

Psalm 10

¹ Why do You stand afar off, O LORD?
Why do You hide in times of trouble?

² The wicked in his pride persecutes the poor;
Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised.

³ For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire;
He blesses the greedy and renounces the LORD.

⁴ The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God;
God is in none of his thoughts.

⁵ His ways are always prospering;
Your judgments are far above, out of his sight;
As for all his enemies, he sneers at them.

⁶ He has said in his heart, "I shall not be moved;
I shall never be in adversity."

⁷ His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and oppression;
Under his tongue is trouble and iniquity.

⁸ He sits in the lurking places of the villages;
In the secret places he murders the innocent;
His eyes are secretly fixed on the helpless.

⁹ He lies in wait secretly, as a lion in his den;
He lies in wait to catch the poor;
He catches the poor when he draws him into his net.

¹⁰ So he crouches, he lies low,

That the helpless may fall by his strength.

¹¹ He has said in his heart,
"God has forgotten;
He hides His face;
He will never see."

¹² Arise, O LORD!
O God, lift up Your hand!
Do not forget the humble.

¹³ Why do the wicked renounce God?
He has said in his heart,
"You will not require an account."

¹⁴ But You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief,
To repay it by Your hand.
The helpless commits himself to You;
You are the helper of the fatherless.

¹⁵ Break the arm of the wicked and the evil man;
Seek out his wickedness until You find none.

¹⁶ The LORD is King forever and ever;
The nations have perished out of His land.

¹⁷ LORD, You have heard the desire of the humble;
You will prepare their heart;
You will cause Your ear to hear,

¹⁸ To do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed,
That the man of the earth may oppress no more.

Asked and answered. The question in v1 receives much of an answer in vv5b. The Lord is only "hiding" from those who do not have access by faith to see "far above." The righteous and the wicked both know that God is God and that God will judge (cf. Rom 1:18–32). But God conceals the action of His holy arm in part to lure the wicked to expose his filthy arm to be broken (cf. v15).

This Psalm is not operating from a standpoint of confusion or unbelief like Asaph does in the first half of Psalm 73. Rather, it is offended on God's behalf (v3b, 4a, 4b, 11b, 11c, 11d, 13a, 13b) and muses upon God's wisdom and patience to tolerate so much in order to magnify His power and justice when He does punish.

A warning for believers, who can see by faith. It is helpful to us to see how the wicked operate—in part because, like Asaph in Psalm 73, we are prone to think and act like them in our remaining fleshliness. In Psalm 30:6, the godly is thinking in exactly the same way as the wicked speaks here in 10:6. In 30:7, Yahweh hides His face to show the psalmist his folly. Here, we can see that folly reflected in the mirror of the wicked.

Those who love God hate to find in themselves all of those unworthy thoughts of Him (v3b, 4a, 4b, 11b, 11c, 11d, 13a, 13b). Yet, from this Psalm we learn that's exactly what is happening when we treat others the way the wicked does here.

When we are proud (v2a). When we scheme (v2b). When we exult in what we want instead of what God wants (v3a). When we admire the worldly/greedy (v3b). When we sneer at our enemies instead of loving them (v5c). When we are self-confident (v6). When we curse (v7a). When we deceive (v7a). When we oppress/bully (v7a). When we use words to get our wicked way (v7b). When we sneak (v8a). When we hate/murder (v8b). When we take advantage of the helpless (v8c–10).

We know that these things are wrong, but this Psalm helps us to battle them by exposing just how directly each of these things attack and offend God. When it comes to our behavior toward others, we are too easily forgetful about how we are actually thinking about God and acting toward God.

So, He presents us with the behavior of the wicked, in which we much more readily see the connection. God bless to us this warning!

Processing, by praise, both the warning and the waiting. The invisible hand of God was hinted at in v5b, but faith keeps it in full view in v12–18. "Arise, O Yahweh! O God, lift up Your hand!" (v12). As faith praises God, it is enabled to wait patiently for His justice to come, as well as to heed the warning against our own sin. So we praise God for seeing (v14a). And we praise God for His justice (v14b). And we praise God for His mercy to the helpless (v14c) and for His vengeance on their behalf (v14d). We praise God the completeness of that vengeance (v15) and the everlastingness of His kingdom (v16). We praise God for His attentiveness to the lowly (v17) and His lifting them up while He casts down the oppressor (v18).

In all of this praise, we enjoy the wisdom of His patience and timing toward the wicked. And in all of this praise, we are reminded of the truths about Him that would restrain our sin if we weren't so forgetful about them in our remaining fleshliness. What a blessing to us it is to pray praise unto our God!

