



PSALMS

Elements Class: Psalm 49

Choir Room: Sunday, June 5th 10:45am

In most of the psalms we have the writer either **praying** to or **praising** God; in this psalm we have him **preaching** a very important message!

This Psalm has a threefold emphasis.





The first emphasis is on cautioning worldly and materialistic people of their false sense of security.



The second emphasis is on convicting the world of their sin and their eternal fate separated from God.



The third emphasis is
on comforting the
godly as they consider
their own death and the
prosperity of the
wicked.

**Let's take a moment to examine each
of these separately.**

Cautioning worldly and materialistic
people of their false sense of security!



*Listen to this, **all you people!***
*Pay attention, **everyone in the world!***
(v1)

The psalmist emphasizes the scope of the caution. This warning is for everyone all over the world...
for all time!

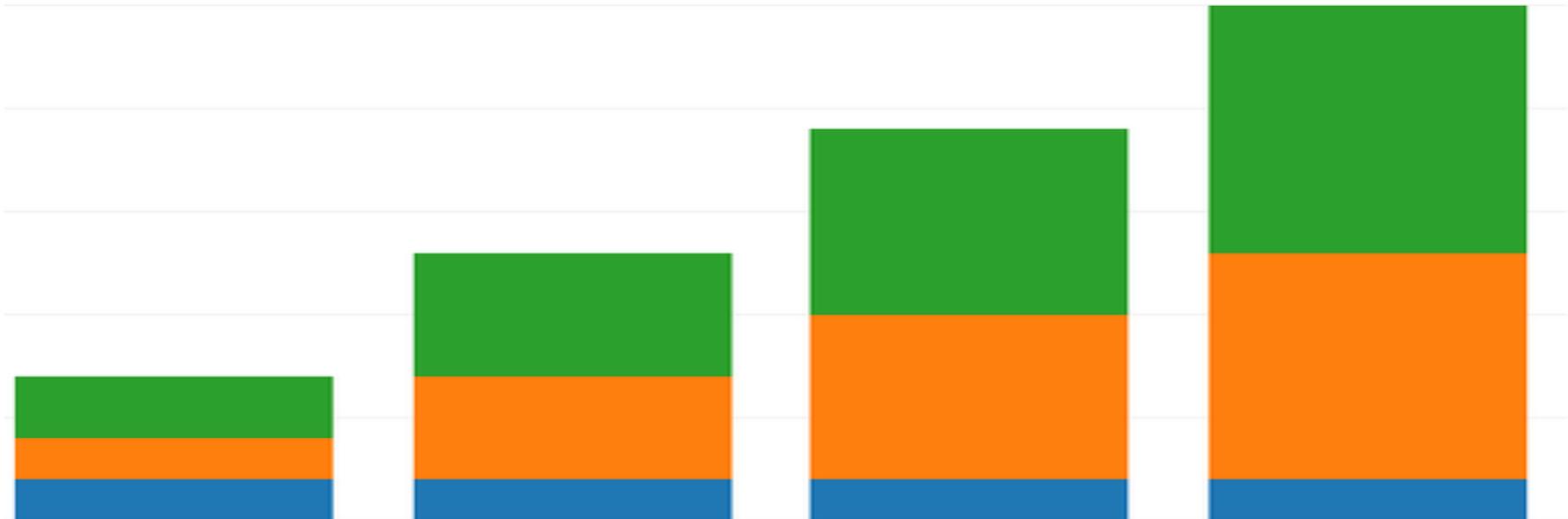


***High and low,
rich and poor—listen! (v2)***

The psalmist emphasizes the span of the caution. This warning is for all incomes, all ethnicities, all calibers of people.



Everyone is under the need to hear this warning. No matter how low or high their income is and no matter how little or much they possess.



The first thing that the psalmist wants to warn the world about is a **confidence in wealth** and material goods.



*They trust in their wealth
and boast of great riches. (v6)*

Secondly, the psalmist says that **death is the great equalizer**. All people, everywhere, regardless of their wealth or status will die.



