

How to Praise God when the Outlook is Dark

Psalm 9-10

Introduction:

1. Many of the psalms were written by David. David was a man after God's heart. He loved the Lord so much, yet many times David found himself surrounded by dark and difficult circumstances. 9:13, 10:1
2. Many of the psalms give us insight into what was going through the heart and mind of David as he went through these troublesome times.
3. How do we live victoriously when it seems like believers suffer and the wicked prosper? David is going to teach us in these two psalms. Notice how he begins verse 1-2.
4. David is singing praise to God in the midst of dark circumstances. It is because he is contemplating the spiritual truths that we can read about in these psalms.
5. These truths will encourage you and cause you to praise God even when the outlook is dark. Dr. Phil, Oprah, and self-help books aren't where the believer is going to find victory. You will find victory by filling your mind with God's truth like David did.

First truth: God will always do right.

1. God's very nature is one of righteousness. **Psalm 11:7**
 - Jesus is called "*the righteous*" in **1 John 2:1**.
 - When Jesus returns to this earth, the Bible says "*in righteousness he doth judge and make war.*" **Revelation 19:11**
2. No matter what David was going through, he reminded himself that God was sitting on His throne judging rightly. 9:4
3. On this sinful earth, believers who are encountering trouble can think that God has forgotten them. On the other hand, the wicked who prosper can think that God has forgotten about their sin and wickedness. David reminds himself that neither is true.
 - God sees every act of wickedness and has not forgotten. 10:11, 14, 15
 - God will not forget the cry of the humble. 9:12, 10:17
4. No matter what you are going through today, you can be assured that God always does right. The wicked are not getting away with anything, and believers are not getting a raw deal from God. Nobody is a victim of God's unfairness or being unjustly treated by God.
5. David could sing praises to God even in dark days because he knew that God is on His throne judging rightly.

Second truth: God will ultimately balance the scales of justice.

1. As we look at the wickedness that goes on in the world today, it may seem as if God is complacent and non-caring about it. 10:6-7, 11, 13
2. The great hope and comfort of believers is the truth that there is coming a day of reckoning - a day in which God will make everything right and will balance the scales of justice.

3. In Psalm 9, David is looking forward in faith to the day when God will make his presence known to David's enemies (9:3). David says that they will perish and their name and memorial (memory, remembrance) will be put out forever (9:5-6).
4. Psalms 9 and 10 anticipate the day when Christ will return to this earth in judgment.
 - Christ came to earth the first time to give His life for sinful mankind.
Romans 5:6
 - Christ is now in heaven, offering grace and peace to sinners on the basis of His cross work at Calvary. **Romans 5:1**
 - But one day Christ will return to this earth to establish His earthly kingdom as King of kings. This day will be a day of vengeance and retribution for the wicked who would not seek God. 9:8, 17, 19, 10:4; cf. **2 Thessalonians 1:8-9**
 - Jesus Christ will reign as King forever. 10:16
5. Today we are not living in the day of **judgment**, but rather the day of **salvation**. Every day that God withholds judgment is another day that people have the opportunity to be saved by placing their faith and trust in Christ.
2 Corinthians 6:2b
6. But rest assured, the day will come when every evil deed will be punished and those who have refused God's grace will receive judgment. **Romans 2:4-6**

Third truth: God will never forsake His people.

1. David was going through a dark time in his life, yet he held tight to the precious truth that God was with him and would not forsake him. 9:10
2. Christian, we live on a sin-cursed earth and God has never promised us a life without pain and trouble, but He has promised us His continued presence. He is our refuge in times of trouble. 9:9
 - **Illustration:** When Caleb is sick and vomiting, we can't promise him that he won't vomit, but we do promise him our continued presence, comfort, and help until he gets through it.
3. God hears and will not forget our cries to Him. 9:12, 10:17
4. One of the most precious truths of this time of grace is that the moment we trust Christ as our Savior, we are sealed by God's Spirit until the day when Christ comes for us. **Ephesians 4:30; Colossians 1:27**
5. We are made one with Jesus Christ and nothing can separate us. We are made complete in Christ (**Colossians 2:10**) and no matter the trial we may face, "*we are more than conquerors*" through Christ. **Romans 8:35, 37**
6. Satan will try to convince us that God has forgotten us and forsaken us, but when the outlook is dark, we can do like David and sing praise to the God who has saved us, loves us with an eternal love, and will never forsake us!
7. When this truth sinks deeply into your heart, it will take the fear out of living.
Hebrews 13:5-6; Psalm 118:6