

## Psalm 49 A Psalm of the sons of Korah

<sup>1</sup> Everyone, listen to me. That's right, I said everyone. <sup>2</sup> It doesn't matter whether you are rich or poor, important or insignificant. All of you need to hear what I have to say. <sup>3</sup> Listen because I am going to speak wisdom from the heart after countless hours of meditation. What I say will enable you to understand the truth. <sup>4</sup> I will investigate a proverb with keen interest, and then I will explain its meaning in a song.

<sup>5</sup> What good reason is there, if any, for me to become agitated over the fact that groups of rich men use their power to oppress me? <sup>6</sup> These men brag about all of the wealth they have acquired and how that wealth will get them through any problem life can throw at them. <sup>7-9</sup> They don't understand that they cannot use money to keep a man from rotting in a grave after he dies or give him eternal life. That's because the cost to redeem a soul is far greater than anything this world has to offer. Therefore, it is useless to even try. <sup>10</sup> It only makes sense because God sees that the foolish man and the senseless man alike die and leave their wealth to others. <sup>11</sup> Ah, but the rich man's riches have tricked him into thinking that his fine dwellings will last forever. They even call their lands and houses after their own name thinking folks will remember them for a long time after they are dead and gone. <sup>12</sup> They are puffed up in their arrogance, but their so-called importance will not last. In the end, they will die like an animal out in the field. <sup>13</sup> This is what will happen to everyone who is foolish enough to put their confidence in riches or approves of how the rich man brags about his money and possessions.

Now stop for a moment, and realize the significance of what I just shared with you. Don't be foolish enough to make acquiring wealth the driving force in your life. It will ultimately fail you.

<sup>14</sup> These rich people are like sheep destined for the slaughter. Death will feed on them, and their bodies will rot in a grave somewhere. They won't dwell there because their soul will be in hell. The day following their burial those who do what is right in the sight of the LORD <sup><upright></sup> will be free from the rich man's oppression, and they will be more important than those foolish rich men who went to the grave. <sup>15</sup> This is the lot of the arrogant rich man, but God Himself will redeem my soul and receive me into heaven. He will do this because I have placed my trust and confidence in the finished work of His Son, Jesus Christ<sup>1</sup>, who He died on the cross of Calvary and paid the price for my sins.

Now stop for a moment, and realize the significance of what I just shared with you. Understand the rich man's plight, and place your faith and trust in the finished work of Christ which results in eternal life.

<sup>16-17</sup> After learning all of this, don't be afraid of a man when he becomes rich and builds bigger and better houses for himself. Understand that when he dies he will leave all of his wealth behind, and his so-called importance will vanish with him. He won't take a penny to hell with him. <sup>18</sup> Regardless of how much he congratulated himself about his supposed success or how other men praised him, <sup>19</sup> he will still go to the grave like his fathers and never see the light of day again. <sup>20</sup> Regardless of how a rich man without understanding tries to impress others with his wealth and possessions, he will perish just like the beasts of the field.

<sup>1</sup> In John 14:6, Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me." Therefore, the name "Jesus Christ" has been used."

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