of God. We are told that this Psalm was written by the sons of Korah and it deals with the wicked who are rich. And here the Psalmist is going to give us a proper perspective of the wicked. In Psalm 73, Asaph also has his eyes on the wicked, but in that Psalm he couldn't understand why they prospered. He couldn't understand why they had it so good. He saw himself as righteous and yet life was hard. And he almost slipped because of this. It wasn't until he went into the house of the Lord that he got the proper perspective of the wicked and their fate.

But here in Psalm 49, the Psalmist doesn't have that problem and thus, he is going to share those truths with us regarding the position of the rich and wicked. We can break this Psalm down like this. Verses 1 through 4 are the introduction. Then we see the question that he raises in verse 5. And his conclusion of this is found in verses 6-20. With that said, let's begin reading in Psalm 49, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us this evening as we study through His Word.

**PSALM 49****VERSES 1-4**

1. Here in the introduction of this Psalm the Psalmist is calling for all to hear what he has to say. It reminds me of what Jesus exhorted us to do in regards to what He has told us. In Revelation 3:22 we are told, **“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”** So let us not only be sensitive to what the Psalmist is saying here, but to what God is saying throughout His Word! You see, God’s Word is living and powerful and it will change our lives if we surrender to what the Holy Spirit is teaching us. These are not just stories, but lessons that God wants us to learn!

2. And in a sense, what the Psalmist is going to share with us is the mystery of life. Something that was hidden, that was dark previously will now be made know to us through this Psalm. Let’s read on and see what he will be speaking about.

**VERSE 5**

1. Who is the Psalmist speaking for here, himself or someone else? I tend to see the Psalmist quoting what a rich man said. In his pride, in his arrogance, he is basically saying, “I have no need to fear anything that I do. There are no repercussions that will come my way because of what I do, the way that I live. Look at me, I have money, I have wealth, I am in need of nothing and I fear nothing! And if I do get into a jam, don’t worry, I can buy my way out!”

That is the mentality many times of those who are rich; they think they can get away with anything and everything. Now, on the other end of the spectrum the Christian wonders, “How in the world can they get away with all that? This is not fair!” So let’s read on and see what the Psalmist has to say through the rest of the Psalm, his conclusion you might say!

#### VERSES 6-9

1. Now here is the perspective that many miss and how important this is for us to understand. All the money in the world can’t buy you eternal life, nor can you buy eternal life for anyone else. Riches can buy you a lot of things, but they can’t extend your life. You see, death is the great equalizer. And yes salvation, eternal life is costly, but that does not mean we can buy it. God became flesh, dwelt among us, went to the cross to pay in full the penalty for our sins. It cost Him to set us free but for us, eternal life is given to us as a gift of God. Remember, for God to give it to us, that gift cost Him His life!

Peter makes this point in I Peter 1:18-19, “**knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.**” All the money in the world can’t get you into heaven but you can use that money to build up the kingdom of God if you are saved! The price was paid by Christ, He purchased us and we can’t purchase heaven!

2. Here is the reality folk's and God gives to us a glimpse of what it is like for those who reject Him! Voltaire, the famous French philosopher and atheist, said these words to his doctor as he was on his deathbed. "I am abandoned by God and man. I will give you half of what I am worth, if you will give me six months' life." The doctor replied, "Sir, you cannot live six weeks." Voltaire replied, "Then I shall go to hell, and you will go with me."

And as he was dying he was screaming out, "More light! More light!" And as he died, his nurse left the room, and she was as white as a ghost. After this experience she vowed never to be in attendance at the death of an atheist. The wicked can mock God in this life, but in death they enter in without hope. Don't invest everything in this life, selling your soul for riches, for in the end, you will be left with nothing!

The unsaved can boast all they want in this life but in the end, there will be no boasting for them. Death, as I have said, will affect everyone. The only difference in death is this. You can receive Jesus in this life and enter into eternity with Him or you can reject Him in this life and enter into eternity in the Lake of Fire apart from Him!

