

Part 3 – The Vanity of a Carnal Mindset

In part 2 we learned that, we're not the only ones who ask God 'how long' will the wicked will triumph, for the Psalmist of this lovely Psalm also asked that *three* times, *for emphasis*. It truly grieved him to see the horrible things going on. For, not only were the wicked (and workers of iniquity) afflicting the people of Israel (God's heritage) but, even the widows, fatherless and strangers (the most vulnerable people in society) were being murdered. So, there wasn't anyone in the country who was not being 'broken in pieces' (spiritually and/or physically) by people who were *so evil* that there was *nothing* they feared to do. And that's because they had absolutely *no* fear, let alone respect, for the Lord, Yehovah (the Supreme God) *who created us*. These morally degenerates knowingly broke God's Laws and *didn't care* because they didn't think *anyone* (not even God Almighty) could stop them. But, as we shall soon see, they were *very* wrong...

Psalm 94

8 Understand, ye brutish among the people: and ye fools, when will ye be wise?

So now, the Psalmist begins to address those wicked ones (workers of iniquity) directly. The word '**understand**' here means *to separate mentally* (or *distinguish*), i.e. (generally) *understand* (#995). And the word '**brutish**' means (in the context of this verses) *to be* (or become) *brutish* (#1197) but is derived from a word (#1198) that means *the brutishness of cattle*, i.e. *to be stupid!* And the word '**fools**' here means, figuratively, *to be stupid* or *silly* (#3684) while the word '**wise**' means *to be* (or *make*, or *act*) *circumspect* (careful to consider all circumstances and possible consequences) and hence, *intelligent* (#7919). So, the Psalmist's point is that, those who are wicked, and workers of iniquity, are truly *very stupid* (brutish and foolish). While they might be wise in the 'ways of the world' (or in 'book learning') they are *morally* stupid, for they don't understand what the 'latter end' (consequences) is for those who do such evil things (as described in verses 5-6). A couple chapters back, we saw another Psalmist make this same point: *A brutish* (#1198) *man knoweth not; neither doth a fool* (#3684) *understand this. When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; it is that they shall be destroyed for ever* (#Ps 92:6-7).

So, the warning here (in Ps 94:8) is clearly that the wicked (and workers of iniquity) will not *always* 'get away' with their vile sins. So, they need to 'wise up' (consider the consequences of their evil actions) and *repent* of their sins, so they might just find mercy from God, who will surely punish them for their sins without their sincerely repenting for them. One of the most basic truths is the fact that, fearing the Lord (YHVH) is truly the beginning of wisdom; thus, only those who are wise will obey Him (Ps 111:10) while the stupid people (the fools and brutish) despise wisdom and instruction from the Lord (Prov 1:7). However, it's important to understand that there are actually two types of 'wisdom'. And the wisdom we *should* seek is *God's* Wisdom, i.e. the wisdom *to do what's right*, which is what leads us to *eternal* life (John

17:3). As James wrote in his letter to the scattered tribes of Israel (James 1:1), *the wisdom that is **from above** is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace* (James 3:17-18). However, the wisdom that is ‘from below’ (i.e. Satan’s wicked wisdom) is ‘**earthly, sensual and devilish**’ and only causes *bitter envying and strife in our hearts*, which then causes *confusion and every evil work* - because we’re striving to do evil, instead of good (James 3:14-16). And that comes from being selfish and hard hearted (Jer 7:27; Acts 19:9; Heb 3:13). So, if we want God’s wisdom (which leads to peace, prosperity and eventually *eternal life*) we should seek it *from Him* (His Word, i.e. the Bible), because that’s the *only* place we’ll get it! As Proverbs tells us...

6 *For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*
7 *He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.*
8 *He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.*
9 *Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.*
10 *When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;*
11 ***Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:***
12 *To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things:*
13 *Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;*
14 ***Who rejoice to do evil**, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked;*
15 *Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths:*
Prov 2:6-15

So, God’s wisdom (good wisdom) not only gives us knowledge and understanding (of what truth really is, John 17:17, which gives us life, John 6:63) but it also *protects us from* evil men, such as this Psalm 94 has been speaking about. Therefore, God’s wisdom is truly more valuable than anything, as the Proverbs also tells us...

