



March 1, 2011 - Psalm 143:9

Hi everyone,

We are working our way to the end of Psalm 143 with just five more verses to go including verse 9 for this week. I pray you are on track in hiding this word in your heart. If not, this is a great week to get caught up as this verse is quite short. I just have to tell you, this chapter is transforming me...I love God's Word!

Psalm 143:9 in the NASB reads,

"Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies; I take refuge in Thee."

The focus of this part of David's prayer is a refuge. Let's face it, life is just hard. Everyone needs a refuge. The question is, where do we find it?

A refuge is a place of safety and protection. It is a shelter from the storm. Many people look for a refuge in things that provide a false sense of protection and security and sometimes they do provide a temporary rest and peace. But make no mistake about it, there is no refuge like our God.

Throughout the Old Testament, God's people often sought out refuge in idols. Again and again, God spoke through the prophets to tell of the foolishness of seeking refuge in such things. God would clearly communicate that these idols could not truly deliver. I am reminded of His words through Isaiah in Isaiah 46:5-7 that say, **"So to whom will you compare me, the Incomparable? Can you picture me without reducing me? People with a lot of money hire craftsmen to make them gods. The artisan delivers the god, and they kneel and worship it! They carry it around in holy parades, then take it home and put it on a shelf. And there it sits, day in and day out, a dependable god, always right where you put it. Say anything you want to it, it never talks back. Of course, it never does anything either!" (Message)** In the NASB verse 7b says, **"though one may cry to it, it cannot answer; it cannot deliver him from his distress."**

In verse 9 of David's prayer this week, David makes a declaration. He says, **"I take refuge in Thee."** Obviously he has enemies, but he is declaring that he is taking refuge in the Lord. It

sounds like he has learned that nothing else is a true refuge...nothing else can deliver like the Lord Almighty.

So as we memorize verse 9, the question for us is, where are we seeking refuge? May we not turn to our own "idols" that give us a temporary fix from our distress...let's turn to the true God, the only real refuge for us!

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