

PRAYING PSALM 49

“Hear this, all peoples; give ear, all the inhabitants of the world...Those who trust in their wealth...can by any means redeem his brother...” (Psalm 49:1, 7)?

This a message for everyone in the world (1-4). 1. WEALTH CANNOT PREVENT DEATH (5-12). Both wise men and fools leave their wealth to others. People tend to think they will live forever. 2. WEALTH WILL NOT DETERMINE YOUR DESTINY (13-15). People who trust in wealth are fools. They are compared to sheep who lead each other to the grave. Only God can deliver from death. 3. WEALTH MUST NOT BE YOUR DESIRE (16-20). The rich are honored in this life but not in the next.

This psalm deals with the unrealistic expectations of wealth. It is a reminder of what Scripture says about it. Worldly wisdom says money is power. The Bible says it is dangerous. When people die there is a generation shift. Wealth bequeathed to family members frequently causes divisions that never get settled due to greed and disagreements over the inheritance. This is foolish (13). A wise person asks God for wisdom regarding riches. Everything that money buys means nothing in the grave. The psalm warns against being jealous of the rich and pursuing riches (16). Heed the warning. Only God can redeem you from the power of the grave. Ask God to help you concentrate on spiritual priorities. If you are a person given to jealousy or greed, admit it to yourself, then confess it to the Lord. Seek His power to overcome your desire for worldly possessions. You will not do this on your own, because you can't. You will only be honest and pray when the wealth of eternity is more important to you than the illusive riches of time.