

## “Sheep of Thy Pasture” Psalm 79

TV Broadcast aired January 15, 2023

Kingsport Sovereign Grace Church located at 2709 Rock Springs Road in Kingsport, Tennessee, would like to invite you to listen to a message of Sovereign Grace by their Pastor, Gabe Stalnaker. For information and service times, visit [www.ksgc.church](http://www.ksgc.church). And now, Gabe Stalnaker.

If you have a Bible and would like to follow along with me, I'm going to speak to you today from Psalm 79, and while you turn there, let me open the message with this statement. If we don't have Christ, we don't have anything. That's the truth. If we don't have Christ, we don't have anything. If we lose Christ, or miss Christ, or end up leaving this world without Christ because we tried to gain something that's not Christ, we have ended up losing everything. We have given up, everything for nothing. Anything in this world that is not Christ is nothing and Christ is all. That is the absolute truth.

Now with that statement being said, if you look with me at Psalm 79:9 says, "Help us, O God of our salvation for the glory of thy name and deliver us and purge away our sins for thy namesake." Help us, O God of our salvation. That's our cry, that's our plea. That needs to be our cry. That must be our plea from the heart. Help us, O help us, O God of our salvation, deliver us and purge away our sins. Lord, would you do that for thy namesake, for the glory of thy name would you do that?

Verse 13, in this Psalm says, "If you do, we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks forever. Lord, if you do that, we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give you thanks forever. We will show forth thy praise to all generations."

The title of this message is Sheep of Thy Pasture. Sheep of Thy Pasture. I want us to just enjoy the thought of being the sheep of his pasture. What a thought. What a glorious thought. I pray that might be said about us. I sincerely do. I pray that I am a sheep of his pasture and I pray you're a sheep of his pasture. Now, this entire Psalm is a condemnation against the heathen world, and I'll tell you the whole world is heathen means outcast. That's what it is, outcast by nature. And this Psalm is a condemnation against the outcast heathen world and their sin against God and against his people, but in the midst of all of this condemnation of the heathen world, and, again, heathen means those who are without God, those who are without Christ, those who do not belong to the Lord, there are some who do not belong to the Lord.

In the midst of all of this condemning, all of this condemnation, the writer of this Psalm said, "God's people shouldn't kid themselves." All right? This Psalm is a condemnation of the outcast world and sin and all of that, but he said, "God's people shouldn't kid themselves. They're not without sin either. They are not without sin either. All have sinned. All have sinned." We are not without sin. I'm not without sin, and you're not without sin. And what that means is I'm a sinner and you're a sinner and I know that's offensive. People take offense to that, but it's just so, it's just so. We shouldn't be offended by it because it's so. I am a sinner. You are a sinner. Like it or not that's what we are. We sin in the flesh. We sin in the mind. We sin in the heart. We sin in pride.

If a person in pride believes, well, I haven't sinned today, that's a sin against God. Pride is the number one thing he hates. We are sinners, we have sinned. And in verse eight of this psalm, he said, "Oh, remember not against us former iniquities." Us. "Remember not against us former iniquities. Let thy tender mercies speedily prevent us for we are brought very low, very low."

Now let's read this Psalm so we can understand what is being said here and then after we read this and all of its condemnation, let's beg God for Christ. All right? Let's read the Psalm, see what God has

## “Sheep of Thy Pasture” Psalm 79

TV Broadcast aired January 15, 2023

written, and then let's beg God for Christ. Let's beg God to be sheep of his pasture. Let's beg God to make us to be members of his fold, sheep of his pasture.

The heading at the top of my page above this Psalm, it says, "The desolation of Jerusalem." And it says, "This is the miseries of the church." The church, the desolation of Jerusalem and the miseries of the church, the prayer, the cry of the miseries of the church because of the sin. The sin that has destroyed everything, desolated everything, and it will. Sin will destroy everything. Thank God, Christ has overcome sin. Thank God. Thank God Christ has destroyed the sin of his people. His people are sinners, but Christ destroyed the sin of his people. He did that for them.

