

PRINT Encouraging Word: Psalm 49!
Why Should I Fear in Times of Trouble?
choirmaster. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah.

To the

49:1 Hear this, all peoples! Give ear, all inhabitants of the world,
2 both low and high, rich and poor together!
3 My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.
4 I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle to the music of the lyre.
5 Why should I fear in times of trouble, when the iniquity of those who cheat me surrounds me,
6 those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches?
7 Truly no man can ransom another, or give to God the price of his life,
8 for the ransom of their life is costly and can never suffice,
9 that he should live on forever and never see the pit.
10 For he sees that even the wise die; the fool and the stupid alike must perish and leave their wealth to others.
11 Their graves are their homes forever, their dwelling places to all generations, though they called lands by their own names.
12 Man in his pomp will not remain; he is like the beasts that perish.
13 This is the path of those who have foolish confidence; yet after them people approve of their boasts.
Selah
14 Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol; death shall be their shepherd, and the upright shall rule over them in the morning. Their form shall be consumed in Sheol, with no place to dwell.
15 But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me. *Selah*
16 Be not afraid when a man becomes rich, when the glory of his house increases.
17 For when he dies he will carry nothing away; his glory will not go down after him.
18 For though, while he lives, he counts himself blessed —and though you get praise when you do well for yourself—
19 his soul will go to the generation of his fathers, who will never again see light.
20 Man in his pomp yet without understanding is like the beasts that perish.

This is a wisdom Psalm, teaching believers how to walk before God with skill in godliness. The specific burden here is to settle us into the knowledge that the security of worldly wealth is a mirage. The poor die; the rich die. A man may amass wealth, but he cannot use it to buy more time: (verse 7 Truly no man can ransom another, or give to God the price of his life,)

How then can the psalmist claim with any confidence that his own life *will* be ransomed? (verse 15 But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me. *Selah*). The psalmist evidently claims that not only will God grant him more life, but God will even extend his life beyond death (verse 15 “the power of Sheol”). The answer to this question is the great secret at the heart of the universe. For those who trust in anything in themselves, whether riches or anything else, there is no opportunity for a ransom - that is, for a purchase price to be paid to give more life.

But what if Someone who deserved endless life willingly allowed it to be cut short? What if Someone who should never have had to experience the grave endured it?

Jesus left the beauty of heaven to walk through the brokenness of this fallen world. And He went willingly to the cross to ransom sinners from the clutches of death and hell and condemnation. The price He paid—His own life—is costly enough to win back the lives of all of those who repent and trust in Him. This is the good news, the gospel. Let that truth refresh your soul. That’s something for which we can give thanks! And Someone for whom we can praise.

What a blessed Thanksgiving Communion service we had this past Lord’s Day. And the Thanksgiving meal was fabulous! It was one of the best times of sweet fellowship as a church in recent memory. And thank you for being a part. After a long year of not having meals, it was great to enjoy this time of being together as a church family.

Looking forward to seeing you SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28. Morning Service: 11:00. Evening Service: 6:00!

Pray for one another.

Love and prayers,

Pastor Mike Owen