



## The Gospel in an Age of Prosperity

49<sup>th</sup> in the “Psalms” Series

Psalm 49

June 14, 2026

Pastor Casey Ehlers

### **Introduction**

In this passage, the Psalmist provides a proverb, warning the reader about the futility of trusting in one’s wealth.

### **Structure:**

1. *Introduction* (49:1-4)
2. *The Rich and the Poor Perish Alike* (49:5-12)
3. *The Psalmist’s Faith – God Alone* (49:13-15)
4. *Recapitulation: Be Careful of the Allure of Wealth* (49:16-20)

**Notes:** Psalm 49 instructs the Christian to find their hope in God, despite the alluring pull of prosperity all around us.

- We do not need to fear those around us who are wealthy and scheme wicked plans, for all will eventually die. (vv. 5-12)
  
- The found/sung wisdom of the Psalmist is that it is only God who can redeem us from the realm of the dead! (vv. 13-15)
  
- We ought not envy the riches around us, for those who have a lot lack a lot. (vv. 16-20)

**Response:** Church, let us trust in God alone, who paid the ransom to save us from the realm of the dead!

## Sunday Text Questions

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Read the text aloud, and discuss any significant observations or issues that need clarification together.

- 1) What were you taught growing up about money? What family proverbs inform your understanding of wealth, saving money, and work?
  
- 2) The Psalmist fears the wicked, rich men around him (vv. 5-6). Do we live in a culture that fears the rich? Why or why not?
  
- 3) How do you personally respond to the strong words of verse 11: *Their tombs will remain their houses forever, their dwellings for endless generations, though they had named lands after themselves*. How is this verse a profound warning to our culture?
  
- 4) How is the Gospel (v. 13-15) the core wisdom of this Psalm?
  
- 5) In what ways are you tempted to envy the riches of the world around you (vv. 16-20)?
  
- 6) In what other ways, if any, did this passage speak into your life to teach, rebuke, correct, or train you in righteousness (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16)?

**Further study this week:** Passages related to the message of this week's text: Psalm 37 (Mon); Psalm 73 (Tues); Ecclesiastes 7 (Wed); Matthew 4:1-11 (Thurs); Luke 12:13-21 (Fri).