

“There is no God”
Psalm 10
(Preached at Trinity, November 22, 2009)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. There are two types of atheists.
 - There are the ones who insist that there is no God. They openly profess that God does not exist.
 - Then there are the ones who, although they believe God exists they live as though there is no God.
2. This is what we see in this Psalm.

Psalm 10:4 – “The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek *after God*: God is not in all his thoughts.”

Literally it reads, “In all of his thoughts there is no God.”

^{NAS} **Psalm 10:4** – “The wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, does not seek *Him*. All his thoughts are, “There is no God.”

^{ESV} **Psalm 10:4** – “In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, “There is no God.”
3. There are actually very few true atheists.
 - a. God has written Himself upon our minds. But lost human beings suppress this truth.

Romans 1:18 – “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;”

The word for “Hold” is *κατέχω* – a compound word: down, hold

They hold down or suppress the truth. They try to restrain it. They try to deny it.
 - b. They suppress this truth but it continually comes back to haunt them.
 - (1) This is why so many professed atheists spend so much time talking about God whom they say does not exist.
 - (2) I don’t believe in the existence of space aliens and I seldom ponder the question.
 - (3) Most atheists deny God but find it difficult to stay away from the question. They find themselves drawn to try to defend their position.
A few weeks back some guys entered one of our ARBCA churches shouting “God is dead.” Why give so much energy fighting against something you don’t believe exists.
 - c. Because of the power of sin and God’s judicial hardening they continue to be convinced that there is no God – some will continue this folly until they meet the one they deny.
4. While there are very few true atheists, there are billions of practical atheists. A practical atheist is one who may believe in the existence of a divine being but this belief has no bearing upon his life. He lives as though God did not exist.
 - a. As such, practically speaking, there is no difference between an atheist and a practical atheist.

- b. *What is the difference between the one who denies God's existence and the one who lives as if He doesn't exist?*
5. In this psalm David is lamenting these wicked people in the world who pretend that God never sees or knows their actions.
 6. As I stated last time as we examined Psalm 9, some hold that Psalms 9 & 10 were originally one. One problem with this view lies in how different the two psalms are. Psalm 9 is a psalm of praise. Psalm 10 is a psalm of lament.
 7. There is no superscription in this psalm. In the first 32 psalms there are only three lacking a superscription, but like the others, we can be relatively certain that this psalm is also a Psalm of David.
- I. David begins by lamenting that with regard to the wicked God seems quite distant
 "Why standest thou afar off, O LORD?"
- A. It often seems that God is overlooking sin today
 1. The wicked are most often the wealthiest upon the earth
 They have the largest homes, the most expensive cars, they dine on gourmet foods, have season tickets to the sporting events
 2. Meanwhile, the righteous often suffer
 3. This has led to many presuming that God has changed. Some say that the God of the OT is wrath and vengeance while the God of the NT is love. Some have gone so far as to say God is not active at all in this world or worse, God is dead.
 - B. They don't understand the nature of God's mercy and longsuffering
 1. God is merciful and longsuffering in His dealings with man upon the earth
 - a. We can witness this from the beginning of time
 - b. The wages of sin is death, yet God postponed Adam's death
 - c. Noah preached righteousness for a hundred and twenty years calling all men to repentance – testimony to God's sovereign mercy.
 For 120 years the sun shined upon them and they pursued their course of life – and then suddenly judgment came.
 - d. Not only does God allow men to live their lives, He blesses them with His goodness. This goodness and mercy of God is for them an opportunity for repentance.
 2. God's longsuffering will not continue forever - the time for repentance will end
 - a. Human beings have been given a brief opportunity to repent and turn to Christ
 - b. God's wrath is not at all diminished. It is greatly kindled, a raging fire.
 - c. Just because we are enjoying life in fullness and goodness doesn't mean we are not under the wrath and curse of God.
 Every impenitent sinner is constantly filling up the measure of his iniquity. God's delay of judgment should bring no comfort.
 God is not obligated to suspend judgment for one more minute.
 3. God may seem to be afar off. He may seem to be hiding Himself. But this is a fatal presumption. God is very near and His judgment is very real

- II. David describes two traits of the wicked – we see them all around us today. Hopefully you don't see this in yourself – **Verses 2-13**
- A. First, the wicked have no mercy on the oppressed
1. They care little for the poor
Psalm 10:2 – “The wicked in *his* pride doth persecute the poor”
Psalm 10:8 – “He sitteth in the lurking places of the villages: in the secret places doth he murder the innocent: his eyes are privily set against the poor.”
Psalm 10:9 – “He lieth in wait secretly as a lion in his den: he lieth in wait to catch the poor: he doth catch the poor, when he draweth him into his net.”
 2. The Bible says much about our duty to the poor
Psalm 82:3 – “Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy.”
Proverbs 19:17 – “He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.”
 3. They presume that they will never find themselves in such a condition
Psalm 10:6 – “He hath said in his heart, I shall not be moved: for / *shall never be* in adversity.”
 - a. This is the heart of the prideful – notice in **Verse 2** that his wickedness is motivated by pride and arrogance. He thinks he deserves all that he has.
 - b. The truth is God has provided all that they have from His storehouse. He can just as easily remove their wealth
God has distributed His resources according to His pleasure.
Hannah's prayer:
1 Samuel 2:7 – “The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.”
Proverbs 21:13 – “Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.”
 4. James describes true piety as those who reach out to the oppressed
James 1:27 – “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world.”
- B. Second, perverseness and wickedness flow from his mouth
Psalm 10:7 – “His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue *is* mischief and vanity.”
1. David says he uses his tongue for curses, lies, and deceits. He stores away under his tongue mischief.
He is quick to gossip, quick to slander, quick to sow discord.
 2. It has been said that the tongue is the window to the soul
Isaiah 32:6 – “For the vile person will speak villany, and his heart will work iniquity, to practise hypocrisy, and to utter error against the LORD”

