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**Tuesday, July 12, 2022 • Read Psalm 59:9–17**

*Questions from the Scripture text: Whose position is more secure than that of the self-deceived men from v7 (v9)? What three things does the psalmist acknowledge God to be to him in v9a, v9b, and v10a? What two things will God do (v10)? What surprising request does the psalmist have about the wicked in v11a? Lest what happen? What two things does he ask instead in v11b, 11c? What fourth thing does he call God now in v11d? For what five offenses is he asking God to bring them down (v12)? Despite the request in v11a, for what ultimate end does he pray in v13a–b? For what purpose (v13c–d)? What is continuing, even while David pens this Psalm (v14–15)? What is the contrast between their actions and his actions (v16)? What will David do (v16a)? When (v16b)? Why (v16c, d)—what is he seeing in his circumstances that his enemies are not seeing? What five things does David know God to be to him (v16–17)? What response does he triply declare to the character and work of his God (v16a, 16b, 17a)?*

**What is God displaying through our persecutions, and how should we respond?** Psalm 59:9–17 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord’s Day. In these nine verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **persecutors are exhibitions of God’s power over them and justice against them, and that believers demonstrate their awareness of God by seeing His power and mercy as the main components in the midst of persecution, which compels them to sing His praises in the midst of persecution.**

**Where is God?** Persecutors deny His existence as a way of comforting and emboldening themselves in their wickedness (v7). But believers remind themselves of His existence as a way of comforting and emboldening themselves under the onslaught of the persecutors’ wickedness (v9–10). Who is right? The believers are, of course. But our flesh is forgetful of God and fearful of circumstances, so He gives us songs to sing and pray that will drive knowledge of Him into our hearts.

**The mercy of reminders.** The psalmist has a concern for his people in v11a. If God wipes out his enemies too quickly, the nation might forget what happened. So he prays that the humbled enemies would be scattered around. One can almost see the psalmist’s mind racing to understand why his persecutors are allowed to continue for a time and coming up with the correct (though partial) solution that there are believers who need to see in time examples of God’s ultimate justice against the wicked.

**Remembering and seeing the last day.** Of course, this purpose of the wicked’s presence will expire. All believers will be gathered in one day. All believers will have been perfected one day. And on that day there will be no more sorrow, pain, suffering, or sin. Then the wicked will be consumed (v13). They will disappear from our view forever. And the God Who will reign then, rules now already. This Psalm stirs up our understanding to see His rule; it stirs up our faith to cling to His rule.

**Responding now to presently unseen realities.** So, vv14–17 bring us back to David’s present circumstances, with the same wicked persecutors brashly and boldly hunting him down (v14–15). But they’re only big dogs in their own minds. There is an infinitely greater presence to which David (and we) needs to be responding. God is his defense (v16c). God is his refuge (v16d). God is his strength (v17a). God is his defense (v17b). God is his mercy (v17c). This is what he sees now in his circumstances, and to this he triply pledges himself to sing praise (v16a, v16b, v17a).

Under painful, persistent persecution, the unbelieving heart says, “how can I possibly sing?” But under painful, persistent persecution, the heart that knows the presence and purposes of God toward us in Christ says, “how can I possibly not sing?” God grant that trials would compel us to sing His praise!

When are you forgetful of God in willingness to sin? When are you forgetful of God in fearfulness or anxiety? What helpful reminders has He given you? How are you responding to Him?

*Sample prayer: O God, there are many who refuse to acknowledge that You rule unto the ends of the earth. Act in our day in such a way as to display Your glory and Your reign! Grant unto us that even in the midst of pain and trouble, we would remember You. Now, in this praying and in this singing and in this reading and in this hearing, declare Yourself to us by Your Word. Declare Yourself to be our defense! Declare Yourself to be our refuge! Declare Yourself to be our strength! Declare Yourself to be our covenantal love! Declare Yourself glorious, and be glorified in our worship, for we ask it through Christ, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP59B “I Wait for You” or TPH59 “O Save Me from My Foes”**

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Psalm 59 verses 9 through 17. These are God's words.

I will wait for you. Oh, you his strength for God, as my defense. My God of mercy. Shall come to meet me God. Shall let me see my desire on my enemies. Do not slay them. Lest my people forget, scatter them by your power and bring them down. Oh Lord.

Our shield for the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips, let them even be taken in their bride. And for the cursing and lying which they speak consume them and wrath consume them that they may not be and let them know that God rules in Jacob to the ends of the earth and an evening, they return, they growl like a dog, and go all round the city they wander up and down for food and howl.

If they are not satisfied but I will sing of your power. Yes, I will sing aloud of your mercy in the morning. For you have been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble to you, O my strength, I will sing praises for. God is my defense.

My god of mercy, So for the reading of God's inspired and Eric worked. So remember the context the setting in which the Holy Spirit carried, David along to write this prayer, this song, it was, when Saul had sent men who were watching the house in order to kill him and David is interacting not so much of the men.

