

A pass through The Psalms: **Week 16: Psalm 37 Part 1**

There are plenty of things to worry about in this rapidly decaying world...and David is going to rattle off many instructions for the believer on **how & why to live well in a fallen world**.

1-2 - Imperatives: Fret not over evildoers (v1) Be not envious of wrongdoers (v1)

Reasons: they will fade like grass (v1) they will wither like herbs (v1)

Application: _____ be jealous of the wicked or _____ what they have or do.

Reasons: They will wither away...there will be _____ about them to envy.

3-4 - Imperatives: Trust in the Lord (v3) Do good (v3) Dwell in the land (v3) Befriend faithfulness (v3)

Delight yourself in the Lord (v4)

Application: Instead of worrying and getting _____ over the prosperity of the wicked; trust God, do good, stay near the Lord & be _____ in all you do.

Application: Focus your attention & energy on _____ in the Lord.

Reasons: God will give you the desires of your heart (v4)

What does it mean to “delight in the Lord...”?

What does it mean to delight in chocolate cake? Or your children? Or the Steelers? Or Money?

Essentially to delight in these lesser things means;

Taking **real joy** in being with and experiencing with, **desiring to** be with and wanting to experience **the benefit of, being convinced of the value of, trusting or hoping in the perceived/promised reward/benefit of**

Reward: When we delight in the Lord, he will give us the ‘desire of our heart’ ...*not that he will give us all that our heart currently desires*, rather he will give our heart the desire for that which is ultimately desirable (himself) and we will receive it.

5-6 - Imperatives: Commit your way to the Lord (v5) Trust in the Lord (v5)

Reasons: God will act. (v5) God will declare you righteous (v6) God will vindicate you (v6)

Application: _____ your way to the Lord, trust in him...and he will _____ on your behalf!

What does it mean to “commit our way to the Lord...”?

See Ps 119:105, Prov 3:5, Josh 1:8

When we commit our way to God and we trust in him he will...

- **Make us shine righteously** (*declare us to be righteous*)
- **Vindicate our name** (*clear of blame or suspicion, prove to be right*)
Before Himself and before the scoffers (v1-2, 7)

Personal Notes:

7 - Imperatives: Be still before the Lord (v7) Wait patiently (v7) Fret not over the wicked (v7)

8-9 - Imperatives: Refrain from anger (v8) Forsake wrath (v8) Fret not (v8) Wait for the Lord (v9)

Application: Be still and _____ for God to act!

Application: Don't _____ when the wicked prevail. _____ anger, wrath & worry.

Reasons: Worry leads to evil (v8) Evildoers will be cut off. (v9) 'Waiters' will inherit the land (v9)

10 - Reasons: In time the wicked will be no more (v10) The wicked will be removed (v10)

Reminder: Those who do not delight in the Lord, those who do not commit their ways to him, those who do not trust in him & do good & persist in evil will be cut off, removed, judged & punished.

11 - Reasons: The meek will inherit the land (v11) They'll be happy in perfect peace (v11)

Reminder: Those who do delight in the Lord, those who commit their ways to him by trusting & obeying him & persist in goodness will be vindicated, will be defended, will be raised up & will inherit the kingdom of God & receive ultimate joy.

Summary: The _____ for not envying the lost when they succeed in disobedience and evil is to _____ their utterly awful, joyless & 'successless' fate in the future.

Summary: The motivation for enduring in glad obedience to God in the midst of suffering & lack of present results is to look to the _____ of a promised future where all of God's children will be vindicated, rewarded and will _____ endless joy!

"The fight of faith in the Christian life a fight for delight. It's a fight to believe God's promises of happiness over the false promises of happiness we hear from the world, our fallen flesh, and the devil. And yes, it often involves denying ourselves pleasure, but only denying ourselves a lesser, viler pleasure in order to have a much higher pleasure." John Piper (Future Grace)

Personal Notes: