

Motivation for doing what's **right**...
in a world that's going so **wrong**.



Elements Class: Psalm 37 (Part3)
Sunday, May 22. 10:45am

The motivation for doing what's right in a world that's going so wrong is:

The future hope of something better and the future reward that we have guaranteed to us as believers.

The motivation for doing what's right in a world that's going so wrong is:

Looking to the future and embracing the promises of God as **more satisfying** and more rewarding than the promises of **present sin**.

By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing to be mistreated with the people of God **rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin**. He considered the reproach of Christ **greater wealth** than the treasures of Egypt, for **he was looking to the reward**.

Hebrews 11:24-26

The motivation for doing what's right in a world that's going so wrong is:

The confident belief that what God **promises** to the believer is of greater benefit than the promises of fleeting satisfaction that the world **proposes**.

Now faith is the assurance of
things hoped for, the
conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

The motivation for doing what's right in
a world that's going so wrong is:

Keeping our **sight on** what is ahead and
what is **stored up** for those who believe.

Therefore, since you have been raised with Christ, **strive for the things above**, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. **Set your minds on things above**, not on earthly things.

Colossians 3:1-2

"What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" -- the things God has prepared for those who love him..."

1 Corinthians 2:9

All of Psalm 37 is **future oriented**. And the key phrase may be found in this 3rd section vs 37...

*“...there is a future
for the man of peace.”*

Let's briefly look at the 'future aspect' of this Psalm as it relates to the believer:



“he will give you the desires of your heart” (v4)

“**trust in him, and he will act**” (v5)

“**He will bring forth your righteousness**” (v6)

“those who wait for the LORD shall inherit
the land” (v9, v11, v22, 29)

“their heritage will remain forever” (v18)

“he shall not be cast headlong” (v24)

“so shall you dwell forever” (v27)

“he will not forsake his saints” (v28)

“The LORD will not abandon him” (v33)

**“will not let him be condemned
when he is brought to trial” (v33)**

“keep his way, and he will exalt you ” (v34)

“there is a future for the man of peace” (v37)

Let's briefly look at the 'future aspect' of this Psalm as it relates to the unbeliever:



“they will soon fade like the grass” (v2)

“the evildoers shall be cut off” (v9, v22, v28)

**“In just a little while, the wicked will be no
more...he will not be there” (v10)**

**“the Lord laughs at the wicked,
for he sees that his day is coming” (v13)**

“the arms of the wicked shall be broken” (v17)

“the wicked will perish” (v20)

“the future of the wicked shall be cut off” (v38)

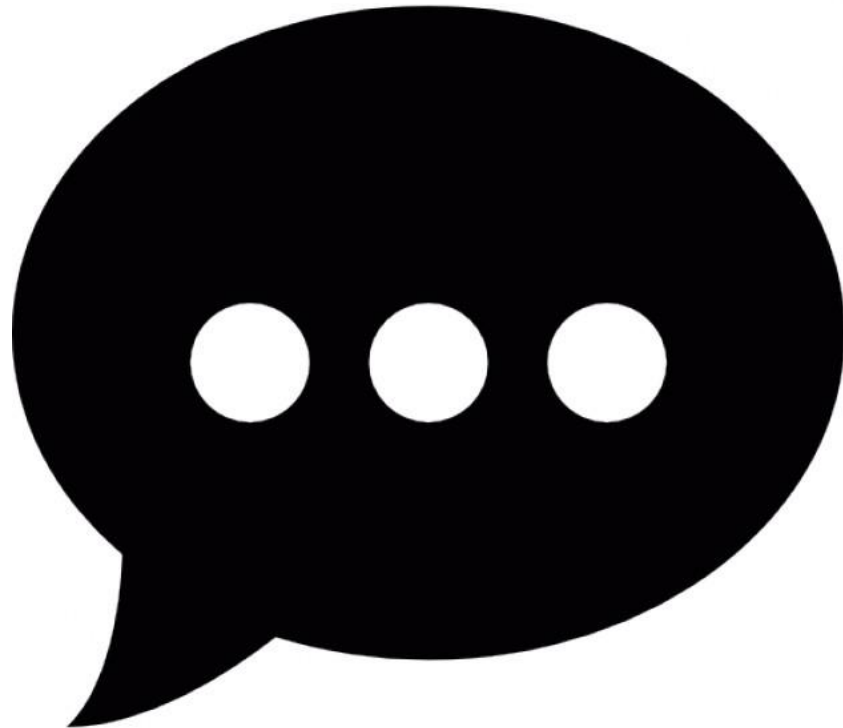
Psalm 37 is **a call to action for the believer**. A call to action **based on future promises/results**.