13 *Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.*
14 *For **the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.***
15 ***She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.***
16 *Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.*
17 *Her ways are **ways of pleasantness**, and all her **paths are peace**.*
18 ***She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.***
19 *The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.*
20 *By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.*

Prov 3:13-20

This Proverb is quite imperative. For, it not only tells us that God's wisdom is better than all earthly riches (gold, silver, etc.) but it also gives us length of days, riches, honor, peace and happiness. It even likens God's wisdom to a 'tree of life'! And further, this Proverb also points out that God's wisdom is what founded the earth and established the heavens! In other words, heaven and earth (and all that is therein) were created by *God's* wisdom... so why on earth would we want to reject it? All life comes from our Heavenly Father and the wisdom *He gives us* (John 6:63, 17:3). Therefore, if you reject our Heavenly Father's wisdom (truth) then you are truly rejecting life itself, which is *spiritual* suicide...

Psalm 94

9 He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that formed the eye, shall he not see?

This is another beautiful verse because of the amazing examples the Psalmist gives here, to point out God's wisdom. As the *Companion Bible* so well puts it (in the notes), all you have to do is study the physiology of the human ear, and eyes, to see the 'wonders' of this expression. In other words, our ears and eyes are *amazingly* complexly made. And the ear really is 'planted' into our skull. The part of our ear that we can see (our ear lobe) is merely a *small* part of it; our ear extends nearly to our brain and has a fascinating, and very complex, way of transferring what we hear to our brains. And, amazingly, this inner part of our ear (the 'planted part') also can distinguish between sounds! Yet our ears also maintain our sense of balance (equilibrium). And then our eyes capture visible light from the world around us and turn it into a form our brain uses to create our sense of vision (i.e. they process what our eyes see into a form our brain *can use and understand*).

So, the point the Psalmist is making here is clearly that, the notion that God *cannot* see, or hear, is an *absurd* notion! As it is written: *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness* (Gen 1:26). So, undoubtedly, our Heavenly Father has eyes and ears too; and He can see and hear quite good with them too! As many Scriptures document, our Heavenly Father not only can see, and hear, what we're saying and doing, but He also can see what's going on in our heart and mind. So, He not only knows what we are *thinking*, but also what we *desire to do* and are *planning* on doing too! [1 Chron 28:9, 1 Kings 8:39, Ps 7:9, Ps 11:4-5, Prov 17:3, Ps 44:20-21, Jer 16:17, Jer 17:9-10, Ezek 11:5, Matt 9:4, Matt 12:25, Luke 5:22, Luke 6:8, Luke 11:17, Luke 24:38, Acts 15:7-9, 1 Cor 3:20, Heb 4:12, 1 Thess 2:4, Rom 8:26-27, 1 John 3:20-21; Heb 4:12-13]. Yet, the wicked ones (and workers of iniquity) act like the Supreme God (our *Creator*) can't see, or hear, what they are doing... which shows just how truly stupid (moral blockheads) they really are, despite being intelligent in the 'ways of the world' (1 Cor 1:18-31).

And that's why, in the Bible, those who cannot understand truth are likened to a physically blind person who cannot see physical light - or a physically deaf person who cannot hear – and vice versa (Ps 146:8, Isa 29:18, 35:5, 42:7, 16-20, 43:8, 56:10, 59:10, Mth 11:15, 15:14, John 9:39-41, 2 Pt 1:9, Rev 3:17). As the Lord (YHVH) said to Ezekiel: *Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a **rebellious** house, which have **eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not:** for they are a **rebellious** house* (Ezek 12:2). Though they had physical ears they could not 'hear' *truth* because they were rebellious hearted. And, though they had physical eyes, they could not 'see' the *truth*, because they were rebellious hearted. And, this is why Jesus so often said '*He that hath ears to hear, let him hear*' (Matt 11:15, 13:9, 43; Mark 4:9, 23, 7:16; Luke 8:8, Luke 14:35. It was His way to say that, only those who are *not* rebellious hearted (who were *sincerely* seeking the truth) would understand what He said. Further, this is also why Jesus so often taught the multitudes via parables [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/381>]. He did so because, those who did want to understand the **truth** (such as His disciples) would ask Him to explain what the parable *really* meant. But those who were not interested wouldn't take the time to ask. We also learned about this when studying Psalm 49 [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1923>], and Psalms 78 [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/2209>], as well as the 16th chapter of the great book of John [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1306>].

So again, the Psalmist is making the point that our Heavenly Father, Yehovah (who created us) does indeed have eyes and ears; and that means He sees, and hears, *exactly* what we're doing (and saying). And (as we learned) He even sees (and hears) what is going on in our mind and heart; so, He knows what we truly *desire* to do and what we are *planning* on doing (i.e. the intentions of our heart, Heb 4:12). Thus, those who do evil, *really are stupid* because they don't realize (refuse to admit to themselves) that we have a Creator who punishes evil, which means He won't let them go unpunished, which is exactly what this Psalmist goes on to speak about...