*Those who are wise **must finally die,**
just like the foolish and senseless,
leaving all their wealth behind. (v10)*

*They may name their estates after themselves, but **their fame will not last.**
They will die, just like animals. (v11b-12)*

Thirdly, the psalmist says that all people no matter what they may have amassed or achieved in this lifetime **will lose it all in the end.**



*Those who are wise must finally die,
just like the foolish and senseless,
leaving all their wealth behind. (v10)*

*For when they die, they take nothing
with them. Their wealth will not follow
them into the grave. (v17)*

*Their bodies will rot in the grave,
far from their grand estates. (v14b)*

**Four times over we are warned
that we can take nothing with us...**

...leaving all their wealth behind. (v10)

...far from their grand estates. (v14b)

...they take nothing with them. (v17)

...Their wealth will not follow them into the grave. (v17)

Fourth, the psalmist emphasizes that this fate is not a casual matter for it is **forever** and **eternal**. Once death occurs it is **unalterable**.



*The grave is their **eternal** home,
where they will stay **forever.** (v11a)*

APPLY NOW

1. We must be careful, and not put any confidence in our wealth, health, abilities, and successes in this life.

APPLY NOW

2. *We must regularly remind ourselves that one day we will die. We should write out our desired eulogy and live with the aim of fulfilling it.*

APPLY NOW

3. We must live with the constant reminder that we will take none of our stuff with us. It can be so easy to amass and live for stuff. Give something away today!

Convicting the world of their sin and their eternal fate separated from God.



No only is the Psalmist trying to warn people that they will all die and not be able to take their wealth with them...

He wants to also convince them
that **death is a *bad thing*** because
they are at odds with God.

Death is not just oblivion without
possessions. Death apart from
redemption is pain & punishment.



*... for the ransom of their life is costly
and can never suffice that he should live
on forever and never see the pit. (v8-9)*

**The pit: destruction,
dungeon, pit, decay**

The Psalmist is trying to warn them that death is unavoidable but the pain of it can be **redeemed** or **ransomed** but not through their own meager efforts.

Yet they cannot redeem themselves from death by paying a ransom to God. (v7)

***Redemption does not come so easily,
for no one can ever pay enough to live
forever and never see the grave. (v7)***

The psalmist says that redemption
(a good after life) is possible but
not through the way that the lost
are trying to find it.

(good deeds or paying off God etc.)

*In this life they consider themselves
**fortunate and are applauded for their
success. (v18)***

The psalmist says that the lost have a hard time understanding that they cannot redeem their eternal fate so easily because they have found success in all their other ventures.

... but their fame will not last. They will die, just like animals. This is the fate of fools, though they are remembered as being wise. (v12-13)

The psalmist says that even though they were considered wise and successful at earthly things, they are truly foolish because they have lived for things that perish and were unable to live well forever.

APPLY NOW

- 1. We must continually remind ourselves that death will be a horrible, eternal punishment for the lost. And we need to warn them.*

APPLY NOW

2. We must continually remind ourselves that no one can redeem themselves from the punishment of sin by what they do or how much they have or give.

 **APPLY NOW**

3. We must preach, like the psalmist, to our friends, neighbors, coworkers and lost families members. Look for anyway to paraphrase this psalm to them!

Comforting the godly as they
consider their own death and the
prosperity of the wicked.



In the final section the Psalmist tries to encourage the godly. That they might feel a sense of **confidence** regarding their future and a sense of **comfort** regarding the success of the wicked.

***But as for me, God will redeem my life.
He will snatch me from the power of the
grave. (v15)***

First, the godly can be confident that God will redeem them from the pain of death. Therefore, they do not need to fear death.

*They may name their estates after themselves, but their fame will not last. They will die... In the morning **the godly will rule over them.** (v11-12, 14b)*

Second, the godly can be confident that their obedience to God (and lack of success on earth) will be vindicated in eternity and they will rule over the disobedient.

The godly then do not need to worry about riches in this life or material success because in the next life they will be the successful ones.

So don't be dismayed when the wicked grow rich and their homes become ever more splendid. For when they die, they take nothing with them. Their wealth will not follow them into the grave. (v16-17)

Third, the godly person is to take this future hope to heart and not fret or envy then when the wicked succeed, flourish and advance.

APPLY NOW

- 1. We must not see death as our enemy. Death is the enemy for the unbeliever because it will remove them from all that they treasure. But for the believer it will give them an ultimate treasure.*

APPLY NOW

2. We must thank God for redeeming our life from the pain of death. We must thank him for the cross and the hope of an eternity free of punishment, pain and suffering.

APPLY NOW

3. We must not worry or envy when the wicked thrive in wrong doing and we suffer in obedience. In the end it will all be made right. Live by faith in future grace.