(30) The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice.



David says that the mouth of the believer will/should reflect the future hope that they have. Even in the midst of **struggle, suffering** and the wicked **succeeding**.



David says that the mouth of
the believer will/should focus on
two main areas:

Wisdom & Justice

The two words are:

(1) wisdom, skill, skillfully

**(2) judgement, verdict, ordinances,
trial, sentence, destruction**

The speech of the believer should be focused on skillfully sharing the **wisdom** of the ordinances of God in order to **warn** the wicked of the destruction and judgement headed their way!

(31) The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip.



David says that the heart of the believer is **saturated** with the word/instruction of God & his **steps** are firmly planted on it.



David says:

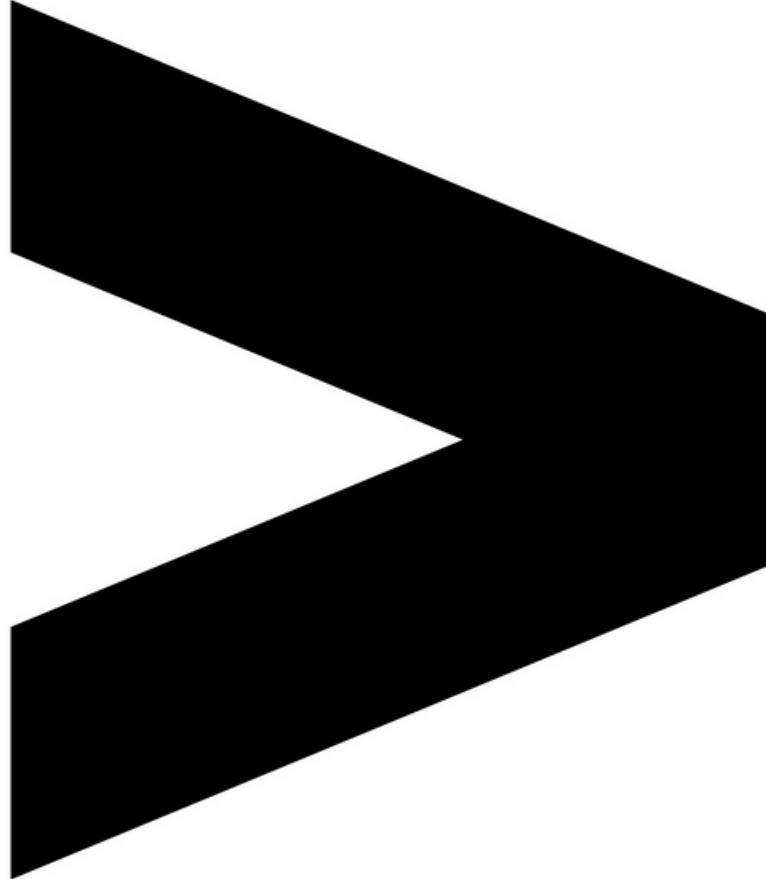
The **law**, the **instruction**, the **teaching** (Torah) of God is ever in his **heart**, before his **attention**, his **mind** is dwelt on it and is **celebrating** it (rejoicing in it).

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving
the soul...the precepts of the LORD are
right, rejoicing the heart...the rules of the
LORD are true, and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold...

