

## **Remember and Repeat**

Psalm 9

(preached Pine Grove 4/28/19 Sun PM)

## **Introduction**

Let's open our Bible and read Psalm 9 together to start our night..

*For the choir director; on [a]Muth-labben. A Psalm of David.*

*1*

*I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart;  
I will tell of all Your [b]wonders.*

*2*

*I will be glad and exult in You;  
I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.*

*3*

*When my enemies turn back,  
They stumble and perish before You.*

*4*

*For You have maintained [c]my just cause;  
You have sat on the throne [d]judging righteously.*

*5*

*You have rebuked the nations, You have destroyed  
the wicked;  
You have blotted out their name forever and ever.*

*6*

*[e]The enemy has come to an end in perpetual  
ruins,*

*And You have uprooted the cities;  
The very memory of them has perished.*

7

*But the Lord [f]abides forever;  
He has established His throne for judgment,*

8

*And He will judge the world in righteousness;  
He will execute judgment for the peoples with  
equity.*

9

*[g]The Lord also will be a stronghold for the  
oppressed,  
A stronghold in times of trouble;*

10

*And [h]those who know Your name will put their  
trust in You,  
For You, O Lord, have not forsaken those who  
seek You.*

11

*Sing praises to the Lord, who dwells in Zion;  
Declare among the peoples His deeds.*

12

*For He who [i]requires blood remembers them;  
He does not forget the cry of the afflicted.*

13

*Be gracious to me, O Lord;  
See my affliction from those who hate me,  
You who lift me up from the gates of death,*

14

*That I may tell of all Your praises,  
That in the gates of the daughter of Zion*

*I may rejoice in Your [j]salvation.*

**15**

*The nations have sunk down in the pit which they have made;*

*In the net which they hid, their own foot has been caught.*

**16**

*The Lord has made Himself known;*

*He has executed judgment.*

*In the work of his own hands the wicked is snared.  
[k]Higgaion [l]Selah.*

**17**

*The wicked will [m]return to [n]Sheol,*

*Even all the nations who forget God.*

**18**

*For the needy will not always be forgotten,*

*Nor the hope of the afflicted perish forever.*

**19**

*Arise, O Lord, do not let man prevail;*

*Let the nations be judged before You.*

**20**

*Put them in fear, O Lord;*

*Let the nations know that they are but men. Selah.*

Let us pray.

Though most of you don't need directions for shampoo, there are some directions on the back of most bottles.

For the majority of shampoos, the instructions go something like this:

Wet hair.

Lather shampoo into hair.

Rinse hair.

Repeat.

Needless to say, if you follow those instructions to the letter of the law and keep repeating, you will run out of shampoo every time you wash your hair.

Honestly, I may have repeated a few times in my life when my hair was really dirty.

But other than that, I never repeat.

In fact, shampoo manufacturers have admitted that the directions were originally put on there to sell more shampoo.

Today, the directions still remain on some bottles but experts say that repeating is only necessary if you only wash your hair less than 3 times a week.

Otherwise, one round of lather and rinse is necessary.

Tonight, we come to Psalm 9 as we examine some of the hymnbook of Israel.

And I have entitled this psalm “Remember and Repeat” because it reminds me of the way to keep our minds clean from the anxiety of a difficult world.

And is by repeatedly reminding ourselves of the Lord’s faithfulness.

David is the author this psalm and David knew the temptation to worry and anxiety...

David knew what it was like to fight Goliath as a young man.

Some even feel that Psalm 9 may be a reflection on that confrontation..

But even if this psalm isn’t about that event, David also knew the temptation to worry as he ran for his life from Saul.

David also knew the pressure of leading a nation as its king.

He knew the nervousness of facing other nations in battle..

And how did David keep his anxiety and worry and fear and doubt in check?

He repeatedly remembered the faithfulness of God.

You see, David understood a basic principle of life that many of us need to embrace, and it is this.

An uncertain future isn't as fearful if you focus on God of the past and present..

So, let's look at this psalm in two simple parts..

Verses 1-12, we will call...

## **I. Praise for the Past (1-12)**

As we come to this psalm, we must start with the inspired title..

***For the choir director; on [a]Muth-labben. A Psalm of David.***

We are familiar with most of this title.