Psalm 94

10 He that chastiseth the heathen, shall not he correct? he that teacheth man knowledge, shall not he know?

The word '**chastiseth**' here means (not surprisingly) **to chastise** - literally (*with blows*) or figuratively (*with words*) but it also means **to instruct** (#3256). And the word '**heathen**' means a **foreign nation**; hence, a **Gentile** (#1471). And the word '**correct**' means **to be right** (i.e. **correct**), **to argue** and **to decide, justify** or **convict** (#3198). And the word '**teacheth**' is interesting because it actually means **to goad**, i.e. (by implication) **to teach** (the rod being an Oriental incentive) (#3925). And, while the word '**knowledge**' does mean **knowledge** (#1847) it comes from a prim root that means **to know** (properly, **to ascertain by seeing**); it's used in a great variety of senses, including **observation, care, recognition**; and causatively, **instruction, designation, punishment**, etc. (#3045). As the Lord (YHVH) said in Isa 45:19: *I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain* [i.e.

with your carnal mind and ‘senses’, Rom 8:5-8]: ***I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.*** And in Isa 48:17 He also said: ***I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.*** In other words, God’s Laws (written in His Word) teach us ‘the way’ we should live our life. His Laws give us instruction in both national and individual life: social, financial, economic, ecclesiastical, agricultural, deistic and personal. The keeping of these Laws (from the heart), will result in perfect happiness, and contentment, with freedom from sickness, which is why David wrote...

7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

Ps 19:7-11

And, as Moses pointed out in Deut 10:13, God gave us His Laws for our benefit, not to keep us from having fun! And, even though He did not give His perfect Laws to the heathen, Israel was supposed to share them with the heathen nations they conquered, or anyone who came to Israel to learn of the Lord, such as the Queen of Sheba did in the days of Solomon (2 Chron 9). But, the Psalmist’s point (here in Ps 94:10) is that, if the Lord corrects even the heathen nations, won’t He do so to His people? And if He teaches us knowledge then that surely means He Himself has knowledge of truth and life? Of course it does! After all, He created us all (Gen 1:1, Ezek 18:4, Rev 4:11, etc.). And thus, He well knows what’s best for us and that’s why His knowledge is truly the ‘path of life’ (Ps 16:11), which his why Jesus said that His Words are Spirit and that’s what gives life to our spirit (John 6:63). And when we obey Him (from the heart, the best we can), we’ll likely also have a long and happy flesh life too.

Moreover, this 10th verse also gives us more insight into *who* the wicked oppressors (and workers of iniquity) are (that the Psalmist spoke of earlier in this Ps 94). For, this verse implies that it’s people *within* the Israelite nation that are harming others. That’s likely why, back in verse 7, the Psalmist quoted the wicked (and workers of iniquity) as saying that the Lord (YHVH) won’t see what they are doing nor will the ‘God of Jacob’ see what they are doing... the use of God’s Sacred name, and the term ‘God of Jacob’, also strongly suggests that these wicked (and arrogant) oppressors are *those from within the Israelite nation*. In other words, they are oppressing their own flesh and blood family members, i.e. their fellow Israelites. And that’s even more disgusting to the Lord than the heathen oppressing Israel, which He only allowed when

Israel was disobeying Him (Deut 28, Lev 26). Thus, when the government (and other powerful leaders in Israel, including the priesthood) became corrupt, God allowed the heathen to chastise them. In other words, the Psalmist is saying that, if God chastises the heathen nations, what makes you think he won't chastise His *own* people, Israel, when they are doing such wicked things? The answer is, He did, does and *always will* chastise His 'chosen people' *when* then are sinning. That's actually what the 'cursings and blessings' promise (Deut 28, Lev 26). As it is written, *God is not a respecter of persons* (Deut 1:17, Acts 10:34, Rom 2:11, 1 Pt 1:17, John 12:46-48, Col 3:24-25). That means His 'chosen people' (Israel) didn't have a 'blank check' to sin. Sin was just as disgusting to Him (an abomination) when Israel did it as when the heathen did... and maybe even *more so* because *they should have known better*, because He gave them *the Law*, which teaches us *what* sin is (what we should, nor should not, do). And, even though God has promised Israel would never cease to be a nation, He did promise (quite bluntly) to punish them (Jer 20:11; 46:38) when they sinned. And, likewise, because He chastises His own 'chosen people', that means He is also going to chastise the heathen (Jer 25:29, 49:12, etc.).

