

21. Psalm 92-94

August 30, 2015

I am sure that many of you have heard this phrase or used it somewhere in your conversation: "Life is not a rose garden." Many of you nodded your heads because you know exactly what it means. I read this comment from somewhere, "Just about the time you think you can make ends meet, some jerk moves the ends." No kidding!!!

Psalm 92-94 describe the authors' not-so-good situations, but the authors were not losing their hearts because they knew that the Lord is in charge. How important for us to learn the same kind of mindset in this churning and unstable world!

Speaking of the unstable world, two Sundays ago, I mentioned about the China's bubble economy and the schizophrenic stock market's response at the end of my sermon. A week later, last Monday, the Dow Jones Average lost over 1,000 points in 5 minutes after the US stock market opened because of the Chinese economy. At the end of the day, they lost another 588 points. I looked at the stock market and shrugged my shoulders and said, "There goes my measly retirement fund." I didn't lose much because I don't have much to begin with. There are some benefits in not having a whole lot, huh?

Psalm 92

Psalm 92:5-11 O Lord, how great are Your works! Your thoughts are very deep. 6 A senseless man does not know, Nor does a fool understand this. 7 When the wicked spring up like grass, And when all the workers of iniquity flourish, It is that they may be destroyed forever. 8 But You, Lord, are on high forevermore. 9 For behold, Your enemies, O Lord, For behold, Your enemies shall perish; All the workers of iniquity shall be scattered. 10 But my horn You have exalted like a wild ox; I have been anointed with fresh oil. 11 My eye also has seen my desire on my enemies; My ears hear my desire on the wicked Who rise up against me.

It is easy to wonder about God's power and control when we see all the evils in this world. But I strongly believe that we don't even see 1% of all the evils. Being in the South Korean Army long ago, being a lay pastor for a prison ministry many years ago, and being a Sheriff's Department chaplain currently allowed me to come across really bad people.

I still remember one very muscular inmate who was in the prison for murdering his wife and he dismembered her body and put them in the garbage bags and tossed them in the back of his truck. Then, he drove to a McDonald's to have a lunch where he was arrested by police. He got 30 years for his crime.

When we see Bernie Madoff's Ponzi scheme, the current politicians' deceptions and corruptions, ISIS terrorism around the world, etc. It is easy for us to fall into that age-old question, "Where is God when all these evil things are happening?" My answer is that the Lord is at the same place when humans crucified God's only begotten Son Jesus on the cross.

Our God the Father has never lost His control, nor will He ever. Only fools believe that they can continue in their sins and get away with them. The fool is often described as grass in the Bible. They have no deep roots and their luxury will not last forever.

But the question still lingers in our hearts. "Does God care about my sufferings while the enemies of God are flourishing in their comfort, wealth, luxury, and good health?" Then, another question pops in our hearts: "Where is the justice of God? I've been serving Him all these years."

Being a pastor doesn't give me a special treatment from the Lord. Actually, He often allows me to experience what I am about to teach so that I can teach from my heart rather than from my head. I cannot guarantee you that the answers you are about to receive will answer your questions, but I hope and pray that they will comfort you and bless you.

Here are 4 things we must realize:

1) Our God loves us.

We must keep this in mind, no matter what. He loves us very much. No matter what we go through, our God loves us. His love for us is immovable and unchanging. It cannot be overstated and overemphasized. If someone asked Jesus before His death, "How much do you love me?" Jesus would answer, "This much," He stretched His arms wide and died for that person's sins.

Romans 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Someone will say, "He doesn't love me because He let me stay in this miserable situation." That statement would be just about the same as the thought we had when we were kids and punished by our parents. Then, that person might argue, "I am in this situation, though I have not done anything wrong." You are probably right. But Jesus still died for you and me while He was sinless.

Knowing that our God's love for us is unconditional and unchanging is the basic and must be in our hearts no matter what.

2) Our God is far more concerned with our spiritual man than our physical man.

Our Lord cares more about how we live spiritually than what we have and how comfortably we live. Does it mean that He doesn't care about our physical circumstances? Yes, He does. If He didn't, He wouldn't promise to us that He will meet our needs.

Philippians 4:19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

When we pray for our needs, we may have "Filet Mignon," in our minds, but the Lord might have a "tortilla" for us. Does He meet our needs? Yes. But was He meeting our 'wants'? Not necessarily. But sometimes, He does, when our 'wants' align with His will.

Somehow there are many Christians who have this notion that we deserve better things from God as if having God's salvation through Jesus Christ is doing a big favor for God. Let me ask you a question, "Does God owe us because we accept

Christ as our Savior and Lord?" No, thousands and millions times emphatically NO! He doesn't owe us doodly-squat. We owe Him everything, including our very life.

3) Our God is no respecter of persons.