#### VERSES 10-12

1. As I have said and as you well know, no one escapes death, but the rich leave their wealth behind, for others to fight over. They can't take it with them. There is the story of a very wealthy man who died and some of his relatives waiting to see what they would get were waiting outside the lawyers' office. When the lawyer came out one of them asked the lawyer, "How much did he leave?"

That is a good question and the lawyer responded back, “He left it all!” In other words, he could not take any of his wealth with him, he left it all behind and that is just the reality folk’s. It is not how much money you have but how are you using the money that God has given to you?

2. Now what is interesting is that the rich know that when they die they will eventually be forgotten, so what do they do? They have buildings named after them, statues made of them, streets named after them, even cities, towns, airports and-so-on so they will not be forgotten! That is what they can leave behind and it really amounts to nothing.

But, for us as Christians it is completely different or at least it should be. We have the ability to leave behind our witness of Christ. Something that is more valuable than all the money in the world. Paul put it this way in Philippians 1:19-20, **“For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.”**

Yes, we are to live out our faith so people can see that we live what we say we believe. But there should be more. We should be leaving a legacy behind of our faith so our children, grandchildren and-so-on can see our faith in Christ, our love for Him. For the wicked, they can leave all kinds of things behind but eventually, they will be forgotten. Leave something that is valuable to those who are still here, let them see Jesus!

VERSES 13-15

1. Why do the children and family of the rich flatter them? Because when the rich relative dies they want a piece of the pie. So their children and relatives flatter them, agree with what they say even though it may be wrong, to gain a portion of the inheritance, but they are all foolish in their actions.
  
2. Now here is the cold hard reality! In death they will go down to the grave or Sheol, they will go to Hell apart from Christ! Not an easy thing to swallow but it is the truth and why sugarcoat it to make it more tasty. The Psalmist just tells it like it is and then it is up to you what you want to do with it. But keep in mind there are consequences to your decision and apart from Christ, you will end up in the Lake of Fire!

VERSES 16-20

1. Now here is something that I think we need to be reminded of because we can easily fall prey to the deception of it. Don't envy the rich. Don't become discouraged and downcast when you see what they have and what you have. The bottom line is this and here is the reality of it all. When you look at the end of the wicked, we should pity them because apart from Christ they lose it all!

2. Now when you look at the world the world tends to look at how successful you are, how rich you are, how many homes you have, and they are impressed by it and even covet what others have! In their minds the more possessions a person has the better off they are. But so what! Look at what we have learned in this Psalm. You can't take it with you. You can't buy eternal life. This is all they have, so I guess they might as well live it up, but in the end they will truly be sorry, for they sold their soul for what amounts to nothing!

Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:19-21, **“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”** How true that is and even as Christians we can lose that focus and get caught up in the pursuit of filthy lucre! May we lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven and that will only happen as your heart is on the Lord and not the things of this world!

3. The bottom line is this. The wicked live their life in darkness, and enjoy themselves. They do not want the light, the truth. Thus, God will give them the desire of their hearts; He will give them *ETERNAL DARKNESS!*

Jesus put it this way in John 3:19-20, “**And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.**” That truly is the tragedy for the unsaved. God loves them so much and they reject Him. The devil wants to destroy their lives and they receive him! And thus, let’s not be disturbed when we see the wicked prospering because it is truly short-lived!

### **PSALM 50**

Asaph was David’s worship leader along with Heman and Ethan. And as we go through this Psalm you will see that it is speaking of the coming judgment of God on into the second coming of Jesus Christ. So let’s dig in and see what the Lord has to say to us through Asaph.

#### **VERSES 1-3**

1. I love the way Asaph opens this Psalm up. He speaks of the coming of God in judgment and he is speaking of the second coming of Jesus Christ. Jesus came the first time as the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world. He is coming again as the Lion from the tribe of Judah to bring judgment upon a Christ rejecting world!



