

**Psalm 49 — "God's Perspective on Life, Death, Wealth & Redemption"**

"God comes right out and tells us why He gives us more money than we need. It's not so we can find more ways to spend it. It's not so we can indulge ourselves and spoil our children. It's not so we can insulate ourselves from needing God's provision. It's so we can give – generously. When God provides more money, we often think, This is a blessing. Well, yes, but it would be just as scriptural to think, This is a test."

(Randy Alcorn, *Treasure Principle*, p.73).

- ✓ How do we make sense of life?
- ✓ What's the main goal of life?

*Background to Psalm 49*

- This is a very complex psalm that sounds like Ecclesiastes, or Job, or Proverbs. Jesus addresses all these themes: the certainty of death; the lure of money; the danger of materialism; GOD: the giver of Redemption!

**THESIS — PERSONAL APPROPRIATION TRUTHS TO GLEAN FROM PSALM 49...**

1. Listen up! // 2. Learn Theology // 3. Live Wisely // 4. Look Eternally

**I. LISTEN UP! (1-4)****II. LEARN THEOLOGY! (5-9)**

★ Why fear? (5)

★ The heart of the love of money (v.6)

★ The impossibility of man to redeem self (7-8)

★ The impossibility of delaying death (9)

➔ One can know if he puts his **trust** in his wealth if he finds too much peace and security by his accounts and holdings, and if he despairs when such things decline. He can ask the question, *What loss in life would most trouble me – material or spiritual?*

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- ➔ One can know if he **boasts** in his riches if he finds deepest satisfaction in gaining and measuring his wealth and if he looks for ways to display his riches. He can ask the question, *What am I appropriately proud of – material things or spiritual things?*
- ➔ God's answer to these things for the rich is to practice radical generosity – a way for them to declare their trust in the LORD and to guard against a boast in their riches. (Matt 6; 1 Tim 6; Eph 4; 2 Cor 8-9).

**III. LIVE WISELY! (10-20)**

A. wealth cannot stop death (v.10-14)

B. wealth can't depart with you at death (v.16-20)

- \* Proverbs 3.9 = honor the LORD from your wealth
- \* Proverbs 13.7 = the one who pretends to be rich, but has nothing (flaunting his goods/stuff)
- \* Proverbs 18.11 - the rich man's wealth is his strong city (all he has to trust/lean on)
- \* Proverbs 23.4 = don't weary yourself to gain wealth.
- \* Proverbs 28.22 - a man with an evil/bad eye RUNS (hastens) after his wealth
- \* Luke 16.13 - you cannot serve (=worship) GOD and MONEY.

**IV. LOOK ETERNALLY! (15)**

... "BUT GOD..." (verse 15a)

- \* Redemption's **HOPE**- but God will (certainty!)
- \* Redemption's **ACHIEVER** - GOD redeems my soul!
- \* Redemption's **SECURITY** - from the power of Sheol/death
- \* Redemption's **PURPOSE** - for He will receive/take me

Because of this eternal truth, remember: God owns it all and [you] are stewards of His resources... Because you are stewards of the resources God has entrusted to you, every

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financial decision you make is actually a spiritual decision. For many, that's a revolutionary concept. How you manage your finances is a pretty good barometer for the condition of your spiritual life. (Dennis Rainey)

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise, Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

-- Be Thou My Vision

## Philosophy of Money

1. God is the one who gives [someone] the ability to make money.
2. Everything we have belongs to God.
3. There are many things which are more valuable than gold.
4. Covetousness, discontentment, and worry about material things are sins.
5. God expects us to use fully the strengths and abilities He has given us in hard, honest work.
6. Giving to the Lord and to needy people is a privilege and an investment as well as a responsibility.
7. We ought to plan how we will make and spend our money.
8. We ought to live within our income and not make debts which may be almost impossible to pay.

— Wayne Mack

Luke 16:11 "Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you?"

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Jesus, I my cross have taken,  
 All to leave and follow Thee.  
 Destitute, despised, forsaken,  
 Thou from hence my all shall be.  
 Perish every fond ambition,  
 All I've sought or hoped or known.  
 Yet how rich is my condition!  
 God and heaven are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me,  
 They have left my Savior, too.  
 Human hearts and looks deceive me;  
 Thou art not, like them, untrue.  
 O while Thou dost smile upon me,  
 God of wisdom, love, and might,  
 Foes may hate and friends disown me,  
 Show Thy face and all is bright.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure,  
 Come disaster, scorn and pain  
 In Thy service, pain is pleasure,  
 With Thy favor, loss is gain  
 I have called Thee Abba Father,  
 I have stayed my heart on Thee  
 Storms may howl, and clouds may gather;  
 All must work for good to me.

Haste thee on from grace to glory,  
 Armed by faith, and winged by prayer.  
 Heavens eternal days before thee,  
 Gods own hand shall guide us there.  
 Soon shall close thy earthly mission,  
 Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days,  
 Hope shall change to glad fruition,  
 Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

**PSALM 49: PSALTER***Tune: "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"*

Hear this, all you people, listen;  
 all who in this world do live;  
 High and low, both rich and poor, now  
 listen to the words I give.  
 My mouth will speak words of wisdom;  
 understanding from my heart.  
 My ear's tuned to hear a proverb,  
 myst'ries I will now impart:

Why should I give way to fear when  
 evil days and foes surround—  
 Those who trust in their great wealth, and  
 boast of riches all around?  
 No man can redeem another  
 or to God a ransom give;  
 Ransom for a life is costly;  
 no amount can make him live.

Wise men and the foolish both die—  
 leave their wealth to others' hands;  
 Tombs remain their house forever,  
 though they had obtained great lands.  
 Men, despite their riches, perish;  
 they are like the beasts that die.  
 This will be the fate of those who  
 trust themselves and follow lies.

Like sheep, they go to the grave, and  
 death will feed upon them there;  
 Upright ones will then rule o'er them;  
 they'll decay as the grave's share.  
 They'll lie far from earthly dwellings;  
 but God will redeem my life;  
 From the grave He'll surely take me  
 to Himself and end all strife.

Don't be awed when men grow rich, and  
 their vast splendor does increase,  
 For they will take nothing with them—  
 when they die their wealth will cease.  
 Though they count themselves as bless-ed,  
 they'll join those who see no life.  
 Those with riches without wisdom  
 will be like the beasts that die.