

# Psalms 26:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men:

## Analysis

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The plea 'Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men' asks for separation from the wicked's fate. The fear is not temporary association but eternal destiny. Reformed theology sees this as a prayer for perseverance—that God would not allow the psalmist to fall away into apostasy and face judgment with the wicked. Election ensures believers won't share the wicked's end. This prayer expresses confidence in divine preservation, not self-achieved holiness.

## Historical Context

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Israel's history included divine judgment where the righteous and wicked were separated (flood, Sodom, Egyptian plagues). The prayer asks God to distinguish between covenant-keepers and covenant-breakers in final judgment.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's promise of perseverance assure you won't share the wicked's fate?

2. What does separation from 'sinners and bloody men' mean temporally and eternally?

## Interlinear Text

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לְמִימָּר אֶתְשָׁאַל וְתָאַסְתָּר עַמְּנָפְשָׁא יְמָנָעַם נְפָשָׁא יְמָנָעַם לְמִימָּר אֶתְשָׁאַל וְתָאַסְתָּר עַמְּנָפְשָׁא יְמָנָעַם נְפָשָׁא יְמָנָעַם

H408 **Gather** H5973 **with sinners** H2400 **not my soul** H5315 H5973 H376 **with bloody** H1818

לְמִימָּר אֶתְשָׁאַל וְתָאַסְתָּר עַמְּנָפְשָׁא יְמָנָעַם נְפָשָׁא יְמָנָעַם  
nor my life

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 139:19** (Blood): Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men.

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