VERSES 4-6

1. It doesn't matter if you like it or not, God is the righteous judge. As Paul told Timothy, **"I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom."** II Timothy 4:1. It is not "if" this will happen, but "when" this will happen and I think we are getting close!
2. Now God is going to come against two groups of people. We will see that He will speak against the so-called righteous for their formality, in verses 7-15. Then, He will speak against the wicked for their hypocrisy in verses 16-23.

VERSES 7-15

1. God is talking about His people, the so-called righteous. They have a form of godliness, it is outward, but there is nothing going on inside! They are offering sacrifices before God and God is going to come against them for their motives, the emptiness of what they are doing. Their heart was not in it you might say.

What do I mean by that? What I mean is that God does not need our gifts, but we need Him. And what we see here is a lot of action, a lot of motion, but without any emotion. We must give to God out of a right heart. God will not go broke. He will not go hungry. He owns everything! And yet when you listen to some of these Televangelists you can come to the conclusion that God is in trouble, He is going broke! As I have said, it is all His and we should be honored to give back to Him that which He has given to us. And when we give it should be out of love, and not out of greed! They had fallen into an empty form of worship - it was formal, but meaningless because their heart was not in it.

And think about this for a minute. We should be thankful we can give to God for the work of the kingdom. He allows us to be a part of that but He does not need us. You see, first and foremost God wants a relationship with us, not a religion. He does not want a ritual type of relationship but He wants an intimate relationship with us. Thus, may we give with the right heart, out of love!

### VERSES 16-23

1. Once again God is coming against His people and He is saying that they are wicked and He is coming against their hypocrisy. They spoke of God, quoted some Scriptures when it benefited them, and yet they did not even know God. Paul said in Titus 1:16 of even some who look like Christians that, **“They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.”** They are not interested in obeying God’s Word; they only want a relationship that places no demand on their life. And God is coming against them for this.

And look at churches today who call themselves Christian and yet deny the Words of Jesus, deny the Word of God and they are hypocrites. You can’t say you love the Lord and then do things that are completely contrary to what He has said!

2. Just like back in the days of the Psalmist, we have God’s Word to show us our sin and many refuse it just as Asaph has said. And make no mistake about this, God will judge them and show them their sins, but it will be too late for them to repent. Hebrews 9:27 says, **“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”**

3. And thus, God is not looking for some formal, cold relationship with Him. He is looking for that intimate relationship, that fellowship with Him. Also, God is not looking for hypocrisy in our lives but we need to live what we say we believe, we need to obey the Word of God and not add to it or take away from it! For those that refuse to come to Him and turn from their wicked ways, they will enter into eternity without Him. They will be in darkness, something they at one time desired, but now they are crying out for light. Judgment is coming, the King is coming, don't lose sight of that!

4. As we finish up this Psalm I don't want you thinking that the Psalmist is talking about a works salvation, not at all. This is not a salvation by works, but our works show that we are children of God. Think of it this way. If I brought out two clay pots, and planted seed in one of them, would you be able to tell me which one had the seeds?

Not immediately, for you would have to wait until the seeds began to grow, until their fruit, you might say, begins to show. The same is true of Christians; fruit should be manifested in our life out of a relationship with Christ.

James put it this way in James 2:17-18, "**Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, 'You have faith, and I have works.' Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.**" Your life will reveal what is in your heart!

5. Now take a look at your own life. Are you just a religious person who has fallen into formality, you go to church; you do this and do that because it is what is expected of you? Or maybe you are a rebellious person who lives the way that you want and not according to what God has said in His Word? In either case it does not matter how many Scriptures you quote or how many promises you claim. If Jesus is not your Lord and Savior all those things are meaningless. You need to come to Him and confess that you are a sinner and ask Him to be Lord and Savior of your life. If you are a Christian and you have fallen into these things, you need to repent and get right with God! And as we see in verse 23 then what flows from our life as we do is the praise and worship of God!

### **PSALM 51**

Keep in mind that both Psalms 51 and 32 are born out of David's sin with Bathsheba and the plot to have her husband, Uriah, one of David's mighty men, killed in battle, which did occur. And for 9 months to a year David tried to hide his sin, maybe even to justify it in his own mind, but in this backslidden condition, he was miserable.