The notation about the choir director alerts us to the fact that this psalm is meant for congregational signing..

And we have already noted that this psalm is the 7th of the first 9 psalms that was written by David.

However, we have not seen the mention of Muth-labben in the book of psalms before.

Some maintain that this is a musical instrument like the lyre or gittith that we saw in psalm 8..

But the word Muth- Labben literally means “death of the son,” which would seem to be an unusual name for a musical instrument...

Therefore, it is much more likely that Muth-Labben was the name of a hymn that accompanied this psalm..

Though that would seem to be an odd tune for such a psalm of praise..

And it is for that reason that many suppose to the title to be a reference to the death of Goliath, the proud son of the Philistines.

Ultimately, it is impossible to definitively say what Muth-Labben refers to in this psalm.

We simply know this is a psalm of David to be sung by the congregation on Muth-Labben..

Now this leads us to the opening verses of this psalm...

Verse 1..

***I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart;  
I will tell of all Your [b]wonders.***

**2**

***I will be glad and exult in You;  
I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.***

The common thread of verses 1 and 2 is the word “I”.

In other words, David begins this psalm describing his actions.



I will give thanks, I will tell, I will be glad, I will sing praise.

But why is David doing all these things?

Verse 3..

**3**

***When my enemies turn back,  
They stumble and perish before You.***

David is filled with praise because God has turned back the enemies of David..

Verse 4..

**4**

***For You have maintained [c]my just cause;  
You have sat on the throne [d]judging righteously.***

God knows that David has acted rightly, so God has made sure to protect him.

Verse 5 and 6..

**5**

***You have rebuked the nations, You have destroyed  
the wicked;  
You have blotted out their name forever and ever.***

**6**

*[e]The enemy has come to an end in perpetual ruins,*

*And You have uprooted the cities;*

*The very memory of them has perished.*

7

*But the Lord [f]abides forever;*

*He has established His throne for judgment,*

8

*And He will judge the world in righteousness;*

*He will execute judgment for the peoples with equity.*

God has protected Israel and removed the enemies of God's people.

God has destroyed the cities of Israel's enemies.

God is judging the world rightly.

Verse 9.

9

*[g]The Lord also will be a stronghold for the oppressed,*

*A stronghold in times of trouble;*

God is a place of refuge for his people.

God is a shelter for those who run to Him.

What you have in these opening 9 verses are essentially two lists..

The first list is a list of David's actions.

The second list is a list of the Lord's actions..

The "I's" in verses 1 and 2 change to "You's" in verses 3-9..

Now the natural question is why does David start with his actions?

Shouldn't David's actions be a result of what God has done?

And the answer is both yes and no.

On the one hand, we should give thanks because of what the Lord does..

We should tell of his wonders because of what He has done.

We should be glad because of what He has done.

We should sing praise because of what He has done.

But let me ask you...

Would you still do those things if God didn't protect you?

Would you still give thanks even if your enemies keep coming?

Would you still tell of God's wonders if God doesn't defend your just cause?

And the answer should be yes.

Our praise, our joy, our witness, and our gratitude shouldn't be solely dependent upon what God does.

Our praise, our joy, our witness, our gratitude should also be a result of who God is.

In a sense, David begins this psalm describing his actions and attitude before describing the actions of the Lord.

And that is a good reminder to us because we tend to be results oriented people.

Do good to us and we will do good to you.

However, our love and gratitude and praise of the Lord must be constant.

We are quick to give thanks and tell of the Lord after the storm, but I would urge you to give thanks and praise before and during the storm as well.

God is a God who deserves the actions of verses 1 and 2 at all times..

And so David begins the psalm with a reminder of our heart attitude and actions before he moves to the Lord's actions..

Please note, the 4 actions of verses 1 and 2 are almost mirror images of what we looked on on Wednesday night in 1 Thessalonians.

If you weren't here, listen to 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18..

***16 Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.***

It is no coincidence that this is the heart of David in verses 1 and 2..

David is thankful. David is glad. David is offering prayer and praise.

This is the heart of the believer regardless of the age in which the believer lives.

God puts thanks in our mouth.

God puts joy in our heart.

God puts praise on our lips.

This is who God is, and He deserves these actions of man throughout all of human history.

