

Day 31 John Guerra

Psalm 37:1-3: “Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity. ² For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, And wither as the green herb. ³ Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.”

On the old show, “Hee Haw,” Doc Campbell was confronted by a patent who said he had “broken his arm in two places.” The Doc replied, “Well, then stay out of them places!”

We need to stay away from places that frustrate us because frustration leads to fretting and fuming; trusting leads to resting and hoping. I should probably stay away from golf fairways and fishing holes! There are a number of personality tests that show whether we’re a “thinker” or a “feeler;” analytical or intuitive; extrovert or introvert, etc. Supposedly, these tests show our “personality type” and how we react in life. They can be helpful, but too often we put more stock in them than we do in God’s Word. Why? Simply because we tend to point to them when we’re angry or fearful and say, “Well, that’s just the way I am. Well, I’m just a natural born worrier!”

In reality, we’re all born with that sinful nature and its bent toward sinning. Prior to the new birth we “do what comes naturally” and constantly find ourselves in opposition to God. However, when we’re born from above, the Bible teaches that we have a new nature,” the nature of Christ, which means we don’t have to keep acting the way we did before meeting the Lord. This passage is a beautiful reminder of the hope we have in Christ and our need to “be crucified with Christ.” We must remember that “dying to self” is not something that just “happens;” instead, we must want to stop giving in to the “old man” and desperately desire to be transformed into Christ’s image, otherwise it won’t happen.

It's interesting that David begins this passage with the words, “Do not fret” and “nor be envious.” This is the picture of “stoking the embers of a fire until they blaze.” No one needs to tell us that what we believe is under attack as never before in our lifetimes. Dishonesty and corruption are flourishing in every level of society; therefore, obeying David’s words can be tough, especially when those sins are so blatantly obvious! “But, don’t “fan the flames of frustration,” instead “trust” or hide for refuge, place one’s confidence in or hope in” the Lord and do good.” Although grieved over the carnal conditions around us, we shouldn’t develop ulcers over them or inwardly grow envious of them. Instead, we should rest in the fact that the Lord know ... and one of these days He’ll put an end to all of this. Until then, we should rest in Him and intercede for those who are shaking their fists at Him. “Trusting, delighting and resting in the Lord” also means “dwelling and committing to Him” right where we are. A closer examination of our text shows that the word “so” is missing from the original text. That’s why it’s in italics in the English translation. Thus, the Lord is really giving us two admonitions here instead of one: “Trust Me” and “Dwell in the land and verily you shall be fed.” We have a choice like the heroes of the Bible, trust God to take care of us right where we are or doubt God and try to take care of ourselves, which is sin!

No, we must “Do good!” What does that look like in your life? First, seek the Lord and get as close to Him as you can and listen! Follow Him and He will lead you to the specifics! Second, He will lead you to minister, to serve others! If you ask, He will make it clear where you should

be serving. Third, He will lead you to pray as He is doing right now, but He will lead us to make it a discipline of the faith. And Finally, He will lead us to witness, to share our faith, to share the Gospel, to tell others about Him! Don't Worry, Do Good!