We read in Psalm 32:3-4 how David felt as he tried to hide his sin, "**When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer.**"

And David did not repent on his own, he needed some encouragement, he needed to have his eyes opened to his sin. Thus, God sends Nathan the prophet to David. In the introduction to this Psalm we read, **“A Psalm of David when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.”**

You may remember the story. Nathan comes to King David and he tells the King this story about a rich man. This man had many flocks and herds. And there was this poor man who had nothing but one little ewe lamb that he loved and treated like his own child.

And one day a visitor came to the house of the rich man, and instead of preparing food out of his own flock and herd, he took this poor mans little ewe lamb and prepared it for the man to eat. Can you imagine!

Now David, being a shepherd at one time and understanding the love you can have for these creatures, was outraged and told Nathan that this man must be put to death for his actions!

And Nathan turned to David and very simply said, **“You are the man!”** I guess our sin looks a lot worse when we see others committing it than when we do. God had given David so much and yet he took from his neighbor that which he loved most, his wife Bathsheba. David could have had anything, and yet he wanted what he couldn't have. And it wasn't until he recognized his sin and confessed his sin before the Lord, that he was physically restored and forgiven, even though the consequences of his sin were felt the rest of his life. (II Samuel 12).

Now we saw as we studied Psalm 32 that is dealing with this same situation, and that Psalm 32 is a Psalm of the joy that is found in the forgiveness of sin. Now, here in Psalm 51 the focus is on David's confession of sin before God. So let's begin looking at this powerful Psalm and the lessons the Lord has for us.

#### VERSES 1-2

1. First of all we need to understand that sin carries with it the idea of judgment because of it. So we see here David crying out to God for His mercy and not God's justice, because David deserved death. David wanted his transgressions, his willful sins blotted out, to be washed, to be clean.

Now here is the problem for all of us. All the love in the world can't do that, for sin must be paid for. Now, because of the work of Christ, God can extend His mercy to us and our sins can be blotted out, washed away, and we can be clean. You see, God is righteous, and to ignore sin would make Him unrighteous, unholy. Thus, He will judge sin for those outside of Christ, and for those in Christ, He paid the price for us that we might receive the free gift of eternal life that is only found in Him!

VERSES 3-5

1. God loved David so much and He loves us so much He will not let us continue in sin. And we see that with David in that David had the constant conviction of God upon his life for at least 9 months to a year, and he was miserable. He woke up in the morning and went to bed at night with it on his mind, and yet he did nothing about it. David tried to cover his sin, but God saw right through that. You can't hide anything from God. And the issue is not the righteousness of God in His judging, but our sin!

Now here is the solution for us. We are told in I John 1:9, **“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”** That word **“confess”** means to acknowledge our sin. You need to recognize it was wrong. You see, God is ready to extend His forgiveness as soon as we acknowledge our sin.

2. Now this does not seem right, it does not seem fair. David said that his sin was against God only and yet I think Bathsheba and her husband as well as family and friends might think otherwise. It did affect them! First of all we need to understand that God is holy, He is righteous, and when we transgress against His standards then we are sinning only against Him. Now that is not to say that sin doesn't affect others, because it most definitely does. Our sin affects others and sometimes with deadly consequences, but our sin is only against God! That is the difference.

3. Now some come to some strange conclusion about what David said in verse 5. They think that there was some big sin in David's parent's lives and thus, he was brought forth, conceived in iniquity. Not true!

Others think that God is coming against sexual relations and thus, sex is just a necessary evil for procreation and that is it! That is ridiculous and the Scriptures don't support that at all. We are told in Hebrews 13:4, "**Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.**" Yes, sex is for procreation, but it is also for our enjoyment, and I thank God for that.

