

# Gleanings of Grace

## Psalm 94

### Lesson 23

The writer of Psalm 94 found himself living in a time when wicked men ruled over God's people. Whether it be a wicked ruler or individual, they can cause much harm and pain. They seem to prosper. They seem to triumph. They seem to commit their atrocities before a God who seems to either not be looking or not care. In this psalm, the writer works through his initial doubts of God's care and sovereignty. He concludes well. He concludes with truth. May we do the same.

#### **OBSERVATION: Psalm 94**

1. Read Psalm 94 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns/titles that refer to *God*, the *wicked*, the ones *blessed* by God, and the psalmist who wrote the psalm.  
  
**Key Words:** *God*, *wicked*, those whom the psalmist refers to as *blessed*, and *my/I/me* (as it refers to the psalmist)
3. The psalmist poses several questions. Mark the question marks (?) by circling them. List the four questions used to challenge the *foolish* in verses 8-10.
4. The contrasting words *but* and *yet* are used three times in Psalm 94. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

5. Scan through the chapter and list a few words or phrases that describe the LORD.

**Background:**

1. This psalm is the product of a man living under the harsh hand of wicked men and an evil government. His circumstances caused him to question the value of integrity, in the midst of men who seemed to be prospering as they chose to disregard God. Using Psalm 37, contrast the fate of the wicked and of the righteous as you complete the chart below.

The Wicked (those who disregard God)	The Righteous (those who regard God)

2. Considering the fate of the wicked and that of the righteous, what are some truths you might apply as reminders when you, like the psalmist, ask the question in Psalm 94, *How long will the wicked triumph?*

**Read Psalm 94:1-7**

1. As the psalmist contemplates how the *wicked triumph*, what does he first remind himself about God?
  - a. What do the following verses teach about *vengeance belonging to God*?  
 Deuteronomy 32:35  
  
 Romans 12:19
  - b. Describe what it means that *vengeance belongs to God* and what our part is when we have been harmed by another.

2. *Render punishment to the proud* (Psalm 94:2). In what ways is *pride* a form of *wickedness*?

3. Using verses 4-6, describe the actions of the wicked.

a. Who suffered because of their *wickedness*?

1.) What thoughts or feelings were provoked in you as you answered the question above?

4. Record their words in verse 7.

a. What is wrong with the attitude of choosing to do wrong:

because no one *sees*?

because no one *understands*?

5. What is your motivation to refrain from *evil*?

6. In what ways have you related to the psalmist's struggle with the feeling that people in the wrong are getting away with what they are doing?

**Read Psalm 94:8-15**

1. After posing doubts and considering the wicked, the psalmist turned to consider God. What did he proclaim about the wicked in verse 8?

2. Using verses 9 -11, complete the following chart (note: paraphrase verse 11 to begin with the words shall he not):

He who:	Shall He not:

3. In what ways should knowing these truths remind us of the futility of our own sin?

the futility of the sin of those who have caused us harm?

4. Bask in the promises of verses 12-14 as you use them to write the *blessings* of walking in God's *instruction*.
  
5. Consider the promise of *rest* in verse 13. Describe what you have personally discovered about *rest in adversity*.
  - a. In what ways does Hebrews 4:9 confirm this?
  
6. ...*until the pit is dug for the wicked*. God's timing for the fall of the wicked varies greatly. What have you learned about trusting Him to take care of the painful situations in your life that have been caused by others?
  
7. Psalm 94:15 is a reminder of a day in the future when God **will** set everything aright; when righteous judgment will be obvious. Some things will not be set aright in our lifetimes. What are your thoughts as you contemplate that God **will** make things aright one day, but possibly not (probably not) in your timing?
  - a. ... *all the upright in heart will follow it*. What have you personally discovered about *following* what God declares to be right?

### Read Psalm 94:16-19

1. *Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? Who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity?* (Psalm 94:16) As the psalmist poses questions about who will take care of him, he realizes that God has been taking care of him all along. In verses 17,18, he confesses his need of *help*, his *slipping feet*, and the *multitude of his anxieties*. What did he discover about God in those times?
  - a. What have you discovered about God in those times?
  
