ALL THE NATIONS

THAT FORGET GOD

**DATE: 9/18/2011 am**

**TEXT: Psalm 9:17**

**INTRODUCTION**

The **9th Psalm** is about God’s complete victory over all His adversaries

There is a contrast of the righteous and the wicked that is dealt with in both **Psalms 9 & 10**

When we come to the **10th Psalm**,

God is dealing particularly with the wicked in Israel

In **Psalm 9**,

God is dealing with the wicked outside of Israel

The Bible says in **Psalm 9:17** that there are whole nations that forget God

And all the nations that forget God will be turned into Hell

That is a very stark statement

Jesus Himself declared hell to be real

**Luke 16:19-24 … The Rich man and Lazarus**

Nations are made up of people though, and its people that forget God

Why do people forget about God?

Let’s read **Deuteronomy 6:4-12** (emphasize **v. 12**)

When things are tuff, it seems, we realize how much we need God

But when we become prosperous, then we forget God

And because of prosperity we do not think that we need Him

That is what is happening in our Nation right now

The things we read & hear about are shocking!

The heart of the matter is that we have forgotten God

*Immorality is always preceded by idolatry*

(The placement of anything before the true and living God)

We live in a society that has a *garden of gods*

(Hollywood, sports, leisure, fitness etc.)

Why such behavior?

Why such fear?

Simply put - we have forgotten God!

History has revealed to us that no nation was able to deal with prosperity

This Psalm causes us to think of our nation

A Nation founded upon the Principles of God

Evidenced by the record left by our forefathers in the buildings of our Nation’s Capital

**Ill.** In the White House we find John Adam’s Prayer -

It reads: *“I pray heaven to bestow the best of blessings on this house and all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof”*

The Supreme Court has the Ten Commandment etched in its walls. The House of Rep. as above the speaker chair: *“In God we Trust”* etc.

So what should we be doing as believers living in a nation that has forgotten God?

I’d like to preach on this thought –

***“All the Nations that Forget God”***

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, we need to know that -

**I. WHOLE HEARTED FAITH IN GOD IS ESSENTIAL – vs. 1-4**

To answer our Question, it is important to understand that our whole hearted Faith in God is Essential

The question is – “What should we be doing as Believers living in an unbelieving nation?”

Notice what the psalmist says in **v.1** -

***“I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart…”***

Not half heartedly, as so many do today, but Whole Heartedly

**A. Whole Hearted Faith calls for ‘Thy will, not my will’**

Jesus taught us how to pray, by saying -

**Matthew 6:10 –*“Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven”***

**Matthew 26:39 -  *“And He went a little further, and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me: nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt”***

**Psalm 40:8 – *“I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within my heart”***

**John 4:34 – *“Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work”***

**Deuteronomy 4:9 – *“Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart”***

**Whole Hearted Faith calls for God’s Will to be done**

**B. Whole Hearted Faith calls for ‘Commitment’**

Notice 4 statements in **vs. 1 & 2** –

**1. *“I will praise Thee, O LORD, with my whole heart;”***

**2. *“I will shew forth all Thy marvellous works”***

**3. *“I will be glad and rejoice in Thee”***

**4. *“I will sing praise to Thy name, O thou most High”***

Every one of us can start right here

*“I Will”* do these 4 things

In each statement David was directing his will to God

We can/must surrender our wills to God’s will

**Whole Hearted Faith calls for God’s Will to be done**

**Whole Hearted Faith calls for a ‘Commitment’**

**C. Whole Hearted Faith calls for ‘Humility’**

Don’t think because David said that *“He would”*

That he did it in his own strength

It is only by the grace of God that we can

He continues in **vs. 3 & 4 –**

***“When mine enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish at Thy presence”***

Notice what he says about the Lord -

***“For Thou hast maintained my right and my cause;”***

He did not say – *“I have…”*

This is how most people think

**Ephesians 2:9 – *“Not of works, lest any man should boast”***

**Titus 3:5a – *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us”***

If we are what we should be, it is because of the grace of God

It has nothing to do with us

The psalmist had it right when he declared –

***“…Thou hast maintained my right and my cause; Thou satest in the throne judging right”***

God is still on the throne, even in the worst of times

He hasn’t given it up!

**A WHOLE HEARTED FAITH IN GOD IS ESSENTIAL**

So as we continue trying to answer the question -

What should we be doing as believers living in a nation that has forgotten God?

The next thing I want you to see is -

**II. GOD IS OUR REFUGE IN TIMES OF TROUBLE – vs. 5-11**

David declares in **vs. 5 & 6** how awful things had gotten

But that God was dealing with the situation – **vs. 5-8**

When you have trouble, you can be assured that *in God* we have a refuge (a place of safety) **– v.9**

God does not always do away with the troubles, though

But He will always be our refuge

We want God to kill our Pharaohs

God did not tell Moses that He would kill Pharaoh,

But rather that He would go with Moses to face Pharaoh

God is not going to get rid of all our problems

But He is going to provide a place of refuge

***“A refuge in times of trouble”***

If I did not have a refuge in all of these storms

I would have been swept away a long time ago

I Praise my Saviour that He is my refuge!