Now verse one says, "O God, the heathen are come into thine inheritance, thy holy temple have they defiled. They have laid Jerusalem on heaps. Oh how man will do everything he can do to destroy God's kingdom and destroy God's worship and destroy God's people. The sin of man is enmity against God." That means that the flesh of man is the natural enemy of God. Let me repeat that again so we can understand that. Our flesh, this is sinful flesh. Sin is the enemy of God. Sin is rebellion against God. Sin is the breaking of his commandments. That's what sin is. So man by nature, all of us in our flesh are naturally as we're born into this world, the enemies of God. I know that's strong language, but that's scripture, that enmity against God.

Verse two says, "The dead bodies of thy servants have they given to be meat unto the fowls of heaven, the flesh of thy saints unto the beasts of the earth. Their blood have they shed like water round about Jerusalem, and there was none to bury them. We are become a reproach to our neighbors, a scorn and derision to them that are round about us. How long Lord? Wilt thou be angry forever? Shall thy jealousy burn like fire? Pour out thy wrath upon the heathen that have not known thee, and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon thy name, for they have devoured Jacob and laid waste his dwelling place." How long are you going to let sin abound and this wickedness abound?

Mankind thinks that just because God has not dealt judgment to man for his sin speedily, the scripture words it. Man thinks that just because God does not immediately deal judgment for man's sin that it's not coming, his judgment is not coming, but it is coming. It is. In his perfect time all judgment against sin is going to be executed, but we see things happen and we say the same thing that the writer of this Psalm says, "How long Lord? Oh, how long will you allow all this to go on? Everything we see around us, everything we see in us, how long?"

Verse 10 says, "Wherefore should the heathen say, where is there God? Let him be known among the heathen in our sight by the revenging of the blood of thy servants, which is shed. Let the sighing of the prisoner come before thee according to the greatness of thy power preserve thou those that are appointed to die. And render unto our neighbors sevenfold into their bosom, their reproach, wherewith they have reproached thee, O Lord." They're doing this against you. "So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks forever. We will shew forth thy praise to all generations."

Now it is true. There is a wicked world full of wicked sin. That's true. Sin against God, sin against God's people. That is true. It grieves and it brings misery to the church of God. It does, but the true church of God, and I'm not talking just about religious people. There are many religious people who are not among the true church of God. God's true called quickened people. The true people of God know that the sin that is out there in the world is the least of their miseries. It's misery, but it's the least of their

## “Sheep of Thy Pasture” Psalm 79

TV Broadcast aired January 15, 2023

miserias. All of that is out there, it most definitely is, but for the true child of God, his or her greatest concern is what's right inside here. What's right inside us. That's the child of God's greatest concern.

And while we do condemn the sin that is out there in the world, our greatest cry is verse eight. "Oh, remember not against us former iniquities. Let thy tender mercies speedily prevent us for we are brought very low, very low." Remember not against us former iniquities. That means remember not against us the sins of our ancestors, our fathers before us. That's one meaning of it. Don't let their sin be laid on us. And we say the same thing for our children, don't we Lord? Don't let our sins be laid on them. Don't let the things we have done ruin them. Please don't let that happen because that sin is there, that ruin is there. There's plenty of that. "Man drinks iniquity like water" the scripture says.

The other meaning of it is every sin that I have committed up to this point in my life, Lord, please, verse eight says, "Oh, remember not against us former iniquities." All of these sins that I have committed in my life up to this point can you enter into that? Can you say that with me with the writer of this Psalm? Can we say that together? Oh, we have sinned. My life is full of sin. "Lord, please," he said, "Oh, remember not against us former iniquities. Let thy tender mercy speedily prevent us."