2. *But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; my steps had nearly slipped* (Psalm 73:2). What was the cause of the psalmist *almost stumbling*? verse 3
  - a. Describe what it is like to be close to *stumbling* spiritually.

b. Psalm 73 was written in hindsight. The psalmist declared his conclusion in the first verse of the psalm. What did he write?

1.) Notice the word *truly*. Without a doubt, it is true. How does God's promised goodness to you help you in times when you are in the place of *almost stumbling*?

3. The writer of Psalm 94 freely admitted that he struggled with a *multitude of anxieties*. What did he say that the LORD does *in the multitude of his anxieties*?

a. Record, from the following verses, what you glean regarding God's comfort:

Psalm 71:21

Psalm 119:50

2 Corinthians 1:3,4

4. Add to the psalmist's praise and complete the sentence: Unless the LORD \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Read Psalm 94:20-23

1. Psalm 94:20 poses the question, *Shall the throne of iniquity, which devises evil by law, have fellowship with You?* John faithfully addressed this subject in his first letter. Read 1 John 1:6-10 and note the difference between those who *walk in darkness* and those who *walk in the light*.

<b>Those who <i>walk in darkness</i></b>	<b>Those who <i>walk in the light</i></b>

a. Rejoice in the reason John wrote these truths (1 John 1:4).

1.) Explain the *joy* you have discovered from *walking in the light*.

2.) In what ways would relating to the seeming *triumph of the wicked* be an example of *walking in the light*?

2. Read Psalm 94:22-23 and list what God will do.
  
3. Psalm 94:23 concludes with the psalmist stating similar truths to those he stated when he began the psalm. Who, does he repeat, is responsible for *vengeance*?
  - a. Why do you think it's wise to leave *vengeance* to the LORD?

**REVIEW: Psalm 94**

1. What thoughts have been provoked as you have considered:  
the plight of the *wicked*

the blessings of obedience

trusting God for *vengeance*

2. Consider the question from Psalm 130:3. *If you, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?* Celebrate his answer by recording the words of the next verse.
  - a. What are your thoughts? Selah! (pause and reflect)

*For He knows deceitful men;  
He sees wickedness also.  
Will He not then consider it?  
- Job 11:11*

## Observation Worksheet

### Psalm 94

O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongs-- O God, to whom vengeance belongs, shine forth!  
<sup>2</sup> Rise up, O Judge of the earth; render punishment to the proud. <sup>3</sup> LORD, how long will the wicked, how long will the wicked triumph? <sup>4</sup> They utter speech, and speak insolent things; all the workers of iniquity boast in themselves. <sup>5</sup> They break in pieces Your people, O LORD, and afflict Your heritage. <sup>6</sup> They slay the widow and the stranger, and murder the fatherless. <sup>7</sup> Yet they say, "The LORD does not see, nor does the God of Jacob understand." <sup>8</sup> Understand, you senseless among the people; and you fools, when will you be wise? <sup>9</sup> He who planted the ear, shall He not hear? He who formed the eye, shall He not see? <sup>10</sup> He who instructs the nations, shall He not correct, He who teaches man knowledge? <sup>11</sup> The LORD knows the thoughts of man, that they are futile. <sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man whom You instruct, O LORD, and teach out of Your law, <sup>13</sup> that You may give him rest from the days of adversity, until the pit is dug for the wicked. <sup>14</sup> For the LORD will not cast off His people, nor will He forsake His inheritance. <sup>15</sup> But judgment will return to righteousness, and all the upright in heart will follow it. <sup>16</sup> Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? Who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity? <sup>17</sup> Unless the LORD had been my help, my soul would soon have settled in silence. <sup>18</sup> If I say, "My foot slips," Your mercy, O LORD, will hold me up. <sup>19</sup> In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul. <sup>20</sup> Shall the throne of iniquity, which devises evil by law, have fellowship with You? <sup>21</sup> They gather together against the life of the righteous, and condemn innocent blood. <sup>22</sup> But the LORD has been my defense, and my God the rock of my refuge. <sup>23</sup> He has brought on them their own iniquity, and shall cut them off in their own wickedness; the LORD our God shall cut them off.