

**SBC – July 21, 2024**  
**Psalm 37 (NKJV)**  
**“Trust in the LORD”**

**A Psalm of David.**

Psalm 37 is simply titled “***A Psalm of David***” with no further qualifiers. We find in verse 25 that he wrote this Psalm as an older man which supplies the idea that this a wisdom Psalm as David is imparting things he has learned in his pilgrim journey. Thus, in style, it is representative of the wisdom literature that is directed not essentially to God but to man about God.

Psalm 37 is arranged acrostically according to the Hebrew alphabet with every second verse successively working through the entire Hebrew alphabet. Perhaps this was done to aid in memory work.

**Slide # 1**

**Psalm 37**

***“Trust in the LORD”***

- vv. 1-11 Counsel for God’s Afflicted People
- vv. 12-24 Triumph of the godly – Passing of the Wicked
- vv. 25-40 Godly Wisdom for Living

**1 Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.**

When one is seeking to live for God and things are really hard – and when people living like the devil seem to have nothing but prosperity – it is easy to get distracted and fret about it. This is what bothered Asaph in Psalm 73.

**Slide # 2**

**Psalm 73:16–17 (NKJV)**

- 16** When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me—
- 17** Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood **their end.**

Maintaining an eternal perspective is KEY! It puts everything in proper perspective.

The idea of fretting is the idea of getting “all heated up” or as we might say in the common vernacular “Getting all worked up”.

At times it seems like everything goes well for the evil doers but don't fret about it or be envious of them. You really don't want their lot in life. It is not a good place. And here is why...

**2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, And wither as the green herb.**

The time for the wicked is SHORT lived! They have their moment – but that's it. The grass and the herb both wither quickly. God's people have all eternity. Live in light of eternity.

### **Slide # 3**

#### **Isaiah 40:6–8 (NKJV)**

**6** The voice said, “Cry out!” And he said, “What shall I cry?” “All flesh is grass, And all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.

**7** The grass **withers**, the flower **fades**, Because the breath of the LORD blows upon it; **Surely the people are grass.**

**8** The grass **withers**, the flower **fades**, But **the word of our God stands forever.**”

People are very short lived – but the Word stands forever. Make the Word – make that which stands forever your focus!

**3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.**

Instead of getting distracted, keep your focus on the LORD. Trust in the LORD. Leave aside worry and simply enjoy the provision of God. Feed on God's faithfulness. He will take care of you. Rest in this reality!

God's faithfulness is like food that we are to feed on daily! Every day we are to walk in dependence upon Him. To do good here is to stay focused on the LORD and live according to His Word.

**4 Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.**

Here is a verse that so many take out of context.

This verse should be considered in view of the flow of the Psalm as a whole. To start with our focus is to be the LORD. Start there. This is not about SELF or self-oriented goals but about God!

To delight in the Lord is to make Him the conscious focus and cheer of your life. It is to find your joy in your relationship with God! Every good relationship has to be cultivated. Make God your focus! Delight in Him.

And here is the thing – if you truly delight in the LORD you want what God wants – you then want what God wants for you.

Your delight is all about God and His will. And if that is truly the case – then God will certainly give you the desires of your heart that line up with delighting in His will.

But in the greater scheme of this Psalm the great issue is the destiny of wicked versus that of God's people. The great contrast is the wicked will be cut off while those who wait on the LORD will inherit the earth (v. 9, 22).

#### **Slide # 4**

- v. 9 shall inherit the earth.
- v. 11 shall inherit the earth
- v. 22 shall inherit the earth
- v. 29 shall inherit the land
- v. 34 inherit the land

Thus, the desires of the heart for those who delight in the LORD in this Psalm ultimately relate to God's prosperity and blessing that will ultimately be realized in the kingdom.

**5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.**

This is a description of what it means to delight in the Lord. The word "commit" literally means "to roll" as if rolling your burden on the Lord (John 5:9). It is casting all your care on Him – which you can do because He cares for you (1 Pet. 5:7).

Trust in the LORD for His kingdom promises. He indeed shall bring them to pass. God's people are destined for kingdom prosperity.

**6 He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday.**

The position of being right with God and what is right in view of that reality will ultimately come to light. This is vindication for the righteous! The position of God's people of being in the right is going to come out.

**7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.**

Going through this life the challenge is to not get distracted. We need to rest in the LORD – His promises, His character. We need to wait patiently for Him – just sit tight – in due time God is going to turn things around to the advantage of His people. They are going to be in the position of triumph, prosperity, and blessing.

Sometimes, it seems like the wicked continually get away with their schemes. Don't fret about it. Wait on the LORD. Rest in Him! God's still sovereign. In due time, He will put the right position of His people on display.

**8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret—it only causes harm.**

It is so easy to get worked up and angry over the corruption we see all around us. David addresses this. Three times David says, “do not fret” in these opening verses (v. 1, 7, 8).

