

PSALM 37

What are you waiting for?

Sermon Notes

Point #1: Wait for the LORD (verses 1-11)

These first eleven verses are written almost exclusively in second person.

Negative Commands:

Fret Not Yourself: Verses 1, 7, and 8

Psalms 37 provides wisdom to help us navigate the complexities of life, "Why do the wicked prosper?"

5 Positive Commands:

Verse 3: Trust in the LORD

Verse 4: Delight yourself in the LORD

Verse 5: Commit your way to the LORD

Verse 7: Be still before the LORD

Verse 9: Wait for the LORD

Verses 3-4: Trusting and Waiting

"Trust in the LORD and do good, dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart."

Opposite of Trusting is Fretting:

Fret defined by 1828 Webster Dictionary

To corrode; to gnaw; to eat away; as, "A worm frets the planks of a ship."

To irritate; to vex; to make angry,... agitation of mind, ... commotion of temper

Think of your gravestone, your legacy..

Trust God and Cultivate Faithfulness:

What are you Delighting in? What are you waiting for?

Augustine:

"God, you have made us for Yourself,

and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in Thee."

Application:

What are you fretting over?

How is this impacting your joy, your health, your witness?

Surrender your fretting and ask God to help you wait and trust Him.

Point #2: Do Good (verses 12-33)

The voice primarily moves to 3rd person, contrasting the wicked and the righteous

Three caricatures of the wicked

1. **The wicked are Stingy.** (vs. 12, 21)
2. **The wicked are Boomerangs.** (vs. 14-15)
3. **The wicked are a Vapor.** (vs. 13, 20, 21)

Three realities of the righteous

1. **The righteous are Generous** (vs. 21, 26)
2. **The righteous are Wise** (vs. 30-31)
3. **The righteous are Forever** (vs. 17, 18, 27-29)

Application:

The LORD loves justice and laughs at the wicked.

In what areas of life could you love justice more and hate wickedness more?

Do you believe there is blessing in obedience?

Point #3: Inherit the Earth (verses 34-40)

Inherit the Land is repeated 5 times:

Verse 9: *but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land*

Verse 11: *the meek shall inherit the land*

Verse 22: *those blessed by the LORD shall inherit the land*

Verse 29: *the righteous shall inherit the land*

Verse 34: *the LORD ... will exalt you to inherit the land*

If you wait for the LORD and Do Good, you will inherit the earth.

Does this give you hope? It ought to. But it also should cause us to tremble.

Who waits for the LORD, who does good?

Alexander Solzhenitsyn:

"The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either -- but right through every human heart"

The Gulag Archipelago

Only One truly waited on the LORD and did good:

Isaiah 11:1-3

Psalm 2:7-8

Matthew 5:1-5

The kingdom of heaven belongs to the poor in spirit. The meek will inherit the earth.

God's redemptive plan is for heaven to come to earth.

Application:

If you are in Christ, you will inherit the earth.

What is a simple habit to begin to help you long more for heaven to come to earth?

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be. Give God your firstfruits.