That word prevent means go before. He said, "Let thy tender mercy speedily go before us. Get in front of us. Let mercy get in front of us before we go to the judgment throne of God Almighty and stand there in our sin and have to answer for our sin. Before we stand before that judgment throne, would you please let mercy get in front of us? Please let mercy go before us for we are brought very low. We are a low and sinful people ourselves. Can you enter into that? I can. I can. My sin grieves me. Does your sin grieve you? I wish I could get away from it. The apostle Paul, his sin grieved him. Read Romans 7. Just read Romans 7. Read 1 Timothy 1. Read these scriptures where Paul just poured out his heart saying, "Oh, wretched man that I am, my sin grieves me. I wish I could stop sinning, but I can't because I'm a sinner."

Does your sin grieve you? Do you have a life of sin? Do you fear standing before the Holy God thinking, "I cannot do what I need to do to make things right with God? I can't stop sinning. Not only can I not make things right with God, I can't stop sinning." Do you enter into that? You hear other people going around saying how they don't sin anymore. They are lying. Read 1 John chapter 1. If a man say that he doesn't have sin, he's a liar. He's calling God a liar because God said all sin.

Lord, please, because of sin, we're brought so low. We are a sinful and low people who need mercy just as much as anybody does. I need mercy just as much as anybody does. You need mercy just as much as anybody does. What is mercy? When we say that we need mercy what does that mean? What does mercy do? Where does mercy come from? How does mercy come to us? There's a song that says, "As poor wretched sinners, no God and no hope it seemed there was no one to help but God in his mercy, salvation supplied, emptied heaven and came down himself and a ransom was found." That means a payment. Yes, a ransom was found. Love paid the price.

What is love? Scripture says, "God is love." God paid the price. The scripture says, "All of the love of God is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Christ paid the price. A ransom was found. Yes, a ransom was found. "Love himself paid the price on Calvary's mound," the song says. Judgment was met for all of that sin of God's people, all that sin that had been committed against him, judgment was met, and the law satisfied that justice had been served. The law was satisfied and it said, "Mercy was born when a ransom was found."

## “Sheep of Thy Pasture” Psalm 79

TV Broadcast aired January 15, 2023

When that payment was made, mercy was born. That's where mercy came from. It began when the ransom was found, the payment of Christ himself, the payment of the blood of Christ himself. When Christ died paying that price for the sin of his people that blood brought mercy, mercy to all of his people. The blood he shed has gone before his people to the throne of God as the high priest. That's what the high priest would do. A high priest would kill a lamb representing Christ and would bring that blood in to God and Jesus Christ by himself with his own blood, one sacrifice, that blood prevented all of his people. That blood went before all of his people to the throne of God and appeased God. It pled mercy. Pled mercy for all of his people.

There's another song I love this song so much. The one verse in it says, "Five bleeding wounds he bears. Two in his hands, two in his feet, one in his side. Five bleeding wounds he bears received on Calvary. They pour effectual prayers. They strongly plead for me. Forgive him. Oh, forgive they cry, nor let that ransomed sinner die." Do not let that blood, bought, paid for sinner die. That's the mercy of God that prevents, goes before all of his people.

Verse eight says, "Oh, remember not against us former iniquities. Let thy tender mercies speedily prevent us. Let them get between us and the throne of God quickly, quickly." It goes on to say, "For we are brought very low."

Verse nine says, "Help us, O God of our salvation for the glory of thy name." Do that for the glory of thy name. What did he say his glory was? I mention this all the time. It needs to be mentioned all the time. He said, "My glory is that I'll have mercy. I'll have mercy." I'm telling you that's what we need. We don't need to turn over a new leaf. We can't. If we turned over a new leaf, there would be sin on the other side. Honestly, we need mercy. We need mercy in the blood of Jesus Christ. Mercy that covers all sin. All sin.

God said, "This is my glory that I'll have mercy. It's that I will save my people by hiding them in me." I want to be hid in Christ, don't you? He hid his people. He said, "I'll hide them in the secret of my tabernacle. I'll hide them in me while their judgment is poured out, is poured out on me. I'll take their punishment for them." And he said, "Therefore you call my name Savior. That's what I'm going to do. I'm going to remember after I deal with that and put them all away, I'm going to remember their iniquities no more. I will speedily put my mercy in front of them, speedily. I'm going to help them. I'm going to deliver them. I'm going to purge away their sins. I'm going to do that for my namesake."

