



**What Does Faith in God Really Mean?  
Being Bad isn't all It's Cracked up to Be  
Psalm 37:1-17**

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**Psalm 37:title–2**

**“A Psalm of David. Do not get upset because of evildoers, Do not be envious of wrongdoers. For they will wither quickly like the grass, And decay like the green plants.” (NASB 2020)**

David wrote this psalm towards the end of his life. We learn that by his comments in Psalm 37:25. The wisdom in this psalm comes from a lifetime of observation, following the Lord, and faithfulness to Him. He



will reflect some of the big questions that we as followers of Jesus will come up with from time to time. But he will also provide answers and give us instructions in how we should live. Many times, this will be done by contrasting and comparing the one who is faithful, versus the one who is wicked. This brings up the question of why evil, why suffering and that is not something I will come even close to answering.

We live in a fallen world, and it is indeed the result of decisions made by our ancestors, Adam and Eve. That was a free will choice they made by the way. And free will underlies our legal system in this nation today. The Supreme Court ruled in *United State v. Grayson* in 1978 the following.

A "universal and persistent" foundation stone in our system of law, and particularly in our approach to punishment, sentencing, and incarceration, is the "belief in freedom of the human will and a consequent ability and duty of the normal individual to choose between good and evil." (U. S. Supreme Court 1978)

Through his own free will choice, man brought evil into the world. We all are evildoers, to use David's language, unless we have made a volitional decision to follow Jesus. "All of us, as humans, witness our own free wills as we make decisions and freely choose actions. If our collective eyewitness observations are to be refuted, the evidence to the contrary will have to be overwhelming. If it isn't, we can reasonably trust our observations. (Wallace 2015, 152)

It should be noted that all physical evil is either a consequence, a condition, or a concomitant of free choice. Further, physical evil is not desired by God but is used by Him, nonetheless, to occasion the full exercise of free choice and to maximize the opportunity for attaining the greatest good achievable in a fully free, moral world. (Geisler and Wenham 1978, 76)

As we study the Bible, we learn the lengths that God has gone through to provide redemption for us, again, a free will choice for us.

Colossians 1:13–14

"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of **his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**" (ESV)

As we study this psalm, it will feel a whole lot like we are in the proverbs. The purpose of the psalm is to provide us instruction in how to live.

"But the instruction is essentially practical, concerning how to live; it does not address in any theoretical sense the larger issues of justice and injustice (as is done in the Book of Job)." It is also an acrostic psalm with the basic structure covering four lines per letter of the alphabet. (Craigie 2004, 297)

Let's look at the first few verses again.

Psalms 37: title—4

"A Psalm of David. **Do not get upset because of evildoers, Do not be envious of wrongdoers. For they will wither quickly like the grass, And decay like the green plants.** Trust in the LORD and do good; Live in the land and cultivate faithfulness. Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart." (NASB 2020)

As we see right here at the beginning, David, just like we do as well, is seriously troubled about why it appears to be those who are evil, seem to get away with it.

This is a serious conversation today in our nation as there are those who reject free will in favor of determinism, no matter what the courts say.



Right up front, David hits many of us right where we live. We are told, in the imperative no less, yes that means a command, “Do not get upset because of evildoers.”

This is not so much being angry at the existence of evil, but angry over those who appear to take advantage of it and live lifestyles that glorify it. Also, as followers of Jesus, we are also aware of the grace of God on us and that without His grace and love, we would also still be wrongdoers as well.

Then we are hit with the second command, “Do not be envious of wrongdoers.”

This is a real temptation because bad people sometimes look happy and successful. We secretly wish we could be like them. We obey God and follow him, and we may be asking ourselves, “Where has this gotten me? My friends who do whatever they want are better off than I am.” (Johnston 2015, 377) Being a Christian doesn’t seem to be paying off. And we are envious of wrongdoers.

Envy becomes a problem for all of us if we take our cues from the world system. We no longer belong to that.

Ephesians 2:1–10

**“And although you were dead in your offenses and sins, in which you formerly lived according to this world’s present path, according to the ruler of the domain of the air, the ruler of the spirit that is now energizing the sons of disobedience, among whom all of us also formerly lived out our lives in the cravings of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath even as the rest ... But God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, even though we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you are saved!—and he raised us up together with him and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, to demonstrate in the coming ages the surpassing wealth of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so that no one can boast. For we are his creative work, having been created in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared beforehand so we may do them.”** (NET 2nd ed.)