**Slide # 5**

- v. 1 do not fret...nor be anxious
- v. 3 Trust in the LORD...feed on His faithfulness
- v. 4 Delight in the LORD
- v. 5 Commit...Trust
- v. 7 Rest...wait patiently...do not fret
- v. 8 Cease from anger...Do not fret

Spurgeon said, “Faith cures fretting.” Many Christians are prone to “political fretting”. We allow the world to get us all worked up. Psalm 37 speaks to this. Make your focus the LORD not the evildoers of the world. At David says, “Do not fret – it only causes harm.” It won't change a thing for the good – it only causes harm. Focus instead on the LORD.

Here is the end of the deal... Here is why you should not fret...

**9 For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the LORD, They shall inherit the earth.**

Really, what David is counseling is that we maintain an eternal perspective. Evildoers are going to be “cut off”, but in contrast those who wait on the LORD shall inherit the earth.

God has ordained mankind to rule the world for Him and ultimately (under Christ) it is going to be God’s people who do this. Don’t fret – the kingdom belongs to us. God’s people in the end “shall inherit the earth”.

**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.**

Here is the KEY. “For yet a little while”. The wicked have their moment – but that’s it! “Here today – gone tomorrow!” They have their 15 minutes of fame – so to speak but just that quick it is over! What folly!

The evildoers have their day of prosperity, but it is short-lived. Soon the wicked who are the famous and praised in this world will be of no notice or standing at all (**you will look carefully for his place, but it shall be no more**). – *David Guzik*

“The shortness of life makes us see that the glitter of the wicked great [ones] is not true gold.” - *Charles Spurgeon*

But in contrast...

**11 But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.**

“The context gives the best possible definition of *the meek*: they are those who choose the way of patient faith instead of self-assertion.”  
- *Derek Kidner*

### **Slide # 6**

**Matthew 5:5 (NKJV)**

**5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.**

**12 The wicked plots against the just, And gnashes at him with his teeth.**

**13 The Lord laughs at him, For He sees that his day is coming.**

For a time, the LORD allows this abuse to go on, but He sees the day of judgment is coming for the wicked. Their day will come! Just keep that in mind! Note the Lord “laughs at him” emphasizing the sheer folly of their position (cf. Ps. 2:4).

**14 The wicked have drawn the sword And have bent their bow, To cast down the poor and needy, To slay those who are of upright conduct.**

**15 Their sword shall enter their own heart, And their bows shall be broken.**

Eventually you reap what you sow. The wickedness of the wicked will come back on them. It’s just a matter of time. The wicked are not only rebellious against God – they take out their hostility against God by abusing His people. This has always been the case.

“Like Haman they shall be hanged upon the gallows built by themselves for Mordecai. Hundreds of times has this been the case. Saul, who sought to slay David, fell on his own sword.” **(Spurgeon)**

**16 A little that a righteous man has Is better than the riches of many wicked.**

**17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, But the LORD upholds the righteous.**

**18 The LORD knows the days of the upright, And their inheritance shall be forever.**

The LORD upholds the righteous. He knows their days. It is comforting just to know the LORD knows all that is going on with us. And we have an eternal inheritance. We are not going to lose out. What we have from the LORD is forever!

**19 They shall not be ashamed in the evil time, And in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.**

**20 But the wicked shall perish; And the enemies of the LORD, Like the splendor of the meadows, shall vanish. Into smoke they shall vanish away.**

God takes care of His own and provides for them in keeping with His sovereign will. And no matter what we go through His grace is sufficient!

As it says in verse 3 we “feed on His faithfulness.” Note the emphasis here again is especially in view of eternity. The contrast is one of “forever” with that which vanishes away.

**21 The wicked borrows and does not repay, But the righteous shows mercy and gives.**

The wicked are self-focused and selfish in contrast to the righteous who are givers and full of mercy.

**22 For those blessed by Him shall inherit the earth, But those cursed by Him shall be cut off.**

This is a great summary verse of this entire Psalm. It presents the contrast of the ultimate outcome for the blessed righteous versus the cursed who shall be cut off. This is the bottom line issue! It is knowing this and maintaining this perspective that makes all the difference.

No matter what you are going through with the wicked – just keep in mind your ultimate destiny in contrast to theirs. This perspective changes your whole attitude.

**23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way.**

**24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.**

It's not that the righteous never stumble – they do.

### **Slide # 7**

**James 3:2 (NKJV)**

**2 For we all stumble in many things.** If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

Even though the righteous may stumble (and we all do) yet their stumbling is never fatal and final. And the reason for this is because the LORD upholds him with His hand. God will never let go of His own. When we stumble He still has us by the hand. He is our security net!

### **Slide # 8**

**Proverbs 24:16 (NKJV)**

**16 For a righteous man may fall seven times And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity.**

**25 I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread.**

What a great verse! This is David's testimony in his old age. How many of us with a few years on us can also share in this testimony! God ever proves Himself faithful! He constantly provides for and takes care of His own.