Let's say we are standing behind a one-way mirror in the room where there are several people inside. There are a drunken homeless man in ragged clothing, a decorated soldier in his Class A uniform, a very wealthy businessman in his sharply tailored three-piece suit, a death-row inmate in his orange prison uniform, and Billy Graham with his white hair, yet wisdom filled eyes. Our eyes might make a clear distinction between these people, because we see the outward appearances and reputation, but the Lord sees what's inside of a person.

1 Samuel 16:7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality."

Billy Graham would be the first one to say to us, "I am a sinner. I am only saved by the grace of God."

This world is a sinful world that was caused by a sinful choice of the first man and woman. Please don't think that if you were Adam or Eve, you wouldn't have done what they did. Yes, you would and yes I would. We are bent on evil without God. Since we live in this sinful world, the things go bad, especially when you try to live for the glory of God.

When the things go bad in our life, the Lord uses them as opportunities to make us, mold us, and shape us to be more like Jesus and less like ourselves. That's why the Psalmist could say in v10:

Psalm 92:10 But my horn You have exalted like a wild ox; I have been anointed with fresh oil.

Now the word 'horn' often represents "power" in the OT. We can not have power unless we are anointed by the Holy Spirit.

One of the Bible versions translates it as "unicorn." It is a very wrong translation. As we all know that the unicorn has never existed. It was nothing more than a folk story by the ancient Greek fanciful story tellers. According to Gesenius Hebrew Lexicon, it defines "a wild, fierce strong animal."

Psalm 93

Psalm 93:1-3 The Lord reigns, He is clothed with majesty; The Lord is clothed, He has girded Himself with strength. Surely the world is established, so that it cannot be moved. 2 Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting. 3 The floods have lifted up, O Lord, The floods have lifted up their voice; The floods lift up their waves.

If you are in the middle of your difficult situation now or when you face the next trial, pull your eyes away from your immediate circumstance and choose to see who our God is through the Word of God. I am not saying that you have to stick your head so far above the clouds and pretend that nothing bad is happening in your life. This has nothing to do with that silly New-Age dumb positive thinking or a Word of Faith people's heresy, the positive confession.

But when you try to see what the Lord sees from the Bible, who our God is, the things, that can nag you and can bother you, don't get you horribly. Your circumstance has not changed, but your heart is changed and you receive the power from the Lord like this Psalmist.

Psalm 94

Psalm 94:4-15 They utter speech, and speak insolent things; All the workers of iniquity boast in themselves. 5 They break in pieces Your people, O Lord, And afflict Your heritage. 6 They slay the widow and the stranger, And murder the fatherless. 7 Yet they say, "The Lord does not see, Nor does the God of Jacob understand." 8 Understand, you senseless among the people; And you fools, when will you be wise? 9 He who planted the ear, shall He not hear? He who formed the eye, shall He not see? 10 He who instructs the nations, shall He not correct, He who teaches man knowledge? 11 The Lord knows the thoughts of man, That they are futile. 12 Blessed is the man whom You instruct, O Lord, And teach out of Your law, 13 That You may give him rest from the days of adversity, Until the pit is dug for the wicked. 14 For the Lord will not cast off His people, Nor will He forsake His inheritance. 15 But judgment will return to righteousness, And all the upright in heart will follow it.

Karen and I married in 1981. She didn't know what she was getting into. For several times, she mentioned about the end of the world coming according to the Bible. I laughed at her, because, to me, it was a joke. I was an insolent and arrogant snob, because I was a fool as it was stated in this chapter. When the Lord got hold of me in 1987, I became a fool for Christ. I fully believe what the Bible says about the end of the world.

4) Our God is just.

Listen, the majority of people around the world do not believe in the God of the Bible. They make their own gods as they please to rationalize their sins. Unfortunately, even many born-again Christians do not believe everything according to the Bible, either they were not taught properly from their churches, or they simply don't want to because they still live a carnal life.

In their minds, the God of the Bible can not see what they do, cannot hear what they say. News flash, people, the God of the Bible is the One who created the entire universe out of nothing with His own words, He who made eyes can see the past and present and future of every single human. No one can escape from His all-knowing eyes. He who made ears can hear the darkest secrets that were done in the inner most places.

Nothing is hidden from His sight or knowledge. Every single unbeliever, from the beginning of the human history, will stand before the Ultimate Judge according to what they have done. If you are not a born-again Christian, you need to fear this:

Revelation 20:11-15 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

What about the believers in Christ, including us? Were they not sinners? Of course, they were and are. But all of their sins were dumped on Jesus Christ on the cross. In the place of their sins, the Lord gave them His righteousness so that they are justified by the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool."

Take heart. Be strengthened by the Word of God. If you are a born-again Christian, the Lord is your Refuge, the Stronghold, your Everlasting Shield.