Now doesn't hearing that if you're a sinner like me, and if you need mercy like me, hearing that God speedily provided mercy, doesn't that make you want to say in verse 13, "We thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give you thanks forever. We will thank you forever. We will show forth thy praise to all generations." Doesn't that make you say, that sounds so good to me. That sounds so good to me. Thank you, Lord. Thank you for that. Thank you.

Well, if it does, if his mercy is music to your ears, like we say, if that is the hope that you've been looking for, if you see your hope there, if you see your sin is overshadowing any good deeds you can accomplish, sin where your good deeds have tried to abound your sin just more abounds. If you see that and it's brought nothing but misery and desolation to you, and if mercy in his blood has been revealed to you, total redemption in his blood, if that has been revealed to you, and you rejoice in it and you desire it and it makes you so glad, if that's the case, then you just might be one of his sheep.

## “Sheep of Thy Pasture” Psalm 79

TV Broadcast aired January 15, 2023

And if that's the case for me, I might be one of his sheep, and I pray we are one of the sheep of his pasture. That is a wonderful thing to be. Doesn't that sound so nice? So peaceful, so restful, just to be a sheep in his fold. One of the lambs in his fold, in his protection, having a shepherd who will lead us, and feed us, and defend us, and deliver us, and provide everything we need. That's what a shepherd does. That's exactly what a shepherd does, leads, feeds, defends, provides, keeps. Doesn't that sound wonderful?

Psalm 80:1 says, "Give ear, O Shepherd," crying out to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, O Shepherd. "Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel. Thou that leadest Joseph like a flock. Thou that dwellest between the cerebrums, shine forth before Ephraim, and Benjamin, and Manasseh stir up thy strength and come and save us. O Shepherd, save us. Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine and we'll be saved. Save us."

Psalm 78:50. This is speaking of the Passover when the Lord passed through Egypt. Psalm 78:51 says, "He smote all the first-born in Egypt, the chief of their strength in the tabernacles of Ham, but made his own people to go forth like sheep and guided them in the wilderness like a flock, and he led them on safely so that they feared not, but the sea overwhelmed their enemies." Isn't that glorious?

Psalm 100 says, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord, he is God. It is he that hath made us and not we ourselves. We are his people and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise. Be thankful unto him and bless his name. For the Lord is good. His mercy is everlasting, and his truth endureth to all generations." Psalm 23 says, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." John 10 says, "He is the good shepherd." Hebrews 13 says, "He is the great shepherd." 1 Peter 5 says, "He is the chief shepherd."

Psalm 23 says, "He'll make me to lie down. He'll restore my soul. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I'll have nothing to fear. He'll provide for me. He'll prepare a table for me. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I'll dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

My shepherd. The Lord is my shepherd. Just like a sheep, even though we cannot do anything to provide for ourselves sheep are helpless. Even though we cannot truly offer our master anything of any value to him, he's made a covenant to take ownership of his people. He's reserved a place in his house for his people, for his beloved sake, for Christ's sake he'll keep his people. He'll feed his people with the food he provides, the spiritual food he provides. He'll lead us into his warmth. He'll lead us into his rest. He'll shoulder us and all of our burdens, and he'll do this because he's the shepherd. How wonderful is that? May God make us to be sheep in his fold. I pray so for Christ's sake.

You have been listening to a message by Gabe Stalnaker, pastor of Kingsport Sovereign Grace Church in Kingsport, Tennessee. If you would like a copy of this message, or to hear other messages of Sovereign Grace, you can call or write to the number and address on your screen, or visit [www.ksgc.church](http://www.ksgc.church). Tune in at this same time next week for another message of God's free and Sovereign Grace.