Then what does David mean when he says that he was born in iniquity? I just think David is saying that he was born with a sin nature, he was a descendant of Adam and he inherited that nature from Adam plus his own sin that he has done before God just as his parents had! Ecclesiastes 7:20 says, "**For there is not a just man on earth who does good And does not sin.**"

In other words, for us, if we are born once we will die twice. We will die a physical death and we will die, in a sense, in the Lake of Fire where we will be for eternity. But if we are born twice we will only die once. In other words, if we are born a physical birth and a spiritual birth, if we come to Christ, then we will only die physically and we will enter into eternity with our Lord and Savior!

#### VERSE 6

1. Now that we have a correct perspective of sin, we need to come to a right perspective of God. God is holy and because He is holy He desires an inward holiness in our lives rather than an empty show of piety or godliness.



It is as Proverbs 30:12 says, **“There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes, Yet is not washed from its filthiness.”** God wants you to have the right attitude, but until you give your heart to Christ, that sin nature will dominate your life. Even after we are saved, that old nature will still try to resurrect itself; it still is at war against our spirit. The point is this, God does not want us to justify our sin, but to repent of our sin, acknowledge our sin before Him. And as we do, as we surrender to Him that we can walk in holiness, we can have that inward holiness that God desires that then is manifested outwardly, in the things we do and the things we say. And I do understand that we won't be perfect, but it should be the desire of our heart. To live a life that is pleasing to God, to be holy as He is holy!

#### VERSES 7-9

1. After seeing God's holiness, we see His power, the power to cleanse us from our sin! You see, hyssop was a small plant or shrub that was used to sprinkle blood for purification. It was used to spread the lamb's blood on the doorposts in Egypt to prevent the angel of death from coming upon their house during the first Passover. And it was also used in the Temple for purification.

Isaiah 1:18 tells us, **“Come now, and let us reason together,’ Says the LORD, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.’”** Thus, David is asking God to purify him and make him clean and God has the power to do that through the shed blood of Christ!

2. What is David talking about when he speaks of the bones that God has broken? Keep in mind that David was a shepherd at one time and he might be thinking back to what he had to do with a wayward lamb. A wayward lamb was a lamb that wandered away from the flock continually and caused others to follow in that direction. So, not only to protect this lamb, but the others, he would break one of its legs and set it. Then he would carry the lamb in his arms, close to his heart, until the leg was healed. Then, when that lamb is put down, he will stay close to the shepherd. David is saying that he is broken and it has caused him not to wander away from the Lord any longer.

#### VERSES 10-13

1. Now verse 10 is interesting because the word “**create**” is the Hebrew word BARA, which speaks of creating something out of nothing. It is the same word that is used in Genesis 1:1, “**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**” God created the heavens and the earth out of previously nonexistent materials.

What in the world is David speaking of here? What does this mean to us today? This is awesome if you think about it. You see, this is what the new birth is all about, being born of the spirit, God giving us a new heart. He does not fix the old one. And that new heart gives us a new attitude, or at least it should! We are a new creation in Christ, the old life was not fixed up but we are transformed. It is not something we can do but it is something that God can and will do!

2. Now here in verse 11 we see David speaking of not wanting God to take away the Holy Spirit from him, what does that mean? Does that apply to us today? Keep in mind that in the Old Testament the Holy Spirit empowered certain individuals for service and thus, the Holy Spirit could be taken away. We have seen that as we read the stories of Samson and King Saul, the Holy Spirit was taken away from them.

Now I don't think David is talking about salvation here but he is speaking of a relationship, of fellowship and I do think that applies to us today! Jesus said in John 14:16, "**And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.**" Thus, once we are saved we can't lose our salvation, but we can break fellowship with God, that is what sin will do in our lives. We can quench the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we can grieve the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in our lives and He will never leave or as Jesus said, He will abide with us ***FOREVER!***

3. Now notice what was lost here in verse 12. David's salvation wasn't lost, but his joy was. Why was David's joy gone? Because sin will rob you of that joy we have in the Lord. Notice what I John 1:4 tells us, "**And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.**" Thus, walk with God, be obedient to Him, and your joy will be full.

