

*“False Security & Blessed Assurance!”*

## 1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Prayer:** In you may we enjoy a warm, secure relationship with you Jesus each day!
- 1.2. **Intro: Successful Roman generals** were sometimes granted a “**triumph.**” They were permitted to parade their armies, with gangs of captives and wagons filled with loot, through the very streets of Rome. **But** in the chariot of the general, standing just behind him, was **an officer** whose duty it was to **whisper constantly** in his ear, “*You are but a man.*”
  - 1.2.1. **Sic transit gloria mundi** - Latin phrase that means “*Thus passes the glory of the world,*” more commonly interpreted as “*Fame is fleeting.*”
  - 1.2.2. Traditionally, **Papal coronations** are thrice interrupted by a **monk** holding a pole to which is affixed a **burning piece of flax**. After it finishes burning, the monk announces, “*Pater sancte, sic transit gloria mundi.*” This is meant to remind the Pope that, despite the grandeur of the ceremony and the long history of the office, he is a mortal man. (Wikipedia - *Sic transit gloria mundi*)
  - 1.2.3. Psalm 49 serves much the same purpose. **It is God’s whisper in our ear**, reminding us that no matter how much **success** we or others have, **we are but men**. All too soon we will die, and any **worldly wealth or glory** will pass away with us!
- 1.3. **Background:** Book II of Psalms(see ch.42) - Most believe this 2<sup>nd</sup> collection of psalms was **assembled** during the time of Solomon.
  - 1.3.1. **The sons of Korah** - Korah rebelled during the Exodus and was killed (Num.16, earth opened & swallowed). But his children were spared.
  - 1.3.2. 1<sup>st</sup> branch of his descendants became **temple guardians** (1Chron 9:17); 2<sup>nd</sup> branch served as **temple singers and musicians** (6:31,33,39,44).
  - 1.3.3. These descendants of Korah contributed **7 works** to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Book of Psalms (ch.42-47).
  - 1.3.4. **Overview** - **The sons of Korah probed deeply, to help us examine:** love for God (Ps.42); divine vindication (Ps.43); the mystery of national defeat (Ps.44); messianic truth (Ps.45); “God with us” is exalted as our fortress (Ps.46); Then the last 3 psalms celebrate **God’s rule** (Ps.47), **His eternal city** (Ps.48), and **redemption from this transient world** (Ps.49).

## 2. **INTRO! (1-4)**

- 2.1. (2) Rich or poor this psalms for you. Because it deals w/2 important topics **death & money**.

- 2.2. (3,4) True method of instruction.
  - 2.2.1. Application to self, before he attempts to communicate it.
    - 2.2.1.1. Speak, meditate, listen, riddle on the harp (i.e. how prophets sometimes heard from God)
  - 2.2.2. Not *human genius*, but wisdom sought **from above**.
  - 2.2.3. I will incline my ear to a proverb – “**all scripture is profitable for instruction.**”

### 3. **FALSE SECURITY! (5-14; 16-20)**

- 3.1. (5) Why should I fear in the days of evil!!!
- 3.2. Let's check **God's track record** with others that have gone before us:
  - 3.2.1. **Enoch** - God **walked** with him, & then **took** him home, before the floodwaters came.
  - 3.2.2. **Noah** – God **shut him in** with His own hand, so the flood wouldn't touch him.
  - 3.2.3. **Abraham** – He assured Abraham that he was his **shield & exceeding great reward**. Protecting him from his enemies.
  - 3.2.4. **Moses** – He **preserved** Moses from the **fury of Pharaoh** & the **murmurings of Israel**.
  - 3.2.5. **Elijah** – Was **hidden** in the secret of His pavilion from the wrath of Ahab.
  - 3.2.6. **Daniel** – He sent his angels to **shut the lions' mouths** that they might not hurt Daniel.
  - 3.2.7. **Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednigo** – “Were not the coals of the burning fiery furnace as sweet & soft as forest blades to the feet of the three young confessors.”<sup>1</sup>
  - 3.2.8. **Arnold Rhodes** (Layman's Bible Comm), “I may be standing on the deck, whilst the ship is beset by icebergs & jagged rocks; the fog drapes everything, as the way slowly opens through the archipelago (ark-i-pel-igo; *chain of islands*) of peril: **but God is at the helm – why should I fear?**”
    - 3.2.8.1. Days of **evil** to others cannot be so to me, for the presence of **God changes the evil to good**.
  - 3.2.9. Why should I fear in the days of evil!!!
- 3.3. (6-9) Don't **boast** in **wealth** or trust in it.
  - 3.3.1. He explains why: Your wealth **can't prevent death; can't go with you; nor buy permanent fame**.
  - 3.3.2. Jesus summed up this chapter in Lk.12:15 “**A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.**”

