

Richly Blessed | Psalm 112

Psalm 112 teaches that those who fear the Lord are blessed. The psalm describes a person who delights in God's commands, is generous and upright, and remains secure even in hardship.

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Automatic Shownotes

Chapters

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Long Summary

Psalm 112 | Blessing and Delight in God's Word YYYY-MM-DD• Erik Raymond• Psalm 112 Main Point: The Lord richly blesses those who fear him and delight in his commandments. Outline: 1. God's blessing is declared - "Blessed is the man who fears the Lord" and greatly delights in his commandments. - Fearing God includes reverence and trembling before his greatness, along with rejoicing in him as Savior. - Delighting in God's commandments means seeing them as good, true, and beautiful, not merely useful. 2. God's blessing is described - The psalm portrays prosperity, with children, provision, and ongoing righteousness. - It also describes character: the righteous are gracious, merciful, just, and generous. - The blessed person is stable in trouble, not afraid of bad news, and firm in trusting the Lord. - The life of blessing includes generosity to the poor and honor that endures. 3. God's blessing is explained through Christ and God's character - Psalm 112 is linked with Psalms 110 and 111, showing that this blessing flows from God's own gracious and merciful character. - God's blessing in his people is not just happiness, but being made more like him. - This comes through redemption in Jesus Christ, the promised king who lived in perfect obedience and suffered for sin. - Paul quotes Psalm 112 in 2 Corinthians 9 to encourage generous giving, showing that God's people reflect his generosity. 4. The blessing is contrasted with the wicked - The wicked see the

righteous and are angry, but their desire will perish. - The righteous remain, while the wicked melt away. - The psalm ends by contrasting lasting blessing with destruction.

Brief Summary

Psalm 112 | Blessing and Delight in God's Word YYYY-MM-DD• Erik Raymond• Psalm 112 Main Point: The Lord blesses those who fear him.

Tags

Psalm 112, blessing, delight, God's Word, Erik Raymond, Lord, fear him, Main Point, Psalm, blessings

Transcript

[0:30] I should go ahead and turn with me, if you would, to Psalm 112, Psalm 112.

Psalm 112: The Blessed Life

[0:39] If you're using one of the Pew Bibles, it is on page 509. We're continuing our study in the Psalms this summer.

[1:03] Let's read God's Word. Psalm 112.

[1:11] Praise the Lord. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commandments. His offspring will be mighty in the land, and the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever. Light dawns in the darkness for the upright. He is gracious, merciful, and righteous. It is well with the man who deals generously and lends, who conducts his affairs with justice. For the righteous will never be moved. He will be remembered forever. He is not afraid of bad news. His heart is firm, trusting in the Lord. His heart is steady. He will not be afraid until he looks in triumph on his adversaries. He is distributed freely. He is given to the poor. His righteousness endures forever. His horn is exalted in honor. The wicked man sees it and is angry. He gnashes his teeth and melts away. The desire of the wicked will perish. This is God's word. Let's pray. Lord, we thank you for your word now. We ask your blessing upon its reading and now the preaching of the word and its hearing. In Jesus' name, amen.

[2:39] Some sociologists observe and conclude that every decision that we make as people is based upon our desire to be happy. That's largely true. We want to do what makes us happy. We make decisions that we think will make us happy. But it is a little puzzling then that so many people remain unhappy and continue doing some of the same things. So how do we get happy? How do we remain happy. How does that happen? Well, this psalm, incidentally, gets at that point, but maybe through a surprising way. The psalm lays out the way in which the Lord blesses his people. He blesses his

people, those who fear him and delight in his word. And that, incidentally, is what the psalmist is making the argument is that that actually is the happy life. That's the way in which happiness is experienced and enjoyed.

Fear and Delight

[3:40] So that's the main point we'll look at this morning is that the Lord richly blesses those who delight in his word. And we'll see it as we work through the psalm in three movements. The first is that God's blessing is declared, then it's described, and then we see it despised. Most of our time will be in the second point, the description of it.