He sees the men. He knows what they're doing. He's no military slouch. As we learn, if we read first, Samuel and second Samuel. So he's made to the guys who

are spying on his house and it helps that they are so brash and arrogant and self-assured in their mission that they do things that aren't terribly bright to do when you're trying to spy like belch out loud and assure yourself out loud that nobody hears you where if David can hear you then you've got of course, an infinitely bigger problem, which is the Living God can hear you in in the first half of the Psalm from last week and we all do well to remember that God always hears.

And that's what David is remembering. God, doesn't just always hear his enemies but God always hears him. And so we have begun in the middle of the psalm where he says I will wait for you. Oh you his strength and there are a bunch of the translations and later manuscripts that change his to my because it doesn't make sense.

Unless David's hope is bound up in great, David's greater son, and the his is Christ. And we know that everything that we have from God by grace, we have in Christ. So everything that God is to Christ, He is to us in Christ and we rejoice over Jesus's righteousness.

Jesus is sacrifice Jesus's, sonship. Jesus is inheritance. Jesus is spirit, Jesus's life, Jesus is power. Jesus is goodness. All of these that are ours by faith. So he says, I will wait for you. Oh, you his strength for God, is my defense. My God, my mercy shall come to me.

So God is a strength defense and mercy. And by the time we finish the selection that we have for our worship today, we hear him saying I will sing of your power. I will sing of you allowed of your mercy in the morning, verse 16. And then he personalizes these truths these realities about God.

You have been my defense or refuge in the day of my and my refuge is implied in the day of my trouble. To you owe my strength. I will sing praises for. God is my defense. My God of mercier. God my mercy. And so David is discovering that one of the reasons that God has put him in this situation is not so that he would be terrified of those who are trying to kill him.

But to remind him of who whom God has made David to be unto God and who God has made himself to be unto David. And so there is this mercy that he's receiving of remembering God and He wants others to have this mercy too. In fact, the fact that his enemies haven't been consumed yet, He assumes now is righteous and good and as he thinks through, what are some of the reasons why this could be extended?

Well, surely part of the reason is so that he could grow in his knowledge of God, there's always a sanctifying aspect to our sufferings and our trials But there's also a benefit that comes to others. And so he even says in verse 11, do not slay them, lest my people forget, scatter them by your power and then bring them down.

Oh Lord our shield And so he is praying that even in the way that God brings resolution to the trial that he's in and the danger that he's in the threat that he's under that, even in the way in which God brings that to a conclusion, God would do.

So in such a way that reminds all of God's people of the truth and reality of God and His wisdom and his justice, and his vengeance and His mercy and just deliverance, and just strength is refugees being there defense. And so David prays that that these enemies would be made an example of in order that God's people generally would know and worship the Lord that they would not forget the Lord And yet he is looking forward to the day.

When the wicked will be removed entirely from the earth, consume them in wrath, consume them that they may not be, let them know that God rules in Jacob to the ends of the earth. The, the Psalm both in last week's portion in the first half, and in this week's portion, just there in verse 13, when he taught talks about, consuming them in wrath and may not be when he said you owe.

Yahweh shall laugh at them. In verse 8, you shall have all the nations in derision? He's remembering that there is a final judgment that is coming. So he remembers and sees, not only the Lord in his present circumstances, but the judgment that is to come in the last day.

Faith, lays hold of what is already here and yet invisible. And of what is not yet here. But is sure to come because God has said, so, Faith takes what the word of God says. And says, this is more sure than what I can perceive in my circumstances, Faith takes what the Word of God says, about the future.

And says, I am a certain of this future fact that God has told me about, as I am of my present circumstances. And so, one of the things that his trial does for him is not only enabling him to lay hold of God himself. But also to be reminded of the necessity of believing what God says, more than what we presently seem to experience, being made to walk as a scripture says, by faith and not by sight.

So the Lord turns him from waiting for God as his defense and mercy has his strength defense and mercy versus nine and 10 to praising God as His defense and strength defense. And mercy verse 17. This is defense and refuge verse 16. So when faith realizes and recognizes God, We don't say how can I sing in such circumstances as these we say since God has used such circumstances as these to turn my heart to him.

How could I not sing the praises of the God who has brought himself again to my attention? So may the Lord give us to have the spirit work in our hearts according to these same same scriptures, so that when we find ourselves in trouble and trial, it doesn't provoke us to despair or discouragement, but it provokes us to praise.

And let's pray our father in heaven. We thank you for how you used David being under siege in his own home as an occasion in which you brought back to his mind. And strengthened in his mind and heart that you O Lord are His strength, his defense, his mercy.

Thank you for reminding us of that in your word this morning. We pray that you would stir up our hearts to praise that. We would see your glory and your praise as the purpose of our lives and that we would make good use of the opportunities that you give us even by way of trial for remembering you and being brought again to praise.

You give us the heart and the lip of praise unto you O. God we ask in Jesus name. Amen.