**Slide # 9****Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)**

**33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things [the necessities of life] shall be added to you.**

**Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)**

**13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**

**Philippians 4:19 (NKJV)**

**19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

**26 He is ever merciful, and lends; And his descendants are blessed.**

**27 Depart from evil, and do good; And dwell forevermore.**

**28 For the LORD loves justice, And does not forsake His saints; They are preserved forever, But the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off.**

Back and forth David goes in his contrast of the righteous with that of the wicked. As the children of the wicked follow in the steps of their parents their fate is the same – they too shall be “cut off”.

**29 The righteous shall inherit the land, And dwell in it forever.**

**30 The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, And his tongue talks of justice.**

**31 The law of his God is in his heart; None of his steps shall slide.**

These verses speak to the character of the righteous as well as their destiny. In contrast...



**32 The wicked watches the righteous, And seeks to slay him.**

**33 The LORD will not leave him in his hand, Nor condemn him when he is judged.**

**34 Wait on the LORD, And keep His way, And He shall exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.**

Verse 34 is a climactic verse (cf. v. 22). This is now the 5<sup>th</sup> time in the Psalm that David has emphasized that the people of God will inherit the land.

Realize that David speaks in reference to an OT context involving covenant promises regarding the Promised Land for Israel.

The emphasis for Israel was earthly blessings while the emphasis for the Church is spiritual/heavenly blessings – although there is some overlap.

### **Slide # 10**

#### **Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV)**

**3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,**

Not only is this the 5<sup>th</sup> time in the Psalm that David emphasizes the righteous will inherit the land, but he also emphasizes 5 times that the wicked will be cut off.

### **Slide # 11**

v. 9 They shall inherit the earth.

v. 11 But the meek shall inherit the earth

v. 22 For those blessed shall inherit the earth

v. 29 The righteous shall inherit the land

v. 34 He shall exalt you to inherit the land

#### **Psalm 37:18 (NKJV)**

**18 The LORD knows the days of the upright, And their inheritance shall be forever.**

In contrast...

### **Slide # 12**

- v. 9 For evildoers shall be cut off
- v. 22 But those cursed by Him shall be cut off
- v. 28 But the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off
- v. 34 When the wicked are cut off
- v. 38 The future of the wicked shall be cut off

**35 I have seen the wicked in great power, And spreading himself like a native green tree.**

**36 Yet he passed away, and behold, he was no more; Indeed I sought him, but he could not be found.**

The big shots of this world who make much of themselves are quickly forgotten. Soon they pass away and are no more! Their whole world just that quickly comes to nothing!

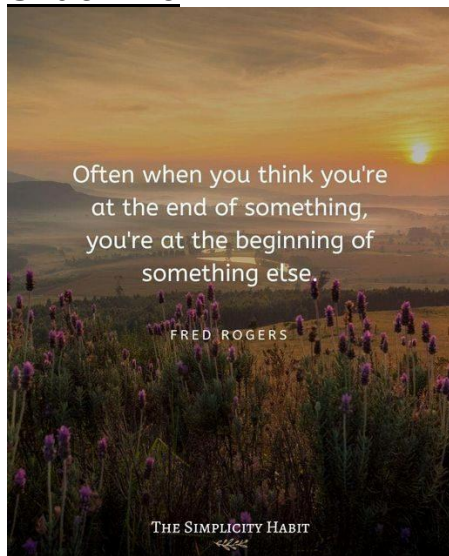
**37 Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; For the future of that man is peace.**

How wonderful to have PEACE! To have peace with God through Jesus and to have the peace of God in your heart is really to have everything!

**38 But the transgressors shall be destroyed together; The future of the wicked shall be cut off.**

What a contrast: peace versus being destroyed and cut off! Life is ultimately about eternal destiny.

**Slide # 13**



When you get to the end of this life what will it be the beginning of?

**Slide # 14**

**Matthew 25:46 (NKJV)**

**46** And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

This whole Psalm – Psalm 37 – has David in wisdom telling us to live in light of eternity. When you consider the end – where will you be? That is the ultimate issue!

**39 But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; He is their strength in the time of trouble.**

Here is the bottom line. The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD. He is our strength in time of trouble. Really, God is our everything! He is our Savior and He is our Strength. We look to Him for all we need!

**40 And the LORD shall help them and deliver them; He shall deliver them from the wicked, And save them, Because they trust in Him.**

In the end God will deliver His people for all eternity from the wicked! In eternity we will never have to deal with the wicked again. They will be forever cut off from God and His people!

And the reason God will do this for His people is because they TRUST in Him! This is the defining mark of God’s people. They TRUST IN HIM!

**Psalm 37:3 (NKJV)**

**3** Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

TRUST in the LORD – the very BEST is yet to be!

**Psalm 37:5 (NKJV)**

**5** Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.

Indeed He will!

Trust in the LORD!