[4:04] I think as we read through this, we'll see that this blessing that is talked about is actually really the craving of what everybody really wants anyway. I trust it would certainly not be something that would seem to be repulsive and undesirable. That which is experienced would truly make one happy. Let's look first at God's blessing declared. We'll look at verse 1. He makes the announcement. To praise the Lord, that is to give praise to God. Well, why? And he says, blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commandments. This word blessed, there's a little nuance here on how the word blessed could be understood. There's one side in which it means that he's honored. The blessed man is honored. So people look at the one who's blessed and say, well, things are working out well for that person. They have a life. They seem to have things in order. They have an understanding of how to navigate the world with wisdom, kind of work through the turbulences of life and things go well. That's honorable. That's respected. I respect that. Even if I don't agree with the person's convictions, I think and hold them in honor because they are blessed people. That's one aspect of it. The other side of it is that this blessing is happiness or fullness of joy.

[5:34] There's two sides, and they're not necessarily mutually exclusive. The Psalms tend to emphasize one or the other, and sometimes both. Happiness, being blessed, is this sense of being happy and fulfillment of joy. And so the psalmist is saying here in verse 1, blessed is the man, the feeling of happiness and experience of honor comes to the one, the man or the woman, who fears the Lord.

[6:06] Who greatly delights in his commandments. So, this is an announcement of God being praised because he blesses people. Well, who particularly does he bless?

[6:19] Well, these blessings are restricted to those whose lives are characterized by fearing God or rejoicing in his commandments. What does it mean to fear God? We've talked about this, it seems like regularly as a church, we're thinking about what does it mean to fear God? It's over and over again. We see it in the scriptures, fear of God. The fear of God really comes down into two kind of components. One sense is the trembling aspect, which is he is so great as a great God and judge of everything as the creator. There's a sense of reverence and awe of who he is. He's infinitely greater than us, so we fear him because we are just little people in comparison to a great and infinite God. but he's all powerful. So there's a fear aspect, but then there's a rejoicing aspect because that great and glorious God has saved us from our sins. And he doesn't look upon us as an angry God, angry judge,

but he looks upon his people as those whom he saved. He knows that we are not made of steel. We're made of dust and he's gracious to us and he saves us from our sins through Jesus. So, what does it mean to fear God? It means to rejoice in Him as Savior, even as we tremble before Him with reverence because He's worthy. So, maybe shorthand for fear is rejoicing and trembling. Rejoicing and trembling.

[7:47] So, he's saying here, the one who, if you use that language, rejoices and trembles, who fears the Lord is blessed.

[7:55] And then as so often happens in the Psalms, there's a parallel to that. It's not saying something different, but saying a parallel to it to help us to see a little bit of a nuance. Who greatly delights in his commandments. That is to say, the one who fears the Lord greatly delights in his commandments. So it's not, you fear the Lord over here, these people get blessed. And over here, these are the people that greatly delight in the commandments. These people get blessed too. No, but the same people fear the Lord and greatly delight in his commandments. That is, commandments are the delight. It's not just that the commandments are true and we agree with them. It's not just that the commandments are good and that they could be some utility to us. That is, if you follow them, that things would generally work out well for you. But this delight has the sense that you actually have been convinced in your being that the commandments not only are true, not only that they're right, but they're good and beautiful. They're worthy of esteem. It's not just saying the Ten Commandments are smart to follow because it keeps you out of trouble. It's but that the Ten Commandments come from a God who knows and He loves us, and we should worship Him. And that's what he's getting at here. The blessing of life, this happiness—.

[9:19] Comes through one who actually fears God and delights in his commandments. So he's declaring this blessing. Those who truly know him and love him. There's great blessing there.

What Blessing Looks Like

[9:35] Well, what does this blessing look like? Well, he goes on to describe it in verses 2 through 9. But we got to see at the beginning that this blessing is specifically connected to fearing God and delighting in his commandments. You'll see as we go through the psalm that this actually has echoes of other psalms and connections to them. You might even have noticed and thought of this as we were reading the Psalm 112. It actually has a lot of parallels with Psalm 1. You think of the first psalm, talks about the blessed man. Who is this blessed man who delights in the word, who's firmly planted.