Satan though is bust doing whatever he can do to destroy us, and just because we give our lives to Jesus does not mean he has ceased his operation. But now we have God’s armor to protect

Ephesians 6:11–13

**“Clothe yourselves with the full armor of God so that you will be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens. For this reason, take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to stand your ground on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand.”** (NET 2nd ed.)

Satan though is looking for that morning where we forget to put everything on. He is looking for opportunity which we provide unwittingly because of our own in nature.

James 1:13–15

**“Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted by evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each one is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desires. Then when desire conceives, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is full grown, it gives birth to death.”** (NET 2nd ed.)

How does Satan drive us towards temptation? By presenting options to us of ungodly people who are doing really well and making us question our choices. That is bait we must reject.



Reality television shows are the absolute worst encouraging this. How in the world can someone act that way, get away with it, and make money in the process? Don't forget that mass media is in the control of the enemy, and the goal of the enemy is to deceive you and me to think we can have what we want to have without having any consideration for what the Lord would want for us or for even doing the right thing.

1 John 2:16–17

**“For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.” (NLT)**

The enemy does know our weakness though and one of those is a rather widespread problem of Biblical illiteracy today.

Young women who are following the standards as presented by the world wind up dressing and showing more skin than they should and on the other side of the same coin, that feeds to lusts of the young men who are looking on. The enemy though presents this as all normal. Researcher Dr. George Barna has outlined this in his book, **Raising Spiritual Champions**.

“Exposure to media is the most significant shaper of a person's worldview. This is attributable to a variety of converging factors: the assumed authority of the content developers and presenter, the impact of the presentation format, the peer popularity of the content or platform, the repetition of the message, the seamless blending of entertainment and education, and the receiver's assumption of the veracity of the content provided. (Barna 2023, 156)

As parents, we ask our kids to dress modestly, but if they are involved in the public school system, the pressure there is heading in the opposite direction. The net result we see from time to time is rebellion to that unless there is also been a history of Biblically oriented training taking place in the home. Dr. Barna says the following.

“The ways in which we think about and engage in preparing children for life play a central role in who they become. The research is very clear that the more biblically prepared a child is to address life, the more likely they are to embrace a Christlike approach to daily challenges. Conversely, the less biblically trained a child is, the less likely it is that they will ever become a genuine disciple of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit can instantly transform any life at any moment, but years of data suggest that such miraculous transformations are the exception, not the norm.” (Barna 2023, 8)

And for those of us who grew up in a media rich environment with zero controls, like I did, then when we come to Christ, the Holy Spirit has a big job cleaning up everything we spent time planning in our brains and showing us what the Biblical pattern to live really is.

As followers of Jesus, we are not to be envious of those who have climbed the corporate ladder with less than honest methods. I have personally been a witness to people willingly tell the most outrageous lies about you or others with zero shreds of evidence just so they can get your job or a better position. We see those who climb the ladder faster than us and we get a bit envious.

I remember watching a colleague do that, he made some of the right moves and decisions per the world, and suddenly found himself way over his level of competency in a national VP role. He was fired a couple of years later and I ran into him at a conference. His warning, don't do it. It is not worth it. He had ulcers and serious marital problems due to his ladder climb. We will see David talk about this in another psalm.



Psalms 75:4–5

“‘I said to the boastful, ‘Do not boast,’ And to the wicked, ‘Do not lift up the horn; Do not lift up your horn on high, Do not speak with insolent pride.’” (NASB 2020)

Proverbs 24:1–2

“Be not envious of evil men, nor desire to be with them, for their hearts devise violence, and their lips talk of trouble.” (ESV)

This is a real problem for us in our current culture. When the examples being held up for us to emulate are those of individuals who are living lifestyles which are less than Biblical, those who follow Jesus must say no.

I have numerous “how I did it” books on my shelf at home. Most come from the world of business, and some do indeed reflect the Lord, but most do not.

The answer for us, the how to not be envious of non-believers and their so-called success is simple. Before David gives us the solution, he lets us know what the end result of these “successful” people will be.

Psalms 37:2

**“For they will wither quickly like the grass, And decay like the green plants.”** (NASB 2020)

Everyone wants to applaud the failure who became a success. But no one wants to talk about the success who failed and did so spectacularly.