Look at **v.10 -** ***“They that know Thy name”***

There is a reason He provides refuge

So that we can walk *on the water*, so we can *live above the storms …*

**A. So we can Tell others of the Refuge**

How are others going to know God’s name unless we tell them?

We must tell people His name and what He can do!

It is not right for us to act like the rest of the world,

Wring our hands, shaking our heads, worrying, fretting, crying, complaining etc ...

And then, surrendering hopelessly as though there is nothing we can do!

We must lift our voices and say –

*“Look, there is hope! His Name is Jesus! Put your faith in Christ! Trust in the Lord”*

***“declare among the people His doings”* – v.11b**

**Tell others of the Refuge**

**B. We must lift our Voices in Praise**

**v. 11a - *“Sing praises to the LORD … declare among the people His doings”***

How many of us go through life -

Without ever once, lifting our voices to God

Without singing praises

Without ever telling another soul what Christ has done for you

How sad!

In the crowds at the super market, on the job, in the lunchroom, in the schoolroom

We must be singing His praises

We must be talking about Him

*I believe we could have a revival if people who know the Lord would just speak up and start talking about Him!*

The Bible says – ***“Praise His Name” “Sing praises to the LORD”***

There is a big different between people who ***“Sing unto the Lord”*** and people who just sing

**A WHOLE HEARTED FAITH IN GOD IS ESSENTIAL**

**GOD IS OUR REFUGE IN TIMES OF TROUBLE**

And lastly -

**III. GOD WILL ONE DAY MAKE INQUISITION – 11-20**

So what should we be doing as believers living in a nation that has forgotten God?

**(especially v.12)**

**Inquisition** – *to diligently inquire, search out a matter*

We need to realize that -

**A. God our ‘Avenger’ will not Fail us** **– vs. 11-17**

David calls upon the suffering remnant to sing praises to God because He is on their side and fights their battles

He will not fail to hear their cries and execute justice on their behalf

Israel's calling was to bear witness to the other nations that Jehovah is the only true and living God

**Psalm 18:49 – *“Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O Lord, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name”***

**Psalm 57:9 – *“I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations”***

**Isaiah 42:6 – *“I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;”***

**Isaiah 49:6 – *“And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth”***

The ark was now in Jerusalem so Jehovah was on His throne in Israel

***"Inquisition for blood"*** refers to the official investigation of murder

To see who was guilty of the crime

**Genesis 9:5 – *“And surely your blood of your lives will I require; … at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man”***

**Leviticus 17:11 – *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood…”***

Symbolized by having blood on someone’s -

House - **Deuteronomy 22:8 – *“When thou buildest a new house, then thou shalt make a battlement for thy roof, that thou bring not blood upon thine house, if any man fall from thence”***

Hands - **Ezekiel 3:18 – *“When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand”***

Head - **Acts 18:6 – *“And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles”***

There was no police force in Israel, but a near kinsman (a relative) could avenge the murder of a family member

This is why God assigned what was known as ***"cities of refuge"*** to provide havens for people who accidentally killed someone / Manslaughter (**Numbers 35**)

But when God is the avenger,

He has all the evidence He needs to find and punish the rebellious

David prays in **vs. 13-17** and asks to be taken from the gates of death (the world of the dead) and put at the gates of Zion (the place of Life **– v.14**)

From death to life!

**God our ‘Avenger’ will not Fail us**

**B. God our ‘Conqueror’ will not Forget us – vs. 18-20**

***"Arise, O Lord"* – v.19**

David is reminding God of when He went forth before Israel in days of old

**Numbers 10:35 – *“And it came to pass, when the ark set forward, that Moses said, Rise up, Lord, and let thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before thee”***

When God went before His people to defeat their enemies

***"Man"*** in **v.19** speaks of *"weak frail man"*

A fact that sinners don't want to admit

One day the Lord will put the rebellious in their rightful place and they will discover that they are only—But dust!

**CONCLUSION**

So, as Believers in an unbelieving world what are we to do?

We need to remember that God -

As our ‘Avenger’, will not Fail us!

And as our ‘Conqueror’ will not Forget us!

**v.12 – *“When He maketh inquisition for blood, He remembereth them: He forgetteth not the cry of the humble”***

So as we close, remember -

**v.17 *– “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God”***

But David in compassion said in -

**v.20 – *“Put them in fear, O LORD: that the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah”***

**CLOSING PRAYER AND INVITATION**

**A WHOLE HEARTED FAITH IN GOD IS ESSENTIAL**

**GOD IS OUR REFUGE IN TIMES OF TROUBLE**

**GOD WILL ONE DAY MAKE INQUISITION**