



Treasury of the Psalms

PSALM 37

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Introduction: Many of David's Psalms were written about the wicked when he was in great distress while being pursued by his enemies. In Psalm 37 he discusses the age-old problem of why the righteous suffer while the wicked (rich) appear to prosper (v. 12, 14, 21, 32, 35). David wrote this Psalm in his old age (v. 25). David wrote this Psalm for his fellow Israelites but perhaps to his son, Solomon, in preparation of Solomon for the throne (1 Kings 2:1-3; Pro. 23:17-18, 24:19-20).

The historical foundation for Psalm 37 is the covenant God made with Israel (Lev. 26; Deut. 27-30). God owned the land and promised them the land, seed (multiplied), and blessings in abundance. There was only one far-reaching requirement: **obedience**. David had learned how to evaluate situations in terms of the ultimate and the eternal.

1. _____ myself because of evildoers. (v. 1)

Definition: to burn or get heated up; to be agitated, in violent commotion, worried, anxious, provoked, irritated or angry, fearful; to utter peevish expressions.

Case of excessive fretting:

-) Misunderstanding of the _____ of adversity.
-) Misunderstanding of the _____ of the cross.

Remedy to fretting: Phi. 2:14; 4:6, 11, 13; James 1:2

Warning if our fretting is caused by past events: If we live in the past, we pervert the present and forfeit the future!

2. _____ in the LORD, and do good. (v. 3)

Definition: to be confident of something present or future; to confide in; to place confidence in; to rely on.

The Lord can be trusted; trust your maker with all your concerns. (Job 39:11; Pro. 3:5-6; Ps 25:2, 56:4, 118:8; Is. 26:4)

3. _____ thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Definition: to please highly; to give or afford high satisfaction or joy.

We delight in the Lord by meditating on His Word. (Ps. 1:2-3, 63:5-6, 119:99; Josh. 1:9; Ps. 119:11)

Delight is more permanent than joy, and not dependent on sudden excitement. With God's help, we can delight in every circumstance. (James 1:2)

Three stages of Christian development:

-) _____ (spiritual infancy) 1 Jo. 2:13 “Little Children”
-) _____ (spiritual adolescence) 1 Jo. 2:14 “Young Men”
-) _____ (spiritual maturity) 1 Jo. 2:13-14 “Fathers”

4. _____ thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. (v. 5)

Definition: to give in trust; to put into the hands or power of another (2 Tim. 2:2); to put into any place of preservation (memorizing scripture Ps. 119:11).

5. _____ in the LORD, and wait patiently for him. (v. 7)

Definition: quiet; repose; a state of reconciliation to God (Mt 11:28-30); peace; a state free from disturbance; to be calm or composed in mind (Satan’s primary target); to cease from labor (Gen. 2:2-3); to rest our cause in the truth of scripture (Ps. 40:1)

6. _____ from anger and forsake wrath (v. 8)

Definition: to put an end to; to stop acting or speaking. (Pro. 20:3, 17:14; Eph. 4:29, 31-32)

The opposite of anger is _____, resulting in: good judgment (Ps. 25:9); learning the way of God (Ps. 25:9; responding to the Gospel (Is. 61:1); having special joy (Is. 29:19); understanding Christ’s nature (Mt. 11:29); radiating inward beauty (1 Pet. 3:4); power in witnessing (1 Pet 3:15).

7. _____ in Jesus’ steps (v. 23) “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord.”

Definition: to pursue the course of life in which we live in obedience to God’s commands. (1 Jo. 1:7; Ps. 66:9, 119:5; Gen. 17:1b, 18:20; Rom. 2:7; Ps. 23:4, 26:11)

Walk _____ (Col. 1:10) _____ (Gen. 17:1), with _____ (Is. 40:31), _____ (Mic. 6:8), in _____ (Eph. 5:2; 2 Jo. 6), in _____ (Amos 3:3), in _____ (Col. 4:5), in the _____ (1 Jo. 1:7), in the _____ (Gal. 5:16).

8. _____ from evil and do good; and dwell forever more. (v. 27)

Definition: to deviate from, forsake; to abandon; to separate from.

9. _____ on the LORD, and keep His ways. (v. 34) (Is. 40:31; Ps. 37:4, 52:9; Gal 5:5)

Definition: to stay in expectation (of the second coming of Jesus) with an eternal perspective; to rest in patience; to be ready to serve; to attend to with submission and respect.

10. _____ the perfect man, and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace. (v. 37)

Definition: to notice; to take observation of. (Pro. 24:6, 11:14, 15:22)

Conclusion:

1. Is my obedience level up to my knowledge level?
2. Do my convictions control my preferences?
3. Do I want more from God or more of God?