Enron became a byword for accounting fraud and jail time for the so-called business gurus in charge and bankruptcy.

Tyco International was looted of millions of dollars and the CEO went to jail and that is only two of the more recent examples of business gurus going south. David was indeed correct; they will decay like green plants.

The first thing we learn in this psalm, “do not be envious of wrongdoers.”

So, again, how do we fight the temptation to do it the world’s way?

Psalms 37:3–4

**“Trust in the LORD and do good; Live in the land and cultivate faithfulness. Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart.”** (NASB 2020)

God has a glorious future for His people. The second thing we learn in this psalm, “trust in the Lord.” We should take our eyes off the world and those who appear to be doing well and trust the one who created us and has a future for us. In fact, we express that trust, that faith in the Lord by living our faith.

True faith is actively obedient. Doing good is a fine remedy for fretting. There is a joy in holy activity which drives away the rust of discontent. (Spurgeon n.d., 171)

Our biggest problem here is that this many times also means waiting on the Lord. Having His mindset and seeing things from His eternal perspective. While we are waiting, we trust and have faith in Him and live that way. David told us earlier in the psalms the need to be waiting on the Lord.



Psalm 27:14

**"Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD."** (NASB 2020)

How do we wait on the Lord? By actively seeking Him and spending time with Him. By actively praying and talking to Him and while doing so, telling others of our trust and faith in the Lord.

As we wait on the Lord, we are expressing our confidence in Him to resolve the evil in the world and to deal with those who appear to be winning and taking others down with them. Waiting on the Lord means we are much more active in our pointing out the obvious incongruities with the lifestyle being emulated versus our reality.

Isaiah 40:31

**"But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint."** (NLT)

As we actively trust in the Lord, doing good we are cultivating righteousness. We are plowing up our own fallow ground and making it a fertile place for the Holy Spirit to flourish in and use us. And while we are doing so, we are actively waiting on Him and even though the temptation is to be envious of those who are off the rails, we continue to trust, seek, pray renewing our strength everyday. We are doing exactly what it is David commands us to do next.

Psalm 37:4

**"Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart."** (NASB 2020)

Our active waiting is teaching us to delight in the Lord. We are waiting on Him and His time, His word, and the soon coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to take us out of here. Who cares what is going on, on the Jersey Shore or with the Kardashians, we are more concerned with what is going on in our relationship with Jesus Christ and how we can better communicate and tell others who are listening to the voices of the world, the truth and draw them away from the lies being communicated to them. And this is rewarding spiritually.

Isaiah 64:4

**"From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him."** (ESV)

As we delight ourselves in the Lord, an amazing thing begins to happen since we are worshipping Him. We are placing Him above everything else and fully delighting ourselves in the Lord. We are turning to the Lord who takes special delight in those who belong to Him.

Zephaniah 3:17

**"The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing."** (ESV)

Isaiah 62:3–4

**"The LORD will hold you in his hand for all to see— a splendid crown in the hand of God. Never again will you be called "The Forsaken City" or "The Desolate Land." Your new name will be "The City of God's Delight" and "The Bride of God," for the LORD delights in you and will claim you as his bride."** (NLT)

As we delight ourselves in the Lord, He delights in us. By actively waiting on the Lord, trusting in Him and delighting ourselves in the Lord, we are bringing joy to the heart of our Lord. His response is clear here, "He will give you the desires of your heart."





Do not take this as a proof text for the prosperity gospel, in total context here, it simply will not defend or prove up that idea. Sam Storms says, “If your delight is wholly in God then your desires will not be for anything that would diminish his centrality in your soul. You won’t want anything that has the potential of turning your heart to trust in anyone but him. If your ‘desires’ are for the stuff of this world that would detract from your complete satisfaction in God, then you aren’t truly delighting yourself in him.” (Storms 2016, Ps 37:4)

The Hebrew word that we translate as delight “comes from a root that means “to be brought up in luxury, to be pampered.” It speaks of the abundance of the blessings we have in the Lord Himself, totally apart from what He gives us.” (Wiersbe 2004, 143)

What is the chief desire of our hearts as we delight ourselves in the Lord? For me, it is to know Him more, to just love and rest in His presence and in His word.