However, God's chastisements (and even punishments) are still for the betterment of His children. As Moses said to Israel: *Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee* (Deut 8:5). As Prov 13:24 says, *He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes*. Even good parents today know that if you really love your child, you will chastise them. Why? Because that helps them to know the difference between right (good) and wrong (evil). If children are not taught how to discipline *themselves* (through chastisement) then they won't have a happy or peaceful life. They'll be spoiled brats, always making trouble because they think the whole world revolves around them (their 'wants', i.e. lusts). And, in his letter to the Hebrews (i.e. lost tribes of Israel), Paul also pointed this out...

5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: [he's quoting from Moses, Deut 8:5]

*6 For **whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.***

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

*10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but **he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.***

11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Heb 12:5-11

So, Paul also explains that God chastises *those who He loves*. And because He loves all of His children, even the races other than Israel, He'll chastise them just as He does Israel. This is a solid truth, still true to this very day! But, as Paul also points out (vs 8 above) if we are not chastised by God, then He doesn't consider us His child. And that's a very serious point. Why would God ever stop chastising someone? After all, He created us all and wants all of His children to repent, as Peter pointed out in 2 Pt 3:9. And in Ezek 18 and 33 God even said that He desires even those who are wicked to repent. Well, there comes a point in time, if you continue to refuse to be corrected (over and over again), that God will let you go... He'll stop chastising you and allow you to go all the way down to the 'bottom of the barrel' (morally speaking) in hopes that you'll be so miserable that you'll finally turn back to Him. After all, His chastisements often stop us from going down some terrible paths in life, where we could be terribly hurt (physically and/or spiritually).

So, there are some people who He stops chastising for *that* reason, which is why Moses told Israel that *the LORD hath not given you an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day* (Deut 29:2-6). Moses was actually speaking to the children of the people who were condemned to die in the wilderness *because* their hearts were so hardened that they *consistently* refused to obey Him. That's why He condemned them to die in the wilderness instead of letting them inherit the Promise Land (Num 14). But their children (who Moses is speaking to in Deut 29) *were allowed* to inherit the Promise Land. And Moses is *warning them* that they'd better obey the Lord (YHVH) because *they saw* what happened when their parents *consistently* refused His chastisements: they were condemned to die (physically) in the wilderness. And their children saw a *massive* amount of their elderly (and older) family members (and friends) die off during those forty years; so much so that Moses likened it to a 'flood' in Ps 90:5. **So, the Lord not giving their parents (and grandparents) 'an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear' is equivalent to His ceasing to chastise them.** He counted them *incorrigible* and just allowed that older generation(s) to die off before letting their children (under twenty at the time of the judgment, Num 14) to inherit the land *they refused to believe* the Lord would lead them to.

So, it's *really* important that we respond correctly to God's chastisements. For He chastises us to help us believe in Him *so we will obey Him sincerely*, which is *for our benefit*. Again, His Laws are given to us for our good (Deut 10:13) not to keep us from having fun! David well taught us about this back in Psalm 32 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Psalms/349]. And Prov 19:18 also tells us *to chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying*. In other words, chasten your children before their heart becomes so hardened to truth that they refuse to hear it. And that's why it's so important to begin disciplining children (in appropriate ways) from the time they are tiny tots. But, once we are adults, our Heavenly Father will chastise us. And (to reiterate), as He said in Rev 3:19: *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent*. So, if God loves you, He'll continue to chastise you *as you need it*. We should,

therefore, ‘kiss the paddle’ and thank God for not letting us continue on in our destructive ways. And *that’s* the warning that this Psalmist is giving to these wicked people (and workers of iniquity) who have been so cruelly oppressing (afflicting) their *own brethren*...

Psalm 94

11 The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity.

Again, we see the use of God’s Sacred Name [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/946>] in this verse. The word rendered as ‘**Lord**’ here is actually **Yehovah** (#3068), which means (the) **self-Existent** or **Eternal**. While ‘Elohim is God as the Creator of all things, Yehovah is the same God in covenant relation to those whom He has created. And the word ‘**knoweth**’ here means **to know** (properly, *to ascertain by seeing*) but is used in a great variety of senses, which also includes **observation, care, recognition, instruction, designation, punishment**, etc. (#3045). And the word ‘**thoughts**’ means **a contrivance**, i.e. (concretely) **a texture, machine**, or (abstractly) **intention, plan** (whether bad, a plot; or good, advice) (#4284). And the word ‘**man**’ here (*without* the article) means **a human being**, i.e. **mankind** (#120) while the word ‘**vanity**’ means **emptiness** or **vanity**. And, figuratively, it also means **something transitory** [fleeting, temporary or brief] **and unsatisfactory** (#1892). And the prim root it comes from (#1891) is especially helpful to understand the depth of what God is saying, because it means **to be vain in act, word, or expectation**; specifically **to lead astray**.