4. And notice what happens out of all this. You are a witness of the Lord to others. You see, there is no way that you are going to be a witness of God when you are living in rebellion against Him. Get right with God and your light; your witness will shine forth to others and they will come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior, they will be converted to the Lord as David said!

#### VERSES 14-17

1. David killed Uriah and now he wanted to be forgiven. But before David could cry out for forgiveness, he needed to be broken over his sin. During that time he could have done all kinds of work for God, but God was not interested. He only wanted David to acknowledge his sin. Once that is done, good works will naturally follow. God is not interested in rituals, He wants your heart and we must be broken before we will look up.

#### VERSES 18-19

1. You see, first David got his heart right with God, and then and only then will God accept his worship, his sacrifices. The same is true with us, as I have said. God wants your heart and out of that will flow the worship of God as we place our lives on the altar of sacrifice for His use, for His good pleasure!

**PSALM 52**

Now we don't have to guess what the situation was about as David wrote this Psalm. The heading tells us that it is, **“A contemplation of David when Doeg the Edomite went and told Saul, and said to him, ‘David has gone to the house of Ahimelech.’”**

Let me kind of set the stage for what took place here out of I Samuel chapters 21 and 22. David is once again fleeing for his life from King Saul. And David flees to the city of Nob, a city of priests, and comes before the High Priest, Ahimelech. And David lies and tells him that he is on a secret mission for his father-in-law, King Saul. And because of the haste he left in, he took no food or weapons.

So Ahimelech gives David the showbread and the sword of Goliath, whom David killed. But Doeg, an Edomite, overheard all that was going on and he reported that information to King Saul. And Saul was furious with Ahimelech for sparing David's life, but he had no idea that Saul wanted him dead.

David was a faithful servant to Saul and was family, married to one of Saul's daughters. And Saul, in his rage, orders his men to kill all the priests, including Ahimelech. But his men refused to touch the Lord's servants, a wise decision.

So Doeg steps in and he kills 85 of the priests plus women, children, nursing infants and the other men. He had no problem in doing this wicked deed. But Abiathar, the son of Ahimelech, was able to escape and he told David everything that took place, what Saul had done. And David recognized that his actions lead to all these deaths and thus, he cared for Abiathar. It is out of all of this that Psalm 52 is written.

VERSES 1-4

1. David is talking about Doeg, who felt very comfortable in slaying these 85 priests, workers of the Lord and their families. He may not have felt that he did anything wrong, but the Lord, through David tells us that his actions were evil, destructive! And as much as his actions were evil, so were the word's that flowed from his mouth, he was deceitful!

James has some words that we should heed regarding our tongue, and what flows from it. He says in James 3:6-10, **“And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.”** You see, we should use our tongue, our mouths, for construction, building people up, and not destruction, tearing people down! May our speech be seasoned with salt and not Tabasco sauce!

VERSES 5-7

1. Keep in mind that David is still speaking of Doeg here but it could also be applied to all those who are living in rebellion against God. And more specifically, it could be speaking of the father of lies, Satan. Lucifer was the anointed cherub, the number one guy in charge. But that was not enough, he wanted to be like God, and as pride filled his heart, he fell big time. And in Isaiah 14:16-17 we read of him, **“Those who see you will gaze at you, And consider you, saying: ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms, Who made the world as a wilderness And destroyed its cities, Who did not open the house of his prisoners?’”** He was beautiful when he was created, and that has not changed. His actions are that of a monster, but this beautiful creature, as we can see, destroyed the lives of many people and will continue to do so until he is cast into the Lake of Fire. And we can also see this in reference to the Antichrist who will also boast great things but will be brought down!

VERSES 8-9

1. David has spent 7 verses talking about Doeg, and what God will do to him for his destructive actions against God’s people. Now he is comparing his life to Doeg’s, how God will cause his life to be fruitful and His mercy will be extended to him, but not to Doeg. The wicked think they are in control and they are not. They are fulfilling the plan and purposes of God and they are filling up the cup of judgment for themselves by the things that they are doing. We know the end of the story and God wins and thus, so do we. And out of all that we can praise the Lord even in the midst of the storms of life!