Delighting ourselves in the Lord is not a suggestion here. It is a command. This is not something to pray about, it is something we should do. For the followers of Jesus Christ, it is our obligation to worship our King and delight ourselves in Him.

And here is the really cool thing, as we spend time with the Lord, the Holy Spirit is the one who moves in us and provides the supernatural unlikely delight or joy we feel as we worship.

David does a great job here in the psalm for us too as I find myself looking for ways to delight myself in the Lord. So, David says, here are some ideas.

Psalm 37:5–8

**“Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.** He will bring out your righteousness as the light, And your judgment as the noonday. **Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him; Do not get upset because of one who is successful in his way,** Because of the person who carries out wicked schemes. Cease from anger and abandon wrath; **Do not get upset;** it leads only to evildoing.” (NASB 2020)

In our excursion of how to delight in the Lord, we see here that it also involves committing our ways to the Lord. Another command.

Committing our ways to the Lord “seems to suggest that heavy demands, like a great burden, are to be rolled onto the LORD. He is able to do whatever is demanded. The New Testament equivalent is to cast all our anxiety upon him because he cares for us (1 Pet. 5:7). The outcome of this trust will be that the cause entrusted to him will flourish just like the appearance of the sun in its glory. NIV takes the Hebrew word ‘ôr (light) as ‘dawn’, but the parallelism suggests ‘sun’ is the better rendering.” (Harman 2011, 311)

As we wait on Him, as we worship Him, are we taking all of our burdens, everything that we are dealing with and working through, to include watching the world get away with it and rolling it all on Him? He commands us to do this inviting us to do so and then finishes off the phrase with a promise pointing back to the previous verse.

We are not to let Satan get in our heads with the idea that maybe we are missing out on something because we follow Jesus. There was a guy on our wrestling team who was good about getting into his opponent's head, and it was about all he had going for himself as well.

He was incredibly lean and muscular, but he had difficulty remembering what moves to do while wrestling. That didn’t matter though for just before the match would begin, he would remove his sweats and his false teeth, and the wrestler he was going to confront would see this sculpted muscular man smiling with



a toothless grin. That was usually worth at least a quick take down, and then once the wrestling got serious, he was pretty much done. But he did get in the other guys' mind for just a short while.

Satan tries to do the same thing to us with what is being paraded before us by the culture. Commit, volitionally decide now.

Commit all that we do, to the Lord and to His glory. We roll everything onto Him and we are told "He will do it." Do what? "Deal with those who look like they are getting away with it. All the heaven they are ever going to know they get in this world, and all the trouble God's saints will know they are getting here. When you leave this scene the trouble will be left behind. Why not just thank Him and praise Him for all His delivering grace?" (Ironside 1953, 218)

As we roll our burdens onto the Lord, we are worshipping Him, delighting ourselves in Him, He indeed will give us the desires of our heart, because He will do it. "Give God time. He will work things out in your life. God is good, my friend. The heathen concept of God is as a terrible Being. Their idols are hideous. Many Christians view God that way. They think of Him as sort of a villain who will turn on you at any moment. He never will—He is your Friend. He loves you. He wants to save you, but you have to commit your way to Him." (McGee 1997, 738)

Psalms 37:6

**"He will bring out your righteousness as the light, And your judgment as the noonday."** (NASB 2020)

This is another result of trusting in and delighting in the Lord. When God moves and He does as He is promising here, those who belong to the Lord will be fully vindicated. There really is no need for us to worry and fret about anything as we lean fully onto the Lord and roll everything onto Him. We must fully rest in the Lord and give Him the bandwidth to do as He wants and in His time.

Psalms 37:7–8

**"Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him;** Do not get upset because of one who is successful in his way, Because of the person who carries out wicked schemes. Cease from anger and abandon wrath; Do not get upset; it leads only to evildoing." (NASB 2020)

We are to rest in the Lord. Hard to do, but once again, this is not a suggestion. When we are told to rest in the Lord, it is a command. The word translated as rest means to be motionless, to stand still...to keep quiet...to be motionless, rigid. (Koehler, et al. 1994-2000, 226)

We are to be motionless, quietly waiting on the Lord and standing still letting Him be the one who takes action on our behalf. Yes, there while we are here in the world, there will indeed be those who look like they are getting away with it. They aren't, not really.

