

## Resolving to Remember and Rejoice

*Psalm 9:1-2*

### Introduction

I love celebrating the New Year! I enjoy thinking about all the opportunities and experiences that the year might afford me, my family, and this church. If you are anything like most people, you have already been thinking about things that you would like to see change in your life in the New Year. You are making some resolutions. You are making plans. And this is a good thing, but I want to make one simple, life-altering suggestion to you this morning for your New Year Resolutions: **Resolve to Remember and Rejoice in God this coming year!**

My aim this morning is **to convince to not forget God in 2018, but instead, to remember and rejoice in Him above all things!** To help us work through this call, I ask you to turn your attention to Psalm 9:1-2...

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### **Psalm 9:1-2**

<sup>1</sup>I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;

I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

<sup>2</sup>I will be glad and exult in you;

I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

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### Exposition

#### **I. Remember the Wonderful Deeds of the LORD (Vs. 1)**

Look with me again at verse 1 - In order to “give thanks to the LORD,” one must conscientiously remember who the LORD is and what the LORD has done. The theme of “recounting” or “remembering” the work of the Lord is mentioned throughout the Old Testament. Likewise, Forgetfulness is also mentioned throughout the Old Testament. Isaiah describes the wicked as those who “forget the holy mountain” of the LORD (**Isaiah 65:11**). The reality is that we are all prone to different degrees of spiritual amnesia. We have an unfortunate tendency to forget to be thankful to the LORD.

The rituals of the Israelites encouraged them to remember the LORD in thankfulness. Many of the rituals consisted of bringing “thanksgiving offerings” (**Leviticus 7 & 22**). In fact, there were times that God only required offerings of thanksgiving (**Psalm 50**) because with a thanksgiving offering, the people were offering their thanks to God for what He had done. With thanksgiving, the people were pointing people to the works of the LORD, not themselves. Furthermore, the thanksgiving offerings always included an element of public proclamation, which we will explore more fully in verse 2, but for now, it is important to note that David expected others to know how thankful He was to the LORD for what the LORD had done for Him.

Of course, for those of us who have heard the good news of Jesus Christ, that is the gospel, we, of all people, have the most to be thankful for!

According to the apostle Paul in **Romans 5:6-8**, while we were still sinners, without strength, while we were still enemies of God, God sent Christ to die in our place. If we cannot be thankful for the salvation and hope that is ours in Jesus Christ, then we genuinely cannot be thankful about anything in this world.

Now, back to verse 1. Note the significance of the “whole heart thanksgiving” in verse 1. When David gives thanks to the LORD, it is not lip service. **It is heart service.** Every ounce, every fiber of David’s being is pointed toward giving thanks to the LORD for His wonderful deeds. When was the last time you were that thankful to the LORD? When was the last time that your “whole heart” was engaged in an act of thanksgiving to God? David is calling us to such thankfulness this morning! We are to remember the “wonderful deeds of the LORD” and be thankful to God. Publically thankful to God for His grace and mercy in our lives.

Now, you may object and say, “Well preacher, you just do not know what I’ve been through this past year. Things have been hard. Really hard. I just don’t feel like thanking the Lord. He hasn’t really been all that faithful to me.” Now, if you feel that way, I don’t want you to feel shame this morning. There are dark times in our lives when it feels as though God has abandoned us. Yet, it is as one old hymn says, “God sometimes hides His smiling face behind the seemingly dark clouds of our life.” You are not alone in difficult circumstances. If we were to read the entirety of Psalm 9 coupled with Psalm 10, we would find that the context of the Psalmist’s comments is one of lamentation. The Psalmist is not giving thanks to the LORD in the good times per se. He is giving thanks to the LORD in the midst of difficult circumstances. Throughout the Psalm and especially in these first two verses, the Psalmist expresses confident faith regarding the future because of the faithfulness of God in the past. One of the ways that we are prepared for future struggles is through meditation on God’s faithfulness in the past. We need to be constantly reminded of who God is and what God has done! We are so prone to forget God, but this psalm instructs us to “recount all the wonderful deeds of the LORD!”

How do we recount all the wonderful deeds of the LORD? Well, as the psalm implicitly teaches us, we recount all the wonderful deeds of the LORD, that is, we remember the wonderful deeds of the LORD through intentional reflection upon those deeds. The word “recount” here in verse 1 has a ring of intensity and intentionality to it. This is not simply a matter of “when I get around to it.” Thanksgiving is a matter of “I cannot help but give thanks to God.”

**T.S. - So, what does it look like to “remember the wonderful deeds of the LORD?” Verse 2 teaches us...**

## **II. Rejoice over the Wonderful Deeds the LORD (Vs. 2)**

David declares, “I will be glad and exult in You; I will sing praises to your name, O Most High!” Not only are we expected to remember the LORD’s wonderful deeds, we are expected to rejoice over them. Now, let me ask, if people were to observe your life, would they conclude that you are glad in the LORD? Would that see you exult in Him? Would they hear you “sing the praises” of the Most High? Now, you might be inclined to say, “Well, preacher, I don’t really talk about things like that. My relationship with the LORD is a private thing. It’s between me and Him.”

I understand that not everyone is going to be inclined to publically praise the LORD in the same manner, but make no mistake – we praise the things that we value and people know it! If you love hunting, people know it. If you love college football, people know it. If you love shopping or at a particular store, people know it! You cannot hide it. You talk about it. You are passionate about it. You have strong opinions about it. You want others to enjoy it with you! And that is okay, there is nothing wrong with enjoying the outdoors or your favorite college football team. The problem is when we ignore the greatest reality in this world, namely, the reality of God, who does wonderful deeds!

### Conclusion

Do you not see how much greater God is toward you than the things that you regularly remember and rejoice in? Do you not see how much more worthy God is of our affection than the things that we often love more than Him? The works that God has performed in the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ on our behalf are greater works than David ever knew in his life, yet, he was able to remember and rejoice in the LORD with his whole heart. How much more then should we be able to remember and rejoice in the wonderful works of the LORD?

This morning, I am not asking you to abandon all of the things that you enjoy. I am asking you to prioritize them. To organize your life in such a way that your words and your deeds reflect the importance of God! We will give an account for how we have remembered and rejoiced in God because of what Jesus Christ has done! Make this year different! Make it obvious to all around you that while you rightly enjoy other things, above all, you enjoy God in Christ and you will remember and rejoice in His wonderful deeds this year!

Would you bow your head with me?

If you are here this morning and have never treasured Christ as your LORD and Savior, I just want to ask you at this moment in the service to speak to God in your own words and ask Him to have mercy on you. The Bible tells us that all who call upon the name of the LORD will be saved. In your prayer, I would encourage you to admit that you are a sinner in need of a Savior. Express your belief that Jesus died for your sins, and confess Him as your Savior and Lord. If you pray and ask the LORD to do this, He is faithful to hear your prayer, forgive your sins, cleanse you from all unrighteousness, and grant you eternal life, which is to know Him!

As we close our service this morning, I will be up front to receive anyone who might have asked God to save them this morning, or if anyone need prayer, or if anyone would like to talk about membership in this church, I would be happy to visit with you up front or after the service.