

Psalm 94

¹ O LORD, You are the God who takes vengeance. Therefore, please come out in the open, and show by Your deeds that You are exactly that! ² You are the Judge of the earth, so please arise and repay proud, wicked people with the punishment their sin deserves. ³ How long will You allow these wicked people to succeed in their wicked devices thinking they are on the winning side? ⁴ Every one of them is arrogant and speaks wickedness out of a depraved heart. These wicked people not only do it, but they are proud of it. ⁵ They are not satisfied with just saying words, but they beat down and seek to destroy those who love and serve You. ⁶ They don't hesitate to kill innocent widows and orphans. ⁷ They feel free to do these things because they say among themselves, "God doesn't see what we are doing, and if He did, He wouldn't care."

⁸ You who are senseless enough to do these things, pay close attention to what I am about to say. You fools, when will you quit being so stupid, and understand what is really going on? ⁹ The LORD created the ear. Don't you know that He can hear what you say? He created the eye. Don't you know that He can see the wicked things you do? ¹⁰ He is the One who inflicts suffering upon the nations for the purpose of moral improvement¹. Don't you know that the LORD will sharply disapprove of their actions and He will reprimand wayward nations? After all, He is the One who teaches mankind how to avoid sinful deeds and live in a good and godly manner. ¹¹ When you really get down to it, the LORD knows what each man is thinking at any moment in time, and with reference to eternity, He knows that man's lifespan is so short that it is insignificant.

¹² The LORD desires to teach every man the principles and commandments from His Word and disciplines him for the purpose of making him more godly. Happy is the man who will allow the LORD to do those things in his life. ¹³ This happiness is displayed as a peaceful heart even in the midst of the troubles wicked people cause him to endure. His heart will continue to be at peace even beyond the time when the wicked go to the grave. ¹⁴ The blessed man can have this peaceful heart because he knows that the LORD will not abandon His children. He also knows that He will not forsake those He has inherited as a result of their faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ² on the cross. ¹⁵ They know that at some point the LORD will give His righteous people the justice they rightfully deserve, and all of those who do what is right in the sight of the LORD will practice that justice.

¹⁶ Who will arise in my defense against these wicked people? Who will actually stand up for me? Unfortunately, there is no human being who will do this for me, but the LORD will. ¹⁷ In fact, if He had not helped me, I would be in the grave right now. ¹⁸ When things get really hard and I feel like I am about to slip and fall, it is Your tender love and kindness, LORD, that holds me up. ¹⁹ When the cares of my heart multiply, Your promises cheer my soul.

²⁰ LORD, can the throne of wicked rulers be allied with You? Obviously not! These are men who frame injustices by making laws that accomplish their destructive purposes. How then could they be allied with such a holy God as You? ²¹ These wicked people form a coalition whose goal is to condemn to death people who live in a good and godly manner even though those righteous people are innocent of wrongdoing. ²² In spite of their attacks, the LORD has been my defense and place of security. ²³ He has caused the consequences of their wickedness to come back upon them, and in time those consequences will destroy them. In the end, the LORD will wipe out every one of them. Isn't that a wonderful promise?

¹ Definition of "chasten" www.dictionary.com/browse/chasten

² 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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