The real danger is some will be upset enough to try and take action on their own to expose the wrongdoer without waiting on the Lord to do it.

Mom was right, two wrongs don't make a right.

Psalms 37:8

**"Cease from anger and abandon wrath; Do not get upset; it leads only to evildoing."** (NASB 2020)

Here David is warning us and providing "caution against the kind of anger that grows from a sense of injustice in the light of the prosperity of the wicked. If someone worries, it might lead them to an act of disobedience or betrayal of God." (Longman III 2014, 178)





This is an anger I have to deal with and it is also an anger I spend a lot of time talking with others who are also dealing with it. We are made in God's image and when we are wronged unjustly, or we see others being abused and wrongly used, we tend to reflect anger. But leave that with the Lord.

We are looking for a place to meet in and do church. There are spaces in and around Hobe Sound, but some are simply not available to us as the owner of the property refuses to have a church in the space, and that has been the case several times. In this culture, that is expected.

There are also those who will talk, but they will intentionally throw things as part of any potential agreement that they know a church will never agree to. And again, in this culture, expected.

But the temptation in these cases is to strike back, but the Lord is telling us to wait on Him. Let Him do it in His time. Not mine.

There is an important thing to remember.

Psalms 37:9–10

**"For evildoers will be eliminated, But those who wait for the LORD, they will inherit the land. Yet a little while and the wicked person will be no more; And you will look carefully for his place and he will not be there."** (NASB 2020)

The seeming prosperity of the wicked is only an illusion, for they are going to be cut off. (Harman 2011, 312)

From God's perspective, they will not last long at all. Solomon provides his perspective.

Ecclesiastes 3:16–17

**"Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness. I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work."** (ESV)

We are to delight ourselves in the Lord which also means we are looking at reality through His eyes. There is indeed an end for the one who is looking like he is doing well in his wickedness. The end could be the end of the day today, tomorrow, next week, next year, or the Great White Throne. But it is indeed coming unless the person engaged in it repents and comes to Jesus Christ.

Psalms 37:10–11

**"Yet a little while and the wicked person will be no more; And you will look carefully for his place and he will not be there. But the humble will inherit the land And will delight themselves in abundant prosperity."** (NASB 2020)

As followers of Jesus, who know who holds the future. We have a personal relationship with Him and are actively delighting ourselves in Him. We are resting and waiting on Him and trusting in His time while also continuing to serve.

And again, this is not another proof text of the prosperity gospel which is predicated on a false theology.

Charles Stanley explains it this way. "One of the foremost concepts you need to understand about prosperity is this: biblical prosperity relates to your entire life. A person can be rich in money and still not be prosperous. When you think of blessing and prosperity, you must think in terms of life's whole—a harmony that has spiritual, mental, emotional, physical, financial, and relational dimensions...It is not



possible to be fully prosperous in life if your spiritual life is lacking, just as it is not possible to be fully prosperous if you have a material or financial lack.” (Stanley 1997, 228)

“Abundant prosperity” as David uses the term here, is speaking about the whole person. In the context of everything we have covered to this point about delighting in the Lord and rolling everything onto Him. Letting Him be the one who does it.

We already are experiencing that abundance of prosperity right now. In Christ we have an “abundance of peace, inward peace and tranquility of mind, peace with God, and then peace in God, that great peace which those have that love God’s law, whom nothing shall offend (Ps. 119:165), that abundance of peace which is in the kingdom of Christ (Ps. 72:7), that peace which the world cannot give (Jn. 14:27), and which the wicked cannot have, Isa. 57:21. This they shall delight themselves in, and in it they shall have a continual feast; while those that have abundance of wealth do but cumber and perplex themselves with it and have little delight in it. (Henry 1994, 794)

And for some who are unbelievers, that peace we have, infuriates them since they do not have any peace at all. We see plotting in our culture today to remove the rights of Christians, and this is not unusual.

Psalms 37:12–13

**“The wicked plots against the righteous, And gnashes at him with his teeth. The Lord laughs at him, For He sees that his day is coming.” (NASB 2020)**

Yes indeed, those who do not know the Lord are many times, angry with those of us who know the Lord. Christianophobia is a real thing in our culture today. But there is something we must remember, if we are in Christ, we are His. We belong to Him. There is a heavy price for those who do not know the Lord and are busy about making those who know the Lord, to become envious of their evil and so-called prosperity.