[10:15] Like trees in the ground so that he bears fruit in every season. And then there's a contrast between the blessed man, the one who meditates on the word of God, and the one who's wicked, who will perish. And even in this psalm, we have that same comparison, same contrast. So he's restating that reality of fearing God and enjoying that blessing. So now, but he digs in and gives further analysis to the blessing in verses two to nine of what it looks like. And I wrote in the bulletin, you have a kind of summary of what these are as you keep track of them as you go. What does it look like? Well, in

verses two and three, it looks like prosperity, like God has blessed the family of this one who is the one who fears the Lord. It says specifically, his offspring will be mighty in the land, the generation of the upright will be blessed, wealth and riches in his house, and his righteousness endures forever. He's saying here that God will bless this righteous one with children and his children will be respected and he will take care of him and meet his needs, wealth and riches in his house.

[11:31] Obviously, this doesn't mean that everybody who fears the Lord is going to be, filthy rich and have everything and all powerful and all strong. We know that that's not the case. Even Jesus, who is the one who feared the Lord more than anybody, didn't have a place to lay his head.

[11:48] Was without a home, was greatly burdened in many ways. So it's not commensurate of that, but saying that God takes care of his people, he blesses them. And one of the reasons for this great experience of blessing is because that they have trusted in him and put their faith in him. So there's prosperity. We want to be careful that we don't think of the prosperity and blessings that God gives his people as somehow the gospel or the blessing of the gospel. There's a whole wing of theology called prosperity teaching. That if you pray hard enough and you give enough money and you do enough stuff, then God's gonna give you all of this money and riches. And that's what he is. He's kind of like this big genie. And you do all this work and he's gonna give you all this stuff. And if you don't do all that, then you just don't have enough faith. That's an abhorrent teaching that I think is contrary to what the scriptures teach. And they would use passages like this and they would pull it and they would say, this is the central message of the gospel. When in fact, it's not.

[12:51] He's just making the point and showing that the reason why people have experienced these blessings and these mighty offspring and uprightness in the land and any degree of wealth or riches is because God has given it to them. He is gracious. But not only that, there's character that works its way out. Look at what it says about this one who fears God and delights in his commandments. In the second half of verse 3 down to verse 5, his righteousness, that is the one who fears God, his life is characterized by righteousness that continues on. Light dawns in darkness for the upright.

[13:31] That is to say, in the midst of difficult times, there's light, there's clarity, there's hope. It's not a total eclipse of everything. He's gracious, he's merciful, he's righteous. He's one who is kind to others. He doesn't bring justice and judgment upon them. He's merciful and he's righteous. That is, he lives in accordance with the word that he delights in. He delights in God's word and he lives in this righteous way, consistent with it.

[14:05] And it says, verse 5, it is well with the man who deals generously and lends. This is his character. He gives himself away. He's conducting his affairs with justice. He's giving away. He's being a righteous man. He's honoring the Lord. This is what it looks like. But notice also there's stability in the midst of difficulty, verses 6-8. This is the righteous, the one who fears God, delights in the commandments. He will never be moved. He'll be remembered forever. He's not afraid of bad news. His heart is firm, trusting in the Lord. His heart is ready. He'll not be afraid until he looks in triumph on his adversaries. See, this is all about stability. There's difficulty. Thank you.

[14:56] He'll never be moved in the midst of the turbulence of life. His heart is firm. He's not afraid of bad news. His heart is steady. So the righteous is not living a life that is free from any type of difficulty or turbulence or hardship. But in the midst of that, he's able to be strong. She's able to be strong. Well, what's the explanation that the psalmist gives for this? Are they just so strong in and of themselves? No, look what it says. Verse 7, he's not afraid of bad news. His heart is firm, trusting in the Lord. He's not afraid of the bad news that will come, not afraid of the difficulty that's coming. Why? Because he trusts in the Lord. Because these commandments that God has given are life and light. He knows that God's sovereign. He's in control. And also, he's good. And he makes promises to his people that he'll never forsake them. And nobody can destroy them. No one can overcome him. And he can never have his promises overturned. He knows that he's faithful. He knows that he's so sovereign that even things that outwardly appeared to be undesirable and even bad, that God can weave those things together and make good out of them. That's who he is.