3. Paul described the language of lost humanity
Romans 3:13-14 – “Their throat *is* an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps *is* under their lips: ¹⁴ Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness:”
 4. James described the tongue
James 3:6-8 – “And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. ⁷ For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: ⁸ But the tongue can no man tame; *it is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.”
- C. Third, in spite of his wickedness he presumes God is far removed from seeing his actions.
Psalm 10:4 – “God *is* not in all his thoughts.”
Psalm 10:11 – “He hath said in his heart, God hath forgotten: he hideth his face; he will never see *it*.”
Psalm 10:13 – “Wherefore doth the wicked contemn God? he hath said in his heart, Thou wilt not require *it*.”
1. “In all his thoughts” – in other words, in all of his life and actions there is no room for God. It isn’t that he doesn’t believe in the existence of God. God simply has no place in his life. God is irrelevant.
 2. The presumption of the practical atheist is that God is far away and does not see
 3. This is why that while millions of people in our country profess Christianity it has very little to do with how they live. They have only a form of Godliness – it is a Christless religion. It is practical atheism.
 4. Thomas Watson – *Simulata sanctitas duplex iniquitas* –
 “Pretended holiness is merely double wickedness”
- III. David expresses his confidence that God does see and will ultimately make all things right – **Verses 14-18**
- A. God is very much present and nothing escapes His watchful eye
Psalm 10:14 – “Thou hast seen *it*, for thou beholdest mischief and spite”
 1. **Verse 11** is Satan’s lie:
 “God hath forgotten: he hideth his face; he will never see *it*.”
 2. Most have bought into the lie – but the lie does not change the truth
 God is near, He sees all, He knows all. He never forgets
 3. He will require of all men the just penalty for wickedness
 Spurgeon: “God is all eye to see, and all hand to punish his enemies. From Divine oversight there is no hiding, and from Divine justice there is no fleeing.”
 - B. God’s nearness has two undeniable consequences
 1. God is near to the righteous and they are provided for
Psalm 10:14 – “the poor committeth himself unto thee; thou art the helper of the fatherless.”

- a. God knows our needs.
He is ever present to care for us.
Psalm 46:1 – “God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”
 - b. He hears our prayer when we cry to Him.
Psalm 10:17-18 – “LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear: ¹⁸ To judge the fatherless and the oppressed, that the man of the earth may no more oppress.”
 - c. In the end all wickedness shall be brought to an end.
“that the man of the earth may no more oppress.”
2. God is also near to witness every device of the wicked
Psalm 10:15-16 – “Break thou the arm of the wicked and the evil *man*: seek out his wickedness *till* thou find none. ¹⁶ The LORD *is* King for ever and ever: the heathen are perished out of his land.”
 - a. It seems that the wicked are the most blessed when they are the most cursed. They go about their life. Religion is OK but don’t get too religious. Don’t allow it to interfere with your life.
 - b. God will bring their wickedness to a swift end. This universe belongs to God. It is His dominion. And Zion is His holy city. The wicked shall be utterly removed from God’s presence.
 - c. Breaking the arm implies the complete end of their wickedness. They will be cast into hell where their wickedness will continue, but they will have no place in God’s righteous domain.

Conclusion:

1. We owe God our absolute allegiance. We owe Him our lives. He is worthy of our obedience because of His divine Person, because of His infinite Power, because of His gracious provision.
2. We need to recognize His greatness, bow before Him, and recognize His ever watchful eye.
3. Proud men think they are too great to bow before God. Why do men today disregard God and His law, even while claiming to be religious?
Why do most Americans believe homosexuality is perfectly OK. Shouldn’t a man be free to live any way he chooses?
Why is abortion the law of our land? Shouldn’t a woman be free to do with her own body whatever she chooses?
Why do most people disregard the Sabbath Day? Shouldn’t we be free to do what we please on this day?
Why do most people see adultery and fornication as no great sin. Shouldn’t we be able to seek every pleasure?
Why do most people continue in sin? Because they deny God.
4. For the Godly, we continue to look to Christ. His ways are our ways. Though the wicked seem to prosper and Satan seems to prevail, we know his doom is sure.
Psalm 10:16 – “The LORD *is* King for ever and ever: the heathen are perished out of his land.”