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are welcome to listen to the audio recording, which you may find via tinysa.com/hopewellarp)

Psalms 10, why do you stand so far off of Yahweh, why do you hide in times of trouble? The wicked and his pride persecutes the poor let them be caught and applauds which they have devised. For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire, he blesses the greedy and renounces.

Yahweh. The wicked and his proud countenance does not seek God is in none of his thoughts. His ways are always prospering your judgments are far above out of his sight as for all his enemies, he sneers at them. He has said in his heart. I shall not be moved.

I shall never be an adversity. His mouth is full of cursing. And deceit. And depression. Under his tongue just trouble. And iniquity. He sits in the lurking places of the villages and the secret places he murders the innocent his eyes are secretly fixed on the helpless, he lies in wait secretly as a lion in his den he lies in wait to catch the poor he catches the poor when he draws him into his net.

So he crouches he lies low that the helpless may fall by his strength. He has said in his heart. God has forgotten he hides his face, he will never see. A rise of Yahweh, oh God lift up your hand, do not forget the humble. Why do the wicked renounce God.

He has said in his heart, you will not require an account. But you have seen for you observe trouble and grief to repay it by your hand. The helpless commits himself to you. You are the helper of the Fatherless. Break the arm of the wicked and the evil man.

Seek out his wickedness until you find none. You always king forever and ever. The nations have perished out of his land. He although you have heard the desire of the humble. You will prepare their heart. You will cause your ear to hear. To do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed.

That the man of the earth may oppress. No more. So far the reading of God's inspired and Aaron Word. Psalmists actually begins by asking a question that he knows the answer to. Why do you stand so far off? Oh Yahweh. Why do you hide in times of trouble? In reality, he knows that the Lord is there this almost of course has faith.

The wicked can't see. Where God is verse 5 your judgments are far above out of his sight. The believer knows the Lord by faith. And so as this Psalm progresses we find that the psalmist is counting on the fact that God is there that God observes that God will answer that God will avenge.

And he's noting that the reason that the wicked man feels free to be as wicked as he is and to plot and to scheme these plots that they've devised verse to the the psalmist is praying that they would be caught in their own plot. That's exactly what God is doing.

If God always bore his holy arm if he always punished immediately with full vengeance everything that the wicked did the instant that that he did it the wicked would not be able to flatter himself that there are no consequences the way he does throughout this psalm. And so God in his patience lures the wicked into bringing even greater judgment.

On his own head. See the righteous and the wicked both know that God is God and that God will judge. Romans 1 the second half of the chapter there in verses 18 through 32 tells us that everybody knows that God is there. They can see it in the creation and he has made it known to them even in their hearts.

It tells us that everybody knows the righteous requirements of God. And that those who break God's law deserve death. Everyone knows that. It's just the wicked spend a lot of effort and pushing down on hiding that knowledge from their appearance from their eyesight from their view. So the psalm is not asking why do you stand so far off?

Oh you the same way from unbelief like ASAP famously does in the beginning of Psalm 73 where he thinks the wicked are actually prospering. Here this almost does not think the wicked or prospering he sees the wicked thinking he has prospering and he's marveling at God's patience to permit that for so long.

This almost however is offended on God's behalf. You notice that although the actions of the wicked man are aimed especially at the poor and the helpless and so forth. That his attitude is especially aimed at God. Look at all the things that the wicked man does when he allows himself to sin or in order to justify his sinning.

He renounces Yahweh verse 3. He does not seek God first part of verse 4. God is in none of his thoughts. Second part of verse 4. Verse 11, he says in his heart God has forgotten. Verse 11 again. He says God hides his face. God hides his face. God will never see.

Verse 13 again, he renounces God. Verse 13 again, he said in his heart you will not require an account. And so, truly the full says in his heart, there is no God. The greatest part of his sin is not in failing till a love his neighbor as himself. Oh, he's very wicked to his neighbors.

But in order to carry out that wickedness he denies the Lord. And that's what's troubling this almost the most. That's what makes this almost most to Marvel at the patience of God. And well, should we marvel? Because God is marvelously patient and we know that one of the main reasons that he's patient is so that he may save.

Because there are those that he's bringing to faith in Jesus Christ. There are those whom he is saving for himself. I think we see this famously in the parable of the tares. The wheat field and then there's tares that the enemy says in the field and the servants common they say should we should we pull them an enemy has done this?

Says no don't pull them yet, you might harm wheat if you do so. You see God is infinitely more offended at false professions of faith and heretical theology and error fake Christianity as it were it's offensive to us when we discover it we're shocked scandalized by people who pretend to be part of the church, but they're not really believers they're seed of the enemy to to use the image from the parable.

But isn't the holy God infinitely more offended isn't their offense primarily against him and not against us? And yet he is willing to put up with the tares why. Because of the greatness of his love for the wheat. That he is willing to endure the despising of his name.

