

Tuesday, July 4, 2023 ▪ Read Psalm 94:1–15

Questions from the Scripture text: What belongs to Whom (v1)? What does the Psalmist want Him to do (v1–2)? What is especially agonizing to the Psalmist (v3)? What is so bad about the wicked's speech (v4)? What are they doing to whom (v5)? Whom, in particular, are they slaying (v6)? Why do they feel free to do such wickedness to such people—Whom do they treat as without understanding (v7)? But who actually lack understanding (v8)? What obvious conclusions should they have drawn from what attributes God built into us (v9)? And what obvious conclusions from what other attributes (v10)? In the battle of mutually assessing one another (v7, cp. v11), Whose assessment wins? Who, then, is blessed (v12)? What does God give him (v13a)? Until what (v13b)? Why is this rest and this pit sure (v14)? So, what is sure to happen (v15a)? And what will the upright in heart do (v15b)?

What is the solution to agony over the wicked and their wickedness? Psalm 94:1–15 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these fifteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **those who learn from the Lord can be sure that the day of the godly's rest and wicked's judgment is coming.**

How long? Does God really see and know and care about what is happening on the earth?

The folly behind shameless sin. In order for people to be shameless in their speech (v4a) and full of themselves (v4b) and brutal in their behavior (v5–6), they must act upon the assumption that God doesn't in fact see or care what is happening. They are gambling their everlasting safety on the idea that God either doesn't exist or doesn't care (v7). The fool says in his heart that God is a fool.

The REALITY behind our reality. What fools (v8)! Where do they even think the sense of hearing or seeing came from, with all of the marvelous intricacy with which our bodies were created (v9)? God didn't just make them so that we could see or hear, but so that we might have a tiny inkling of how exhaustively God sees everything.

And where do they think their own capacity for thought and judgment came from (v10)? God gave us to be able to know, consider, and to judge, so that we might have a tiny inkling of the incomprehensible perfection in which He knows and understands and judges.

Considering that God considers. Yahweh sees all of this, and it is His assessment that determines reality: God says in His "heart" that the wicked man is a fool (v11).

Inquiring, not questioning. But it's not just the wicked who are in danger of thinking foolishly. The question in v3 brings the righteous right up to the edge of folly. Thankfully, the Psalmist began with Who Yahweh is in Himself. God of vengeance (v1a). God Who will shine forth (v1b). God Who will judge (v2a). God Who will bring down the proud (v2b).

So, while we may ask questions (v3), we must not *question* God, and that is an important distinction. Rather, we see ourselves as lacking understanding. We wish to be instructed (v12), coming to God in humility, coming to Him with our neediness.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way... And when we come to Him in this way, we realize that His own character contains the answers to our questions. The days of trouble cannot last forever, because Yahweh has taken us to be His own (v13a, 14, cf. v5). Our covenant God will surely stick with us, and everything will ultimately be set right (v15a, cf. v13b). So, even when the wicked seem to triumph, we will follow after righteousness (v15b) as we confidently wait upon our God!

What wicked ones are unashamedly perverted and abusive? What reality are they missing? If you are not to miss that reality, how should you respond to these circumstances?

Sample prayer: Lord, to You belong all vengeance and judgment and victory. We long for You to shine forth in Your glory. For, You have taken us as Your people, Your own heritage, and our hope is in You. You created us to be hearing and seeing creatures, because You hear and see all things perfectly. You created us with the capacity for logical and moral reasoning, because Your understanding and judgment are perfect. So, we know that at last, You will set all things right and give us rest from the days of trouble. Indeed, You who have given us Yourself, in Your Son, by giving us Your Spirit—surely, You will not cast us off or forsake us. So, give us to rejoice over You in trust and obedience and worship, now and forever, by Your Spirit, we ask through Jesus Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP94A "God, the LORD, from Whom Is Vengeance" or TPH94A "Mighty LORD, the God of Vengeance"

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(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 invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Psalm 94 versus 1 through 15. These are God's words. Oh y'all! Hey, god to him, vengeance belongs. Oh god to him, vengeance belongs shine forth, rise up. Oh, judge of the earth, render punishment to the proud lord. How Yahweh, how long will the wicked? How long will the wicked triumph?

They utter speech and speak insulins things, all the workers of iniquity boasting themselves. They break in pieces. Your people, we always and afflict your heritage, they slay, the widow, in the stranger and murder the fatherless. Yet they say y'all play does not see. Nor does the god of jacob understand.

Understand you senseless among people. You fools. When will you be wise? He who planted the ear. So he not here. He who formed the eye, shall he not see? He who instructs the nations. So he not correct. He who teaches men, knowledge. You always knows. The thoughts of man that they are futile.

Blessed is the man whom you instruct are yahweh and teach out of your law. That you may give him rest. From the days of adversity. Until the pit is dug for the wicked. For y'all, they will not cast off his people. Nor will he forsake his inheritance? But judgment will return to righteousness.

And all the upright in heart. Will follow it. So far the reading of gods inspired and Inherent word. The great question and verses one through three is one. That saints often feel keenly. When they see. How much wickedness there is? The problem of evil is not so much a problem for those who don't believe.

That there's a god or who are pushing down rather upon the knowledge of god. But for the believer, like the Uh, the saints under the altar and the fifth seal In revelations, chapter 6.

The. The great question is how long? Oh lord. Are you not a god of holiness, and righteousness, and vengeance? How is it that they can continue? The answer is actually found. In verses 12 3 15 in our passage and it's similar. To the answer and revelation 6. We answered in revelation 6 is until the number of your brothers is completed.