Indeed, when we think ‘in the flesh’ then our thoughts *are* vanity because we’re consumed by fleshly things that, truly, don’t amount to much in the long run. And that’s what, all too often, *leads us astray* from our only *true* source of life, Yehovah (YHVH)! As Paul so well put it in Rom 8:6: **For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace**. Our life in the flesh is truly very short (especially compared to eternity) and that’s why, while we must think about the everyday things we have to do, we need to be careful not to be obsessed with (or worried about) them (Phil 4:6-7). And we have to keep in mind, that our purpose in life is truly *to serve the Lord* - not to fulfill the ‘lusts of the flesh’ (1 Pt 4:1-2), which is what so many people (vainly) live life for. And that’s why Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, quoted from this verse. He began chapter 3 by telling them that they still had not learned to think about things that really matter (vs 1 – he called them ‘carnal’, as in ‘carnally minded’, Rom 8:6). And he said this because he heard they were squabbling about whether or not they should ‘follow’ Paul or Apollos (another disciple of the Lord, who was a *very* good speaker, Acts 18:24-28). But, since they were both preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Paul points out that they were **labourers together with God** (1 Cor 3:9). So, it was foolish (and vain) for the Corinthians to bicker about who they were ‘following’ because we should *not* be following any man (or woman) - we should follow God! The fact that Paul and Apollos *both* taught the Gospel of Jesus Christ made them *fellow laborers* (with, and for, God). In other words, they were ‘on the same team’. So again, it was silly to debate about who to ‘follow’ when we are *only* to follow Jesus

Christ (John 10:27, 21:19). And, at the end of the chapter (1 Cor 3), Paul sums up their folly in trying to follow man, instead of the Lord, which is when he quoted this Psalm 94:11...

16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

*19 For **the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God**. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. [Job 5:13]*

*20 And again, **The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain**. [Ps 94:11]*

21 Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours;

22 Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; [Rom 8:17]

23 And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.

1 Cor 3:16-23

So, Paul points out that, the wisdom of *this world* (i.e. wisdom to do evil, which is what thinking 'in the flesh' leads us to) is truly *foolishness* (vanity). And that's why he quotes from this Psalm 94:11, which says God knows that our carnal mind thinks only of vain (temporary and thus truly empty and purposeless) things. That's why Paul so often told us to *put off* the carnal mind, which he called the 'old man' (Rom 6:6, Eph 4:22, Col 3:9, Luke 9:23) and put on the 'new man' (Eph 4:24, Col 2:10) which is 'created' in us (our spirit) *through studying God's Word* (Col 3:10). And that's why, no matter how old our flesh body gets, our 'inward man' (heart and mind, i.e. our spirit) *can* be 'renewed' each day (2 Cor 4:16), *so long as* we *continue* to study God's Word and meditate (think deeply) on it throughout the day (John 8:31-32). As our Heavenly Father pointed out in Isa 55:8-9, His thoughts (and ways) are so much 'higher' than our carnal thoughts (and ways) that He compares it to how high heaven is (where the sun, moon and stars are) compared to the earth! But thankfully, we *can* learn to *think like He does* **by studying His Word**, for He has given us His 'thoughts' in written form, through the Bible. And, when we sincerely believe in His Word (and Jesus Christ) the Holy Spirit helps us (as we study His Word and strive to obey it sincerely each day) *to be fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God* (Col 1:10). As Peter explained, in 2 Peter 1:3-4, *According as his divine power hath given unto us **all things that pertain unto life and godliness**, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust*. So, God's Word has given us everything we need to know about 'life and godliness', which means: how to live in 'the way' that will allow us to be accepted into the Kingdom of God (2 Pt 1:10-11) and thus, given *eternal* life.

So, the Psalmist (here in Ps 94:11) is essentially still warning the wicked men (and workers of iniquity) that their fleshly thoughts are only going to get them into trouble. For the wicked things they do (because they only think in the flesh) will be punished by God Himself. But, those who learn to conquer the ‘carnal mind’ (our heart, the part of us that wants to sin) – through Jesus Christ’s Holy Spirit within us - will indeed be blessed by God, which is what he goes on to explain in the balance of this great Psalm. But, we’ll have to wait until the next study to learn more! Until then, let’s remember a timeless admonishment from our dear ‘brother’ John...

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

*16 For all that is in the world, the **lust of the flesh**, and the **lust of the eyes**, and the **pride of life**, is not of the Father, but **is of the world**.*

*17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that **doeth** the will of God **abideth for ever**.*

1 John 2:15-17

We’ll pick this up in part 4...

AMEN.