<sup>1</sup> The Layman's Bible Commentary; Arnold Rhodes; pg. 49

- 3.4. No amount of money can save their souls.
- 3.4.1. When **Queen Elizabeth 1** was dying, she said, “*All my possessions for one moment of time.*”
- 3.4.2. **Poem:** Money will buy a bed; but not **sleep**; books but not **brains**; food but not **appetite**; finery but not **beauty**; a house but not a **home**; medicine but not **health**; luxuries but not **culture**; amusements but not **happiness**; religion but not **salvation**; a passport to everywhere ...**but heaven!**
- 3.5. Remember we are **stewards** of wealth, not **owners!**
- 3.5.1. You may think you own your own home (or name any possession you have) but **as soon as you die** you will be **separated from it** forever. So is it really yours?
- 3.6. (8) **Redemption is costly** – I’ll say!!!
- 3.6.1. It cost the *precious blood* of the Lord Jesus Christ!
- 3.7. (10-15) Dead bodies of both **men & beast** turn into dust in the grave.
- 3.7.1. And **the rich** are not exempt from this.
- 3.8. (11) Their **graves** are their permanent homes(for the body) in spite of the fact that **they leave their estates** bearing their names.
- 3.8.1. Our friends were telling Kel & I last night of a house they are working on that is 11,000 sq, & they only live in it 7 days a year.
- 3.9. (12,20) The wealthy trust in their wealth **but die anyway**, just like animals (12, 20).
- 3.10. (13,14) A contrast of the *finally Helpless* & the *finally Victorious!*
- 3.11. (14) Former first lady “Lady Bird Johnson” **died** today at age 94.
- 3.11.1. **Death is talked about in scripture in some strange ways** [this vs.]
- 3.11.2. **Death personified** is an *unusual poetic figure* in the OT; this passage here ranks right up there with **Jeremiah 9:21**, where death climbs in at the window to carry off the living. (Read)
- 3.12. **Skip vs.15**
- 3.13. (16-20) A man can build a **monument**, but he cannot make men remember him!
- 3.13.1. **Absalom’s Pillar** – In 2 Sam.18:18 it says, “**Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and set up a pillar for himself, which is in the King’s Valley. For he said, “I have no son to keep my name in remembrance.” He called the pillar after his own name. And to this day it is called Absalom’s Monument.**”
- 3.13.2. Today when you tour Israel you look down in the Kidron Valley & see a very large monument called “*Absalom’s Pillar*”. What’s humorous to me is...is that it is not! (was built 1<sup>st</sup> cent. ad, 1000 years after Absalom)

- 3.14. (17) Jewish Proverb *“There are no pockets in shrouds.”*
- 3.14.1. You can't take it with you but you can send it ahead!
- 3.14.2. You can use your money for **God's** glory.
- 3.14.3. When you do you're investing it in eternity.
- 3.14.4. (This is whether you make a few thousand a year or many thousands)  
*“Make your wealth eternal by letting God direct your use of it.”*
- 3.14.4.1. **Money** is a **powerful resource** but remember...it is limited to **this temporal world!**
- 3.15. **Basically 2 warnings with wealth:** [1] It can create a **false security**.  
 [2] Beware of **wasted opportunity**.
- 3.16. (19) **They shall never see light** – There is a certain **horror** about absolute darkness that throws a chill over the human soul.
- 3.16.1. Man was made to live in the light.
- 3.16.2. Jesus warned they shall **be cast into outer darkness**.
- 3.16.3. **One man was giving a tour of a cave in Kentucky** when he turned out the lights. He told those touring that if you were **lost** in this cave you would become **insane** inside of a week from the oppressive **loneliness** & the **maddening incessant drip** of water from the roof!
- 3.16.3.1. He said, *“Be quiet & feel the darkness!”*

#### **4. BLESSED ASSURANCE! (15)**

- 4.1. He now draws our attention to **another life...a higher life**, to which the present life was only a preparatory.
- 4.2. Here is the **believer's assurance** of **future resurrection**.
- 4.2.1. 1 Thes.4:13,14 *“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so **God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.**”*
- 4.3. **The grave** has a power over **the body**, but **the soul** is preserved from going to the grave *with the body*.
- 4.3.1. Our **soul** appears to “vanish” upon its separation from the body, is in reality only **gathered** to the bosom of God, there to be kept until the day of resurrection! (Calvin)
- 4.4. God, instead of **demanding a ransom** as in vs.7, **pays it Himself** in vs.15.
- 4.4.1. **Atonement in view!**
- 4.5. This verse **conquers death** & makes life **worth living**.
- 4.5.1. 1 Pet.1:3-5 *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

to an inheritance **incorruptible** and **undefiled** and that **does not fade away**, **reserved** in heaven **for you**, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

- 4.6. **Meaningful afterlife statements** in the OT:
- 4.6.1. Ps.16:10 (David) “For **You will not leave my soul in Sheol**, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.”
- 4.6.2. Ps.73:24 (Asaph) “You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward **receive me to glory.**”
- 4.6.3. Job 19:25-27 “For I know *that* my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed, **this I know**, That **in my flesh I shall see God**, Whom **I shall see for myself**, And **my eyes shall behold**, and not another.”
- 4.6.4. Dan 12:1,2 “...Every one who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth **shall awake**, Some to **everlasting life**, Some to **shame and everlasting contempt.**”
- 4.6.5. Is.26:19 “Your dead shall live; *Together with* my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; For your dew *is like* the dew of herbs, And **the earth shall cast out the dead.**”
- 4.7. **Illustration:** Ever observe the difference between passengers who **hold confirmed tickets** and those who are **on standby**?
- 4.7.1. **The ones** with **confirmed tickets** read newspapers, chat with their friends or sleep. **The ones on standby** hang around the ticket counter, pace and wait anxiously, wait anxiously and pace.
- 4.7.2. **Q:** Which are you when it comes to the topic of eternity?
- 4.8. Suppose you had **a vision of an angel** who told you **your sins were forgiven**, would that be **enough assurance** for you to rest on? (some would say yes!)
- 4.8.1. But suppose on your deathbed **Satan** came and said, “*I was that angel, transformed to deceive you.*” What would you say then?
- 4.8.2. God has given us something **more dependable** than the voice of an **angel**.
- 4.8.3. 1 Jn.5:13 “These things I have written **to you who believe** in the name of the Son of God, **You may know** that you have **eternal life.**”
- 4.8.3.1. **Q:** Is that not enough to rest on? – It’s a letter from heaven expressly written to **everyone** who believes!