

WE OWE IT ALL TO THE LORD

One of the easiest things to do is become too focused on yourself. We should always be aware of our thoughts and actions, so it's not hard to allow myself to become the main beneficiary of my thoughts and actions. What might have started out as the best of intentions can end up as selfishness and even pride.

Negative situations can cause this to happen as well. As our situation gets more difficult, we may have the tendency to try to figure out how we are going to get ourselves out of it. Not that we should do nothing during hard times, rather we should remain focused on the LORD and remember that we are to remain submitted to him.

If we are afflicted by others, it makes it easier to question God's motives or interest in our lives. Why would he allow this to happen to me? Will he ever do anything about the wrongs that have been done to me?

When these types of thoughts and feelings creep into our minds and hearts, the Psalms are a great place to go. The psalm I wish to focus on right now is Psalm 9. The writer begins with the statement that we owe it all to the LORD (vv 1-2). Nothing but your whole heart will do when it comes to the Most High!

The psalmist reminds us that the LORD is always right (vv 3-4). He sits on the throne and his judgments are righteous. Nations, societies, and cultures are temporary and transient (vv 5-6), but the LORD is eternal (vv 7-8). The LORD is trustworthy (vv 9-10). The reason why those faithful to the LORD put their trust in him is because he has not forsaken those that seek him.

Whatever our situation is and no matter how bad we think things are, the LORD knows and he will remember us (vv 11-12). When there seems to be no way out, the LORD delivers (vv 13-14). That is something to truly rejoice about. It may appear, many times, that the wicked and ungodly always "get away" with their plans. David makes it clear that doom will come upon the wicked (vv 15-16).

The LORD ultimately will right all wrongs (vv 17-18). We may not think that He's doing anything about it. We may think He's taking way too much time to take care of our problems. The psalmist closes the song by reminding us that the LORD is God and we are not (vv 19-20)!

Does the LORD have your whole heart? Are you trusting in him no matter what circumstances you find yourself in? I would encourage you to spend some time with Psalm 9 and let it remind us about why we owe it all to the LORD.

Greg Surles