Jesus tells us the following.

Mark 9:42

“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea.” (ESV)

What we see here is the Lord’s reaction to those who would lead His own astray, who would attack in their anger. “The Lord, who regards an assault upon the righteous as an assault upon Himself, laughs (Ps. 2:4) at the enraged schemer; for He, who orders the destinies of men, sees beforehand, with His omniscient insight into the future, his day, i.e., the day of his death” (Keil and Delitzsch 1996, 284) and the day of judgment.

However, those who do not know the Lord are beginning to reflect the last days that we live in. Persecution here in this country is now a real consideration and martyrdom has already taken place with the recent murder of Charlie Kirk. At the same time, antisemitism has also increased. Yes, the enemy attacks anyone who is attached to the Lord.

George Yancey reports the following, “In both anti-Semitism and Christianophobia, we find abundant stereotyping, hatred and prejudice based on often inaccurate interpretations of the religious actions of members victimized by anti-Semitism and Christianophobia. Anti-Semitism has a longer history and seems more likely to lead to violence than Christianophobia may, but my recent research shows far more anti-Christian animosity in contemporary society than anti-Semitism. Since those with anti-Christian bias are more likely to be white, wealthy and well educated, Christianophobia is likely to motivate individuals with more social power than those motivated by other types of prejudice (i.e., racism, sexism, Islamophobia). (Yancey 2015, 21)



We live in the last days under the promise of Jesus coming to remove His church at any moment. In answering a question from the disciples about what the second coming of Jesus look like, we read the following which is looking more and more like today.

Matthew 24:9–12

““Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.” (ESV)

We see the shadows of that being cast across the planet today. Persecution is real and is global. Churches are closing left and right and the love of many is indeed growing cold as we see the growth of Islamic fed intrusion coupled with a growing along with a progressive lean away from what we would call historic western culture.

David tells us from his own experience what to expect when those who are intent on evil are in control.

Psalms 37:14–15

“The wicked have drawn the sword and bent their bow To take down the afflicted and the needy, To kill off those who are upright in conduct. Their sword will enter their own heart, And their bows will be broken.” (NASB 2020)

One thing I have learned over the years, those who are not followers of Jesus Christ run from ambivalent to violently opposed to those who love the Lord. “Hostility towards the righteous is the hallmark of the wicked. They plot to use weapons against them, and even to kill them. The verb ‘to slay’ (tâvach) is a very strong word, being used elsewhere normally of the slaughter of animals. However, what they will find is that their own schemes turn against themselves and they are destroyed by their own weapons. (Harman 2011, 313)

Psalms 37:16–17

**“Better is the little of the righteous Than the abundance of many wicked. For the arms of the wicked will be broken, But the LORD sustains the righteous.” (NASB 2020)**

If we listen to the lies of the enemy and find ourselves sucked into the envying of the wicked, we will discover that wealth is not what matters in life. God does indeed provide for us, and He does so all the time with His provision based on our need and our calling, not based on our selfish desires.

The problem though is deep inside the sin nature which we all have and finds roots in the sin of Adam and Eve.

Adam and Eve coveted the attractive but forbidden fruit of the garden, and everything was corrupted or cursed quickly thereafter. Possession of, or desire for, too many material goods leads to rejection of God, interpersonal hostility and exploitation or neglect of the poor. (Blomberg 1999, 244)

It is clear here in Psalm 37, based on what David has presented to us, that the leaning towards those who have “stuff” is not where we are to go.

As followers of Jesus, we should be thankful for what it is the Lord has indeed provided for us. Yes, I would indeed like to have the big building down the street, but God continues to supply our needs. I would like to have a worship band, but God supplies our needs. I would love to have more space for more ministry and those who want to engage in that ministry as their own, but God continues to supply our needs.



"Money may be part of a happy life but it is not its real basis. The righteous may be poor, but that is better than thinking that wealth is what matters in life. Money in itself is not wrong. It is the love of it that the Bible condemns (1 Tim. 6:10). The wicked will find that their ability to acquire wealth will disappear." (Harman 2011, 313)

David then gives us the good news here at the end of verse 17, "but the Lord sustain the righteous." He is our constant and consistent provider.

There is more to cover here in this psalm, we will pick up in verse 18 next time. Let's pray.

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