[16:22] And he knows the doctrine of God's providence, that everything that comes to pass comes as a result of God's sovereign hand. There's no random molecules, random atoms, random events. Everything is under God's sovereign control. So when things happen in our lives, we can trust that God has brought it, and we can trust that he works it for good, not for some type of purposeless random event. He's not a bad God. He's a good God. He's gracious.

[16:54] Such that somebody like Joseph, in the midst of all of the years of affliction, a couple of decades of his life, dealing with everything from prison to being sold by his brothers to being falsely accused, at the end of his life, he could say what you meant talking to his brothers for evil, God used for good. God meant it for good. And so he doesn't fear bad news because he trusts God who's made great promises to him. That's what it looks like to delight upon the promises. In one sense, it's easy to be a Christian on Sunday morning. We're here, we're singing, we're reading the Bible, and everything sounds good and feels right, but when the bad news comes and you want to be rocked by it, and the uncertainty of tomorrow is coming, and how do we process and understand what's going to happen in the future and how do I deal with What's happened in the past? It's times like this that we're reminded that who God is and His faithfulness and that He is good, causes our heart to be firm, to trust in Him.

[18:07] Your heart is steady, will not be afraid. Not just the daily experiences of life, but also on that last hour of life. Is if God grants you a last hour of life to contemplate the life that's past and the life that's to come as you prepare to meet God and to die. Even in that hour, the bad news of the medical team saying you don't have much longer.

[18:35] He's not afraid, not afraid of death. Her heart is firm, trusting in the Lord. That's us. That's the righteous man. That's the righteous woman. Trusting in God, feeding on his promises, fearing him, rejoicing. He's Savior, trembling. He's all-powerful. And that's the blessing. The blessing is that God takes care of his people. And he has stability in the midst of such turbulence. You see? Wouldn't that be the thing that people want? To be able to go through life with stability? To have a life that has character? To have integrity? To be a person who's honorable? That's what God says. This is what he

works into people's lives as they delight in him and rejoice in him. Not only that, look at verse 9 It goes on to show that this blessing looks like generosity He has distributed freely, he's given to the poor.

[19:46] This one who's blessed is distributing, he's giving it away Given to the poor, he's glad and happy to give to others Not a miser, not holding on, not all about me But saying, I've been given, so I give it away, Generous, those in need, Then we see the honor that continues on in verse 9. His righteousness endures forever. His horn is exalted in honor. His life is characterized by this honor.

Blessing Beyond Trying

[20:17] Blessing. But I don't want you to get the idea here that this psalm is actually saying, hey, listen, delight in God's word, fear God's word, and try harder. Do all these things. Work these characters, this stability, this generosity, this honor into your life. I don't think that's what the psalm is doing. He's not saying work harder, try harder. Actually, I think he's giving us some clues to show us where this blessing comes from. This is the blessing, the prosperity, the character, the stability, the generosity, and the honor. This is the blessing that God gives. But he shows us where this blessing actually comes from.

[21:02] I mentioned earlier that the Psalms are written in a context, and the context of Psalm 112, obviously, is Psalm 110 and Psalm 111. And these Psalms go together, Psalm 110, Psalm 111, and Psalm 112. Why is that important? Well, what we see in Psalm 111 is actually a lot of reflections of what you see in Psalm 112. Notice what it says about God's character in verse 4. He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered. The Lord is gracious and merciful. We just read that in Psalm 112, didn't we? Look at verse 4.

[21:54] Light dawns in the darkness for the upright, Psalm 112, he is gracious, merciful, and righteous. He just said that about God. That's interesting, isn't it? The psalmist just got done talking about God being gracious and merciful, and then he says the righteous one, the one who's blessed, is gracious and merciful and righteous. But that's not the only one. Look at verse 5. He provides food for those who fear Him. In other words, He gives it away. God's generous. He takes care of His people. Not only that, but we see God's honor.