And there are people whom Yahweh is bringing. To the knowledge of himself, he teaches them, he instructs him, he teaches them out of his law, he is bringing them to rest in him. He's taking them as his own people. And he not only makes them righteous with himself, but he can forms them to his own righteous character.

So that at the last when God does come in vengeance, when god does come, Um, and and set all things, right? For those whom he is saving. It is not going to be the day of their destruction. It is going to be the day of their deliverance and so there's this There's this great big, how long?

And the reason is, Not just that there's wickedness. The speaking of insolent, things shameless in the evil that they say they're being full of themselves. Hear their denying. In their hearts the reality of god verse 7 describes, they believe that they themselves are the impressive and great reality. That's why they work iniquity.

Because they are proud, all sin is atheism. Every time we disobey isn't it true when you, when you disobey God's lawn, you disobey mommy or daddy, We sit down with you and we say, God made you and god made us and god made the world and god made dad the dad and you the child.

And when you decide to dishonor your father, when you decide to disobey, you are acting as if. You are the one for whom all things exist, you put yourself in the place of god. Well, well, that's exactly what it is saying here. The workers of iniquity both in themselves.

They think that they are the ones who see that they are the ones who know that they are the ones who determine reality. And so they're not even ashamed or afraid to attack, the people who god has set apart to himself. Not only those who are made in god's image.

And so, all sin against Against other people is a great offense to god who made those people in this image but even those who have been consecrated as holy to god and with whom god identifies himself, There are they're willing to attack the people of god. And yet, we don't often think that way.

About our Brother or sister or parent or spouse or child in the home, do we? Even though this is a christian home, they've all been marked by the lord and Um, Just about all of us, a professed faith. Uh, we are identified with god. In that way. How can we not be afraid ashamed?

At least. To attack one, another verbally, despise one another, in our hearts. Does god not see, does god not know. Of course he does. And yet, every sin is, Is at its core. This atheism. But of course god knows. You know how we know? God knows because we know things Where do you think the whole concept of knowing came from?

We didn't invent it and start with us. He made creatures, who can know things, because he is the great nowhere of everything. You made creatures who could make judgments because he is the righteous and great and perfect judge. He made us with ears, that can hear things because it is an analogy to the god who knows, immediately and observes and responds to everything that is said, or even thought.

He made us with these amazing eyeballs. Evolution defying. Eyeballs theory of evolution by eyeballs. Not just so that we could say, wow, evolution is the most preposterous idea how can grown adults and so-called great intelligent. Scientists believes such a fairy tale. That's true. But one of the great reasons he made our eyes is so that we would know that there's an analogy in god.

That the concept of seeing, Has its origin. In something that isn't like seeing with a human eyeball. But this perfect observance and immediate knowledge of understanding of every aspect of everything, and all of creation and all of time. And so what verses 8 through 11 are saying, is that god is the ultimate reality.

Behind all of. The little r lowercase realities. That there are And the one who lives. As if the earth is for him, the world is spread. And as if he's not going to face the living, god, who created all things, and is the judge of all things. Is an utter fool.

Because even all of his physical and mental and spiritual capacities, shout to him, announced him proclaimed him. There is a living and righteous and glorious and powerful, god. Which is why it's so amazing. That he hasn't destroyed us. All That the answer to the how long question. And versus one through three is the redemption.

Answer. In verses 12. 315. And so we are to trust. Or to be instructed by him, not questioning him. But learning from him. Being amazed that the one who has Put so much truth on display in his world and in the way that we are made. Also. Has given us.

Perfect in scripturation of truth. In his law. Blessed is the man whom you instructor, yahweh and teach. Out of your law and that he has done this to point us to himself. Not that we might have rest by doing rightly, which we are unable to do. But that we might have rest from him and in him.

That when the days of trouble the days in which god patiently, endured sin, and patiently endured vessels Prepared for destruction. When those days are over and his wrath comes. There will be those who are not objects of wrath. But objects of mercy. And we see the different way that we respond.

Because we're on the verge, aren't we? When we say how long the lord can it really be true that you are the just and righteous god of vengeance and all of this wicked happened? We're on the verge there of making the same mistake that the wicked do. Art wait.

If we don't finish it with Because god, In his. Glorious and wise and loving purpose. Just carrying out his plan for history which we know, praise god. And the psalm says, isn't a plan of redemption If we don't come there then, we're in danger of saying, you know, it doesn't seem Like, there's a god who hears And a god who sees, And a god, who knows?

And the god, who understands. When we ask the, how long question and we don't give the God's plan of redemption answer. We are right on the precipice. A danger of falling into the same errors. The wicked. And how dreadful that would be. And so thank god that part of his law.

Part of his instruction is Psalm 94. The psalm is its own answer. He's giving us something to pray. Something to sing that teaches us. Lays all of our heart and points us, To this god, who is redeeming? Sinners. As the answer for the how long question. Let us. Pray that the holy spirit.

Would write that answer not just On the pages of scripture as he has done. But on our hearts to live, hold of god by faith. Let's pray. A father in heaven. We thank you that we No, from your word. That you will never forsake us that you are always carrying out your plan of redemption.

And that this is the reason that you Indoor with such. Incomprehensible patience. The evil of the wicked, forgive us, the lord. When In our asking questions. Uh, we come to the point not of inquiring but of questioning you And grant that your spirit. Would remind us of what we know from your word.

That we would know you as ultimate reality that we would know your redemption. As the. The reason for ongoing history and for what you permit and do in the midst of it, Help us. Oh, lord, to live in relationship with you. We ask In jesus name. Amen.