**PSALM 53**

This Psalm is almost identical to Psalm 14, with just a few variations. And so let's jump in and see what David has to say about those that reject God. It may not be a politically correct answer, but it is correct!

**VERSES 1-3**

1. Here is where many Christians struggle when they share their faith. They think that salvation is a matter of the intellect but notice here what David is saying. It is not a matter of the intellect but a matter of the heart. Creation itself cries out that there is a God, and we can either accept that, or suppress that truth. We have a choice, a free will, but the evidence points that there is a God!

Remember what Paul said in Romans 1:18-21, **“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”**



You see, they suppress the truth to believe that there is no God or they suppress the truth about the true and living God to make up a god after the imaginations of their own hearts! And they are accountable before God for their actions, there are no excuses and thus, it is a matter of the heart because the evidence points to a Creator, a Designer, there is a ***GOD!***

2. Now as you look at verses 2 and 3 please note what is the view here! This is what God sees when He looks down upon men who are living without Christ. They are corrupt, they are not good. And yet, man sees himself as good but the reality is, it doesn't matter what man may think, it matters what God has said. And the beauty here for those who have come to Christ, we are seen as perfect, as clean. We know we are not but we also know that we have been washed as white as snow by the blood of Christ.

#### VERSES 4-6

1. The wicked should fear God, for they can not stand before God in their own righteousness, it will be like filthy rags before God. As Hebrews 10:31 says, **“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”**

2. Now people are looking for salvation, to be delivered, to be saved from all kinds of things and people and they are missing the picture. Then where is salvation coming from? Our salvation is coming out of Zion. Why is that? Because Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, is coming back to set up His Kingdom here on earth and righteousness will fill this land as He rules and reigns from Mount Zion.

Man today is trying to make this world a peaceful world, were everyone gets along. How is that working? It is not working and it will never work apart from Christ. He is the Prince of Peace, may we never forget that!

### **PSALM 54**

Once again we don't have to guess what the situation was when David wrote this Psalm because the introduction tells us that this Psalm is, **“A contemplation of David when the Ziphites went and said to Saul, ‘Is David not hiding with us?’”**

What does that mean? This Psalm was written by David when he was fleeing from King Saul and was hiding out in the wilderness of Ziph. While there the Ziphites told King Saul where David was hiding and he brought up his army to capture and kill David and his 600 men that were with him at this time.

But David fled to the area of Maon, and Saul continued to pursue him there. And this time Saul had David surrounded, there was no escape. But God stepped in and caused the Philistines to invade Israel, which caused Saul to stop chasing David, and save his kingdom. (I Samuel 23).

So it was not that dirty dog Doeg this time, but the Ziphites who turned on David. Let's see what David says in regards to this situation, let's see the lessons God has for us.

VERSES 1-4

1. I love this about David, he was never afraid to cry out to God for help in the situations he faced. Yes, there were times that he acted in the flesh and tried to do it on his own, but he learned those lessons.

Now these strangers who came against David were the Ziphites, who told King Saul where David was hiding out. And the oppressor, of course, was King Saul. Neither of them, King Saul or the Ziphites were walking with God. But David was and he looked to the Lord for strength and that the Lord would sustain him. There was no fear of God in the heart of King Saul or the Ziphites, no respect for God, and thus, they could go and try and kill David, a servant of God without even thinking twice about it. But for David, he gave it to the Lord and that is a good thing for us to do in the situations we face in this life!

VERSES 5-7

1. David knew that God would sustain him and he would take care of his enemies. How did David know that? How could David be so sure? Because God sustained him in the past and He will sustain him in the present. There was no reason to think otherwise.

And we can look at the Scriptures and see that God did deliver David from the Ziphites and King Saul just as He promised David. Let me close with this. We, as God's people need to have that same confidence as we go through life, that God will deliver us from the evil that is out there. He will keep His promises to us! It is as Paul said in Ephesians 3:20-21, **“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”**