[22:36] In verses 9 through 10, he's commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. All who practice it have good understanding. His praise works, endures forever. What's going on here? Where does it come from? I think what the psalmist is trying to show us here is that the blessing that he's outlining in Psalm 112, is actually God working his character into his people. And that's profound. What God is at work doing, the blessing, is not just about feeling happy. That's the byproduct of it. The blessing is being made more like God. Psalm 112 is showing us that there's actually God's character being worked into you. And that is enabling you to stand and have stability in life. And your generosity looks like God's generosity because God has worked that into your life. And if you have a name that's worth remembering, it's because you're connected to the name above every name who's worth remembering. That's the

blessing. The blessing is that God is at work in his people's lives to make us more like him. And how do we get there?

[24:00] By delighting in his word. God richly blesses those who delight in his word, and he makes us more like him. See, that's really good news, because the sermon application is not, hey, try harder, do more, work harder. That's not the sermon application. What the sermon application is, actually, if you want to be happy, delight in God's commandments. Fear him. And he will work himself into you in such a way that you begin to look more like him and take on his character. And so, it's such that if bad things happen, you can stand in the midst of it, because you trust the Lord. That's something that we need and that's something that we want. Well, how do we get in on it?

Redemption Through the King

[25:00] Well, again, I think this is interesting. These are all connected. Psalm 111 verse 9 says that he sent redemption to his people. He's commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name. What is redemption? He sent the rescue out of bondage of sin. God, the covenant God, has rescued his people. That's how we actually get in on it.

[25:25] I mentioned earlier that Psalm 110 was connected to this. If you flip over to Psalm 110, we see the way in which we get in on it is through the covenant king. This is the psalm that's quoted so often in the New Testament, speaking of Jesus. It says in verse 1, the Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool. It's the idea of God the Father speaking to the Son and saying, sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool.

[25:56] The Lord is the king. He rules. He has the mighty sepsis ruling in the midst of his enemies. And he keeps his promise. He is the king. So how do you get in on it? He sent redemption. How does redemption come? It comes through Jesus Christ. Jesus is the king that's been promised. He's come. He's come as a baby. He lived as a baby into a teenage boy, into a grown man, and he lived that perfect life where he greatly delighted in God's word. He feared God's word above all. And he lived and he went all the way through life with perfect obedience as he paid our penalty on the cross. He suffered in our place. He took our sin so that we get his righteousness. As we turn from our sin and put our trust in him, we get his righteousness because he took our sin. He paid the debt and we are granted life. That's the redemption. We're redeemed from our sin.

[27:01] And so as we turn from sin and trust in Christ, increasingly then the Holy Spirit begins to work His character into our lives. And we need the Word of God to do that. He grows us in our fear of Him and our likeness of Him as we read the Word. And what's interesting is this this psalm psalm 112 actually gets quoted in the new testament and i think a surprising place but not surprising when we think about the way psalm 112 works out, turn over to second corinthians chapter 9 just to look and see the connection of what the apostle what Paul does with it. 2 Corinthians 9 is the passage that Paul quotes. Psalm 112.

Generous Givers

[28:00] The Apostle Paul here is writing and trying to implore the Corinthians to help and to give. And to give towards the ministry and the need for the saints. And he's making an argument that God has given everything. He's given Christ. God is a generous, gracious giver. And God loves his people to reflect that. So look what he does in verse 6. Remember, we're thinking about God working his character into his people. Verse 6, the point is this, whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. Whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he's decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you so that having all sufficiency in all things and all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, he has distributed freely and given to the poor. His righteousness endures forever.

