

### ***PSALMS 37:1-11***

***1 Fret not yourself because of evildoers;  
be not envious of wrongdoers!***

***2 For they will soon fade like the grass  
and wither like the green herb.***

***3 Trust in the Lord, and do good;  
dwell in the land and befriend  
faithfulness.<sup>[b]</sup>***

***4 Delight yourself in the Lord,  
and he will give you the desires of  
your heart.<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to  
the Lord;***

***trust in him, and he will act.  
6 He will bring forth your righteousness  
as the light, and your justice as the  
noonday.***

***7 Be still before the Lord and wait  
patiently for him; fret not yourself over  
the one who prospers in his way, over  
the man who carries out evil devices!***

***8 Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath!  
Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.***

***9 For the evildoers shall be cut off,  
but those who wait for  
the Lord shall inherit the land.***

***10 In just a little while, the wicked will  
be no more;***

***though you look carefully at his  
place, he will not be there.***

***11 But the meek shall inherit the land  
and delight themselves in abundant  
peace.***

Last Week you may recall our 3 main points:

#### **1. “FRET NOT YOURSELF BECAUSE OF EVILDOERS” V.1**

We considered: Matthew 6: 25-34 for example Jesus says, “Do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body what you will put on.”

And, considering the call to courageous leadership we considered Joshua 1:6-9, which calls leaders to meditate on God’s word day and night, being careful doers of God’s word, for then God grants success, prosperity and favor, whereas if we fail to do this then we could easily end up as fearful King Ahaz, in Isaiah 7:3-14.

#### **2. “TRUST IN THE LORD, AND DO GOOD” V.3**

How do we move from fear and anxiety to courage? I believe it ultimately comes from knowing and trusting in the LORD, and being committed to doing good. There is a courage that comes from knowing God. Knowing God is the most important thing we can do in this lifetime. The knowledge of God will change everything about us for the better, and forever.

Scripture calls us to be still and know that God is God. God tells us to wait upon Him. David spoke of thirsting for God more than a dear thirsts for water.

1 Peter 1: 15-16 “But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

Similarly, Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the LORD, with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.”

God is not some sort of cosmic killjoy. God is awesome, and wonderful. He is the source of our joy, and confidence, that is why believers are commanded to delight ourselves in the Lord!

#### **3. “DELIGHT YOURSELF IN THE LORD, AND HE WILL GIVE YOU THE DESIRES OF YOUR HEART” V.4**

King David was referred to as a “man after God’s own heart”. David loved the LORD and truly delighted in the LORD. Therefore, we should guard our heart, as it is the wellspring of life.

### BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: MONDAY AT 5:00 -5:30 PM, CAPITOL HILL BANQUET ROOM

JUDGES: WEDNESDAY AT NOON – 1:00 PM CONTACT ME FOR MORE INFORMATION

# Arkansas

---

Today, we will continue through verses 5-11.

We are admonished in three major ways:

1. **“COMMIT YOUR WAY TO THE LORD AND YOU WILL BE REVEALED AS LIGHT” VV.5-6**

## What does it mean to commit your way to the LORD?

At minimum it requires familiarity with God, and trust in His ways. All of God’s ways lead to life, therefore committing your way to the Lord requires investing in that which is dear to God’s heart, namely the connecting and reconciling of people to God, caring for widows and orphans in their distress, strengthening and purifying Christ’s bride, His church, fulfilling the Great Commission. Also, doing all things with integrity, and honor, and honoring God in all that we do. Similarly, investing with our time, talents and treasure in His marvelous kingdom, where neither moth, nor rust, nor thief can destroy.

This Psalm reveals a real struggle believers may experience internally and even externally, when the world attempts to take advantage of them, and do them harm. Temporal harm may be experienced by God’s people when another lies or cheats and attempts to obscure one’s motives and actions. But the encouragement of the psalmist and ultimately of the LORD is that by committing your way to the LORD, the LORD, can “bring forth your righteousness as light, and your justice as the noonday”.

2. **“COMMIT TO PURSUING GODLINESS, AND YOU WILL AVOID SELF-SABOTAGE” VV. 7-8**

When evildoers cause distress, we may be tempted to respond either anxiously, or with anger. Both are detrimental. We may also try to respond in other ways that are less than helpful. Maybe you can list a few? However, the time-tested response of the Psalmist is to rest in the LORD and wait for Him. Waiting is not passive. Like a soldier standing guard, we are actively waiting on God, we are alert, we are reading, listening,

praying, memorizing, and meditating on the Word of God. Thy word I have hid in my heart that I may not sin against you oh LORD. How can a young man keep his way clean? By keeping it according to your Word, which is a light unto our path and a lamp unto our feet. Thus we keep our way according to the LORD, and we similarly pursue godliness.

As we rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him, we do not move faster or get ahead of the LORD, but instead we wait patiently, and we refrain from fretting. V7. We trust that the LORD sees the wicked who brings evil schemes to pass. Therefore, when we are tempted to become sinfully angry, we can remind ourselves that we are committed to God’s ways, and pursuing godliness, and this will aid us in ceasing from anger and forsaking wrath V.8. This will lead us to pursue and maintain meekness. By avoiding the sinful anger and wrath, we make sure that we do not become guilty ourselves, or self-sabotage. When we have been sinned against, we may be tempted to return evil for evil, but this, God clearly forbids. Therefore we trust, in God, rest in God, wait patiently for Him, refraining ourselves from every evil way.

3. **“COMMIT TO PURSUING MEEKNESS, AND GAIN THE DESIRES OF YOUR HEART” VV.9-11**

What is meekness? This is an equestrian term, that implies strength under control. Meekness is not weakness, but strength under control, like a stallion that is fully trained, we need to exercise self-control.

God will deal perfectly with evil doers, if not in this lifetime, then certainly in the life to come. Vengeance is mine declares the LORD, therefore we are to leave room for God’s wrath, while remaining wise as a serpent, yet gentle as doves. VV. 9-11 conveys this idea. Whereas Meekness is the way that best represents God’s people, and ambassadors. The bonus is that God rewards them with a great inheritance, and they will delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

In the end the wicked will be cut-off from God, and His kingdom, whereas those in Christ will experience the full measure of all that it means to experience eternal life.