

## Psalm 37:1-11 “Trust in the Lord” A Psalm of David.

**Intro.** What are some of the ways that Christians react to ungodliness in the world?

**Thesis:** Trust God’s promise of future blessings even in the midst of present suffering

**Subject: How to respond to ungodliness in the world**

**Object: Rest in Christ**

**Context:** David had suffered at the hands of King Saul and other ungodly people during his life. Now as an older, wiser man he shares how we should respond to schemes of the ungodly.

### A. The not to do list [1-2, 8-10]

**1. Don’t worry about the ungodly [1] Do not fret because of evildoers [1,7,8]**

**a. Don’t waste your life being anxious about the ungodly:**

- i. Your life doesn’t depend on their approval
- ii. They can’t harm you apart from God allowing it
- iii. God will judge those that reject Him – God is just

**2. Don’t envy the ungodly [1-2] 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.**

**a. Their blessings are only temporal [2]**

- i. we tend to envy: possessions, prosperity, power, position [bz exp re attorneys
- ii. \* sex outside of marriage, drunkenness, selfishness, lying, living for this life ...

**3. Don’t be angry about the ungodly [8-10] 8Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; do not fret—*it only causes* harm: anger tends to produce harm not good ? What are some of the issues that Christians tend to be angry about?**

\* 50 shades of gray, President Obama, terrorists,

**a. The ungodly shall be judged by God [9-10] Their end is at hand**

**9 For evildoers shall be cut off; 10 for yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; indeed, you will look carefully for his place, but it *shall be no more*.**

### B. The to do list [3-11]

\* **Stanford University study: Delayed gratification** is one of the most effective personal traits of successful people. People that delay gratification are more successful with their career, relationships, health, finances and really, all areas of life.

**1. Trust in the Lord and do good [3] 3Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness:**

- a. Trust that God will bless and reward the righteous and judge the ungodly
- b. **do good:** cf. doing evil (the practices of those who reject God’s standard)
- c. **dwell in the land and feed on His faithfulness:** dwell in the land doing good being comforted and satisfied knowing that God is faithful

**John 4:34** My food is to do the will of Him who sent me & to finish His work [satisfies] ? **How can doing the will of God and His work satisfy you?**

**2. Delight yourself in the LORD [4] [principle vs. promise]**

a. **And He shall give you the desires of your heart:** as we delight in the Lord He changes our hearts to align with His (His will). So then He can give us those desires.

**3. Commit your way to the Lord [5-6] Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring *it* to pass. 6He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday:** God will take action (do what's right)

a. **Commit your way to the Lord [5]:** decide now to follow Jesus – no turning back

i. **Josh 1:1-9, 24:15**

b. **He will bring forth your righteousness and justice [6]:** when falsely accused God will bring forth & display your righteousness and will do the right thing

**4. Rest in the Lord [7,9,11] Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him [7]:**

Patiently endure while you wait for Christ to bless the godly and judge the ungodly

a. **Promised inheritance of this earth and peace [9,11] but those who wait on the LORD, shall inherit the earth [9]; But the meek shall inherit the earth [11]**

**Mt.5:5 Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth**

v. 11 and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace: abundance of peace, shalom, contrast with suffering in this life. **Mt.11:28-29**

**Rom.5:1** peace with God through Christ provides the peace of God despite difficulties

**note:** Inherit the king and the kingdom

**1Pet. 5:7 cast all your cares upon the Lord knowing that He cares for you**

**? Why is delayed gratification difficult?**

## Discussion Qs

1. What are some of the ways that Christians react to ungodliness in the world?
2. What are some of the issues that Christians tend to be angry about?
3. How can doing the will of God and His work satisfy you?
4. Why is delayed gratification difficult?