So I ask you as I did Wednesday night..

Are you filled with thanksgiving to God?

Are you telling other of God's goodness?

Are you rejoicing in the Lord?

Are you singing praise to God?

You should be.

David did.

Paul did.

I would remind you that these 4 actions are the fruit of salvation in a believer's life.

An absence of any or all should be a cause for concern.

And why should we exhibit these traits?

Verses 3-9.

God protects us.

God vindicates us.

God destroys the wicked.

God judges evil.

God provides shelter to his people.

And David has experienced all of this personally.

In fact, if this is a psalm he wrote after his victory over Goliath, God did all of these things on David's behalf that very day.

The enemy fell before him.

God avenged the insults that Goliath had hurled at David.

God rebuked the nation of Philistines.

God judges their sinful ways.

God was a strong tower for David.

But even if this wasn't a psalm related to that event, God is still a God who acted on David's behalf so many times..

Now this leads to verses 10 to 12 where David widens the scope of this psalm...

**10**

***And [h]those who know Your name will put their trust in You,***

***For You, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You.***

**11**

***Sing praises to the Lord, who dwells in Zion;***

***Declare among the peoples His deeds.***

**12**

***For He who [i]requires blood remembers them;***

***He does not forget the cry of the afflicted.***

Because of God's faithfulness to him personally, David calls on others to put their trust in His God in verse 10..

HE then calls on the people to praise the Lord with him in verse 11...

And why should others trust and praise David's God?

Look at the end of verse 10..



The Lord does not forsake his people...

Verse 12..

The Lord seeks the life of those who shed the blood of His people.

God does not forget the injustice done against his people.

Instead, God avenges their blood by seeking the blood of the wicked.

It is amazing to consider how short our memories are.

In today's world, people can recover from all sorts of scandals...

What used to take years to recover from, now only requires a few months or weeks.

Politicians do incredibly sinful things, yet are elected and re-elected because people quickly forget.

Let me assure you of this.

The world may forget about the injustice that comes to God's people, but God never forget.

Every act of injustice and persecution and slander that comes to the people of God will be avenged by the Lord in His time.

David didn't serve a God with a short memory.

David served a God who remembers the sufferings of His people.

That is also the God you serve.

Look, no one may see or experience what comes to you because of your faith.

But no one needs to see it.

God sees it and God will act every time in His time.

Such truth about God led David to call others to trust in His God.

And such truth should make us call others to trust in Him today.

Look, the world wants something or someone to rely upon.

That Someone is the Lord.

God does not forsake and God does not forget.

Now, we arrive at verse 13..

And the tone of the psalm changes from God's past help of David to David's present need..

We will call this..

## **II. Peace for the Present and Future (13-20)**

In verse 13, David calls on God to see his present trouble..

**13**

***Be gracious to me, O Lord;  
See my affliction from those who hate me,  
You who lift me up from the gates of death,***

Remember in verses 1-12, David is remembering what God had done.

God had maintained David's cause.

God had rebuked the nations.

God had uprooted the cities of Israel's enemies..

But now David moves to the present asking God for grace in his present affliction.

We have no idea what that difficulty was but it must have been serious since David calls on God to life him up from the gates of death.

And why does David want to be rescued?

Is it because he wants to see his enemies fall?

Is it the result of a prideful side of David that wants to win?

No, David is not calling on God show that the light shines on him.

David is calling on God so that the light shines on God's name..

Look at verse 14..

**14**

***That I may tell of all Your praises,  
That in the gates of the daughter of Zion  
I may rejoice in Your [j]salvation.***

David's current trouble is simply another opportunity for David to proclaim the excellencies of His God..

The gates of the daughter of Zion is a reference to Jerusalem.

David is asking for a rescue so that he can declare God's goodness to God's people.

And look, this should change the way we pray.

Though our prayers to God for help are good and appropriate, what is the motivation behind them?

Why do we want God to provide financial help to us?

Why do we want God to heal us?

Why do we want God to protect us from evil people?

For David, he wanted help in his affliction so that he could proclaim God's rescue to others.

Do you ask God for help so that you can offer testimony about Him?

Or do you ask God for help so that you can be vindicated publicly?

Look, David's life is in danger.

So clearly he needs to pray for God's intervention.

