

A pass through The Psalms: **Week 17: Psalm 37 Part 2**

This section (v12-29) can be organized into 4 categories;

The _____ of the wicked life.

In verses 12-15 & 17 David expounds on the life of the wicked. Their efforts could be put in 2 categories:

1. Efforts to belittle, mock & frustrate the _____ of the upright.
2. Efforts to break, kill & destroy the _____ of the upright.

Ironically, the wicked receive the very demise they planned for the upright.

God laughs at the wicked and _____ turns their _____ against them. Their swords pierce their own heart and their bows & arms bent on evil shatter into pieces.

Application for us:

-If you are living uprightly in a sinful world, you must be _____ to face attacks from those around you. Expect _____, animosity, anger, jealousy and attempts to destroy your work, your spirit and your life.

-If you are a child of God, God _____ to go to battle for you. God promises to _____ you, to defend you and vindicate you.

The _____ of the righteous life.

In verses 16-19 & 25-26 David examines the life of the righteous.

David says that the righteous have it much _____. They will be upheld & receive an inheritance...even in famine they will have abundance. God is generous to them...so much so that they are a _____ to others.

17 promises are given to the upright in this section. Some are repeated, making 10 guarantees to the believer.

1. Attacks against the God-honoring, God-obeying person will ultimately be _____. **2x** (v12-15)
2. The God-honoring will have _____ w/ LESS than the wicked; who will have LESS w/ MORE. (v16)
3. God will _____ the righteous in the midst of attacks and when they falter. **2x** (v17, 24)
4. God will give the upright an eternal **inheritance** (heritage), they will be preserved forever. **3x** (v18, 28-29)
5. Even in the times of difficulty and evil, the upright will not be put to _____. (v19)
6. Even in the times of difficulty, suffering & crisis the upright will **have more than enough**/abundance. (v19)
7. God will sustain the upright, enabling them to **give generously** and be a blessing to others. **2x** (v21, 26)
8. The upright will inherit the _____ (Israel, Kingdom) and will dwell there forever. **2x** (v22, 29)
9. God will watch over, guide & establish the _____ of the upright. (v23)
10. The upright will never be **forsaken**, whether in the times of earthy trouble or eternal hope. **2x** (v25, 28)

Application for us:

-If you are a child of God, God promises to be and to do so much for you. Those promises should become the **framework** of your _____ and the **foundation** for your _____.

-Belief in the promises of God and the character & power of God to come through on those promises are truly the only thing that a believer has to hope in. Remembering them, _____ yourself of them, walking in them should be a daily function.

The _____ of the righteous.

In verses 23, 27, 28 David summarizes the responsibility of the righteous.

David calls the righteous to _____. The upright are to delight in walking with God, turn from evil & do good, while pursuing the justice that God loves.

In this section there are 5 directives given to the upright, several very directly and others clearly inferred.

1. The upright should **turn away from evil**. (v27)
2. The upright should **do good**. (v27)
3. God loves justice and he will not forsake those who pursue it. (**Pursue justice**) (v28)
4. The righteous should **be generous** and give to others in order to be a blessing. (v21, 26)
5. The believer should **order his steps by delighting in** the Lord. (v23)

A closer look: Verse 23

1. The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when **God** delights in the **believer's** way...
2. The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when the **believer** delights in **God's** way...

The best interpretation is to combine them:

(1) The steps of the believer will be firm & established by God, when God takes delight in the believers attitudes, actions and choices (way)... (2) and the way that the believer is able to please God in all his actions is to take true delight (joy) in the way (justice, mercy, purity) that God has established for man and to follow it.

Application for us:

-The major application for us is that we must begin to _____ (take joy, take pleasure, find the highest value) in God's prescribed way for living and therefore _____ greatly to live in it.

-If we focus on finding joy/delight in the ways of God (seeing them for our eternal benefit and ultimate wellbeing)...all other application & obedience will naturally _____.

The _____ of both.

In verses 18-19, 13, 20, 22, 24 David covers the destiny of the wicked & the righteous.

David clearly _____ the destinies of the upright & the wicked. The upright will receive an inheritance & dwell forever with the Lord. While the wicked will be cut off forever.

-The destiny of the wicked: The wicked will perish and vanish up in smoke. They will be cursed by the Lord and cut off forever. Their memory (legacy) will be blotted out forever.

-The destiny of the righteous: The upright will receive an inheritance & dwell forever with the Lord. The upright will be preserved forever and vindicated as righteous. Their memory (heritage) will be powerful and echo for ages.

What is the **fundamental difference** between the righteous & the wicked?

Key words in Psalm 37: Delight, Desire: 4 times Wait, Dwell, Still: 7 times Future, the Days: 4 times

The righteous **delight** themselves in the Lord himself and his ways. They see his instruction as the root of ultimate joy and they **desire** it above all, and therefore obey it.

The righteous **are content to be still (cease their efforts) and wait for the Lord**, understanding that God will certainly do what he has promised.

The righteous **are focused on, waiting for, trusting in a future day** when all of God's promises will be actualized.