In order to bring to salvation all upon him, he has set his electing love. And so we marvel at his patience when we see how greatly the wicked deny. God how great is their offense against him but it's also helpful for us to see how the wicked operate in Psalm 10.

Because in truth we also in our remaining fleshliness are prone to think and act like them perhaps when you read verse 6 of Psalm 10, he has said in his heart. I shall not be moved you immediately thought of verse 6 of Psalm 30. And in my prosperity. I said I shall never be moved he all way by your favor you made my mountains stand strong you hid your face and I was troubled.

How often we too even though believers in our remaining sinner forgetful of the Lord we get to be self-confident we think I shall never be moved we forget that it's God who has given us any good that we have in ourselves and if he hides his face for a moment how easily our confidence evaporates.

We too are sometimes fools. Who although we would never admit it to ourselves. Say in our hearts that there is no God. And so it's helpful to look at Psalm 10 and some of the things that the wicked does that show that he's despising the Lord so that when we see the same kind of stuff coming out in how we treat others.

We might realize that treating others that way is really denying that. God sees. Now you children your parents don't see everything. So sometimes you are speaking to or treating somebody in a way that you shouldn't. And if mom or dad walk in the way you're speaking or the way you're acting changes in a hurry.

But one of the things Psalm 10 helps us remember is that before mom or dad ever walked into the room the Lord was in that room. He was seeing. He was hearing. His justice was offended. It demands hell. Even for the believer praise God the hell that Jesus endured on the cross.

But we forget that God sees all the time. When we're talking about how we act it's easier for us to remember when we're talking about how somebody else acts when they're being wicked. We say oh look at that wickedness don't they know that God sees don't they know that God ears don't they know that God is just.

That doesn't that remind us that we are the ones who are forgetting those things whenever we send to and since we hate to have unworthy thoughts of God, it breaks our heart to think that we are renouncing him. Or that we might go through minutes or hours in which he is not in our thoughts.

All these things that this Psalm says about the wicked one. That calls our attention to when we're proud and verse two a Would you be proud in front of the Lord when we scheme? We remember that he sees our thoughts. When we boast or exalt in our hearts desire instead of what God desires verse 3A.

When we admire those who are worldly or greedy. How easy it is for us to be like the rest of the world and admire those who don't know God at all. When we admire them, we are denying God verse 3B. When we sneer at our enemies, instead of loving them and being children are of our heavenly.

Father verse 5c when we have that self-confidence that we were thinking about a moment ago. I shall never be moved. When we curse. When we deceive. When we oppress or bully. When we use words to manipulate so that we can get away with what we want to do verse 7b under his tongue this trouble and iniquity.

When we are sneaky to try to get away with something. Verse 8A when we're hateful or murderous verse 8 B. When we take advantage of those who can't do much about it in diversity through the end of verse 10. There are many things that we slide into that really, deny the living God.

This is one of the reasons children why one of the things that alarms apparent the most is when we find deception lying? Not so much that it injures us although it does and it hurts not to be able to believe you which is what you're lying does. But the most frightening thing is God knows the truth.

And when you lie to us when you lie to your parents. It exposes to us that you're not really thinking about what does God know? Taking account of the fact that he is there and he is listening. Well that deception that sneakiness that lying was a big part of the way the wicked were acting in Psalm 10.

And that's one of the reasons why the psalmist is so amazed how the how much they are willing to sin against God himself and defend God. Well, what can we do in response? Well, we can do what the psalmist does. If you look at. Especially verse 14 to the end you have seen for you observed trouble and grief.

He prays as the Lord. He prays as God for seeing first part of verse 14. He prays as God for being just second part of verse 14. He prays as God for mercy to the helpless third part of verse 14 and for taking vengeance on behalf of those who can't take it for themselves end of verse 14.

He prays as God for the completeness of his justice verse 15, he praises God for the everlastingness of his kingdom verse 16. Praises God for attending to the lowly verse 17 and lifting the lowly up well he casts down the proud the oppressor verse 18. You see when we praise God for these things we keep in our mind who he is and that he sees and that he is just and that he cares.

We keep in mind that. He is going to take vengeance. And this does two things it increases our appreciation of God's patience. As he endures the wicked for the sake of the elect. But it also keeps us keeps our own sin restrained because if we're praising him for seeing if we're praising him for being just that reminds us that he sees.

And that helps helps us. Hold our own sin at bay. So in all of our praising him we're reminded of the truths about him that would restrain our sin if we weren't so forgetful in our remaining fleshliness. And so praising God is not only the greatest of our duties but it's also something he actually helps us to help us so that we'll remember who he is.

And have our sin restrained. What a blessing it is to us to pray praise to our God.