Yet, he isn't asking for help so that he can live another day.

HE is asking for God's help so that he can magnify God's name publicly.

I would encourage to check the motivation behind your prayer.

Look, I understand that there are prayers of desperation...

Peter was sinking and cried out, "Save me."

And I understand that we often pray without considering our motivation.

WE simply know God is sovereign and we need his help.

But I would also urge you to pray at times like David does here.

Ask God for help not for your comfort and peace only.

Ask God for help so that you can testify about His glory when he answers..

Charles Spurgeon says this about verse 14 in his treasury of David..

*Saints are not so selfish as to look only to self; they desire mercy's diamond that they may let others see it flash and sparkle*

That brings us to verse 15 which sends us to the future...

David has spoken of God's past faithfulness in verses 1-12...

That motivated David to ask God for help in the present in verses 13-14..

And now David is confident enough to look to what God will do in the future..

Verse 15..

**15**

***The nations have sunk down in the pit which they have made;***

***In the net which they hid, their own foot has been caught.***

**16**

***The Lord has made Himself known;***

***He has executed judgment.***

***In the work of his own hands the wicked is snared.  
[k]Higgaion [l]Selah.***

In these verses, David actually detail how the Lord is going to answer his prayer.

God is going to trap David's enemies in their own traps..

Though we can't be sure of what David is talking about here, one of David's greatest enemies was Saul, the first king of Israel.



And what did Saul do?

Saul chased David all over Israel seeking to kill him, yet how did Saul die?

HE was chased down by the Philistines and took his own life before they killed him..

In other words, the chaser of David became the one who was chased and hunted down..

God has a way of turning the evil of the wicked back on their own head...

And because of God's past protection of him, David is confident that God is going to act now and in the future to deal with David's enemies...

But not only will God deal with David's enemies, God will deal with all of his enemies..

Verse 17...

**17**

***The wicked will [m]return to [n]Sheol,  
Even all the nations who forget God.***

**18**

***For the needy will not always be forgotten,  
Nor the hope of the afflicted perish forever.***

**19**

***Arise, O Lord, do not let man prevail;  
Let the nations be judged before You.***

**20**

***Put them in fear, O Lord;  
Let the nations know that they are but men. Selah.***

Once again David moves from the personal to the general.

God's character won't allow David to be defeated, but God's character won't allow any of his people to be defeated.

The wicked will find their just reward.

The nations who reject God will also find their just reward.

In fact, the picture of these closing verses should take our minds to Revelation 19..

***11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. 13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on***

*white horses. 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will [d]rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the [e]wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."*

*17 Then I saw [f]an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, "Come, assemble for the great supper of God, 18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of [g]commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great."*

*19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.*

*20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs [h]in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with [i]brimstone.*

*21 And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.*

Just as God had his way with David's enemies, God will ultimately have his way with the nations and the kings of the nations who reject the gospel..

Verses 17-20 of Psalm 9 are a preview of the 2nd coming of Christ..

God will arise and man will not prevail.

In fact, the most wicked man of all time, the Antichrist will lose the greatest battle of all time..

And the kings of the nations which think they have a chance to dethrone God will be dethroned immediately and finally.

David saw that day coming in Psalm 9, and we are much closer to it in 2019.

## **Conclusion**

We are out of time but let offer you some possible help from Psalm 9.

### **#1 - Remember God's past performance in your life.**

A constant temptation of your life is to forget the Lord's faithfulness.

We are victims of a what have you done for me lately society.

WE forget so quickly what God has done.

To fight this temptation, keep your own list of God's faithfulness to you.

Make a journal entry every time God has shown up in your life.

It is so important for believers to always remember the Lord's faithfulness to them in real and personal ways.

### **#2 - Rely upon God's past performance in your life.**

If you ever listen to an advertisement about an investment, the small print always says..

“Past performance is no guarantee of future success.”

In other words, the stock, the mutual fund may have had a return of 10% for the past 5 years but that is no guarantee that it will have it in the future.

Let me tell you something.

The past performance of God is a guarantee of future success.

As David writes, all who put their trust in Him are never forsaken or disappointed.

In moments where you don't know what is going to happen presently or in the future, rely upon the God of your past.

Let us pray.