[29:02] That's the verse. We just read that in Psalm 112. What's he saying? He's saying that part of the reality of the gospel, when you actually realize that Christ is your king and you fear him, rejoicing and trembling, you come under his authority, that God begins to work that into your life in such a way that you reflect him, certainly by character and stability and honor, but also this generosity that he's talking about. And here Paul is appealing to them, hey, you need to give. You need to give generously. And you'd say, well, why do you need to give generously, Paul? Well, because you know God and God has given generously. He's been so gracious. Grace has come down. So the praise goes up and giving goes out. And so he's saying, this is what God has done. And I know this because this is how the king has always worked. Psalm 110 is the promised king. Psalm 111 shows us that God is a gracious God who gives away. Psalm 112 shows us that if we delight in God, delight in his commandments and we fear him, then we too give. So Paul's point is that if you know God, if you know his grace, then you will increasingly look like him. What does that look like? In this case, generosity.

[30:25] But it's all under the banner of blessing it's part of his blessing we might not think of that we we might think of it as when we give we're blessing other people and partly that's true, but the way Paul's thinking about it here is it's actually God's blessing in his people to experience the privilege and the joy of participating in giving away and that's why he says our thanksgiving is to God because he's blessed us.

[30:54] I just want to encourage you this morning, as you think about your life, as you think about your walk as a Christian, and the importance of reading this book and regular communion with God and fearing Him, you see that He increasingly works these things into us. And in one sense, if you're sitting here and saying, I really wish there was more of this in my life, I wish there was more stability and more godly character and more generosity and the blessings evident in this prosperity and honor. I want to be more like this. It's not a hard fix. In one sense, the text says, delight in God, delight in his commandments, and fear him. And he will bless his people who do those things. And he's proven it to us through Christ as he has come.

The Wicked Despise It

[31:54] Finally, we see the contrast with the blessing despised. Pretty surprisingly, isn't it? Verse 10, the wicked man sees it and is angry. He gnashes his teeth and melts away. The desire of the wicked will perish. The contrast is there. The wicked and the righteous are contrasted. The wicked is angry. The righteous is praised and is happy. He's blessed. The wicked gnashes his teeth. The implication is the righteous is smiling, the wicked melts away, perishing, but the righteous, we see over and over again, this continual and this foreverness that goes on. The reason for it is because the wicked is frustrated and maybe even jealous of the righteous man because the wicked is pursuing all of these same types of things to get happiness, to get joy, to get fulfillment, to get stability, but pursuing them by shooting at the wrong target. And there's a double frustration about not attaining it and actually seeing others that have it. And so it's despised and it's frustrated.

[33:11] And so this contrast is visual. It's picturesque. It reminds us that it's eternity. The wicked will perish, but the righteous will continue forever. And so as we think about the psalm, people doing what we believe will make us happy in the end.

[33:37] The psalm lays it out and says things going well, a character that is admirable a stability in the midst of difficulty an open hand of generosity to those in need a life well lived so that it's remembered, that's what God produces in his people, you say well how do i get in on that it's your faith in the great one the one who is the best character the most stable the most generous, the one who blesses his children and he takes care of it's Jesus and trusting in him, so much so that you life begins to look more and more like that, as we read his word and we delight in his word and we fear him You should know this morning, if you're not yet a Christian, that the door of grace is wide open. There's nothing more you need to do to qualify yourself to become a Christian.

[34:45] What you need to do is see your need for Him, and that He requires you to come in faith and believe and receive. It's an open hand to receive. You turn from your sin and trust in Him, He'll forgive you. He makes promises in his word to do that. And for us that are walking with him, we're just reminded again and again of the need to.

[35:10] To rejoice in him because he's good. His word is good. And to delight in his word. And as we see these buds of fruit, these buds of blessing in our lives, increasingly we could say, this is what God's doing. He's at work doing these things and we give him praise for it. Let's pray.

[35:32] Our Father, we thank you now for this psalm. We thank you for the way in which, it encourages us, equips us, strengthens us, even blesses us to see your faithfulness and favor. We thank you for the Lord Jesus Christ whom you've given for us, for our sins and forgiveness. We thank you that he is the righteous man who abides forever, that he is gracious and he is merciful, that he has caused his descendants to flourish and have great riches, the riches of spiritual life in you. And so we pray and we thank you for him. We pray that increasingly our hearts will be drawn to your word, not just because it

can bring us good things or keep us from bad things, but because your words are great, your promises are true, and you are faithful, and you take care of us. Help us, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.