

Sunday Night Message

September 16, 2012

Psalm 10 – From Despair To Determination

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 10

Introduction

Notice that this Psalm does not have any introductory information. There have been some that have claimed that this Psalm belongs with Psalm 9.

Psalm 9 is quite different from Psalm 10, however. In Psalm 9, the theme begins right away with praise for the divine justice of God. In this Psalm the writer seems to be not looking at things through the eyes of faith, at least at the onset. The Psalmist begins with a natural man's view of the human condition. All is despair and hopelessness, until he gets to verse 12. In verse 12, he is reminded of the divine justice of God, which in turn changes his perspective of life.

This is a type of the way we look at life. On days when we are full of faith, yielded to the Spirit of God, we see life through a divine perspective, recognizing God's sovereign purpose. But then there are also days when we are in the flesh, and the world begins to darken our perspective. We then see only the evil out there, and it begins to overtake us. The outlook always looks bleak to the carnal Christian.

I The Discouraging Perspective of Life When God Seems Distant (vs. 1 – 11)

Notice in v. 1 – “why” - (cf. Psalm 13:1; 22:11; 38:21; 44:24; 71:12; 88:14)

When our flesh is strong, and our faith is weak, we don't feel the presence of God, and we can only see our circumstances. When God get's smaller in our mind, our obstacles get higher; our problems get bigger.

Compare vs. 2 – 11 with Romans 3

The writer seems to be claiming that the wicked prosper, while the righteous suffer.

Jeremiah wondered about this also:

"Righteous art thou, O LORD, when I plead with thee: yet let me talk with thee of thy judgments: Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper? wherefore are all they happy that deal very treacherously? Thou hast planted them, yea, they have taken root: they grow, yea, they bring forth fruit: thou art near in their mouth, and far from their reins. But thou, O LORD, knowest me: thou hast seen me, and tried mine heart toward thee: pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, and prepare them for the day of slaughter." - (Jeremiah 12:1-3)

II The Encouraging Protection We Realize When Secure in God's Presence (vs. 12 - 18)

Notice "Arise" – (cf. Psalm 7:6, Psalm 9:19)

"And the cloud of the LORD was upon them by day, when they went out of the camp. And it came to pass, when the ark set forward, that Moses said, Rise up, LORD, and let thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before thee. And when it rested, he said, Return, O LORD, unto the many thousands of Israel." - (Numbers 10:34-36)

Notice how the writer begins to shake himself out of his despair, and begins to pray for God to reverse this discouraging situation, and the more he prays, the more he realizes that God will take care of the wicked, and he will justify the righteous.

Notice vs. 14; 17 - 18

"Thou shalt neither vex a stranger, nor oppress him: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. Ye shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child. If thou afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their cry; And my wrath shall wax hot, and I will kill you with the sword; and your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless. If thou lend money to any of my people that is poor by thee, thou shalt not be to him as an usurer, neither shalt thou lay upon him usury. If thou at all take thy neighbour's raiment to pledge, thou shalt deliver it unto him by that the

sun goeth down: For that is his covering only, it is his raiment for his skin: wherein shall he sleep? and it shall come to pass, when he crieth unto me, that I will hear; for I am gracious." - (Exodus 22:21-27)

"For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward: He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment." - (Deuteronomy 10:17-18)

"When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up." - (Psalm 27:10)