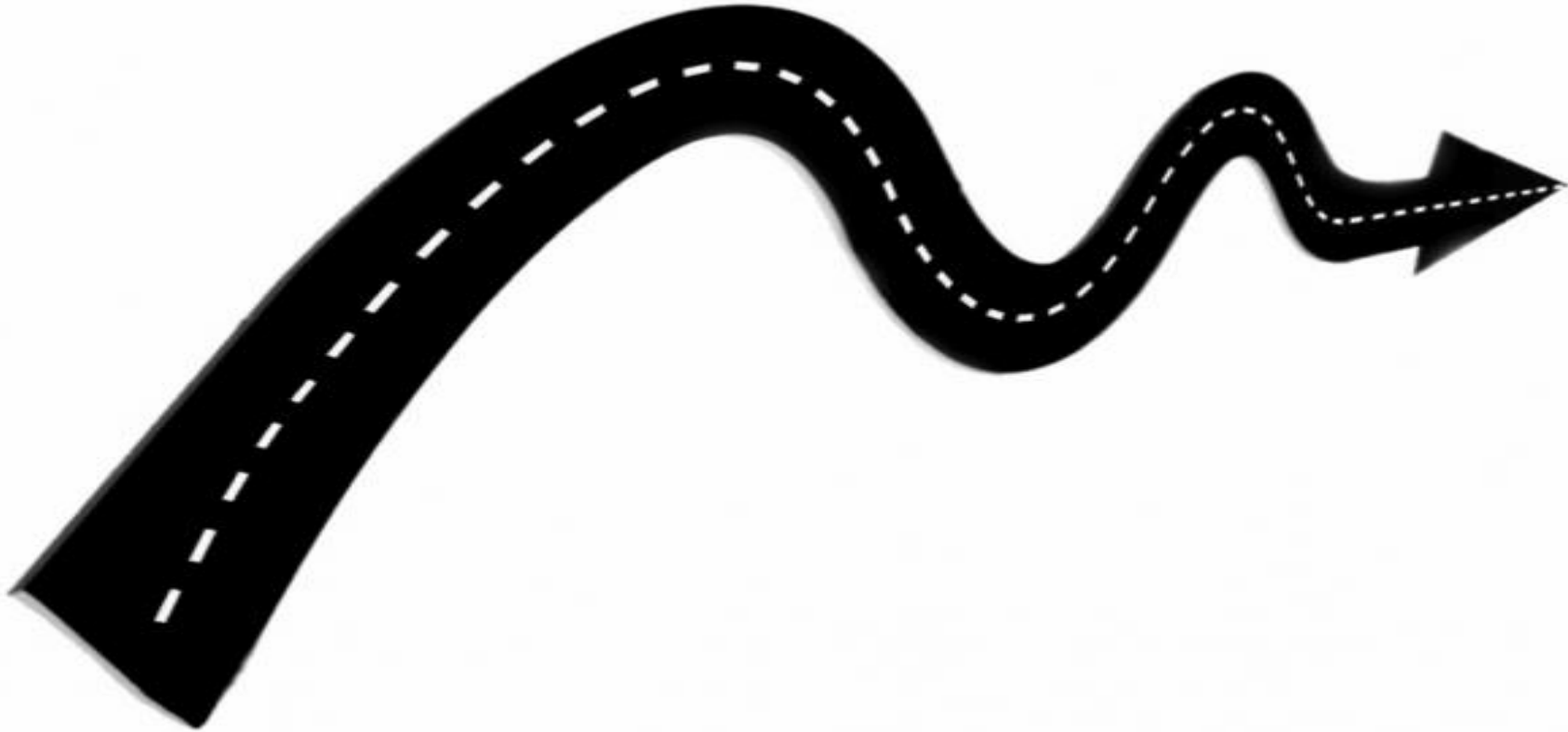
Psalms 19:7-10

...sweeter also than honey and
drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover,
by them is your servant warned; in
keeping them there is great reward
Psalm 19:10-11

David says that he can't get enough of God's instruction. He desires it more than whatever else is desirable...



...by getting God's instruction he is able to avoid pitfalls & store up more future reward. Like Moses, David's motivation was looking forward to the reward.



(32-33) The wicked watches for the
righteous and seeks to put him to death.
The LORD will not abandon him to his
power or let him be condemned when he
is brought to trial.

(1-2) Fret not yourself because of
evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!
For they will soon fade...

David says that the believer should not fret (worry) over the **success** of the **schemes** of the wicked because God is watching over the righteous. (37:1-2)

(34) **Wait** for the LORD and **keep** his way,
and he will exalt you to inherit the land...



David says that the believer should wait **patiently** for the future that the Lord has promised...



...but that waiting is not **passive**, it keeps
the way (path, road, instruction,
guidance) of the Lord in the meantime.



(37) Mark the blameless and behold the upright,
for there is a future for the man of peace.



37:37 may be the thesis verse for the whole chapter, it certainly is for the **3rd section**.

Let's take a deeper look because
our English versions may not give
the full understanding...

In English, we may take the verse
simply to mean:

*‘People (the lost, other believers)
should simply (passively) look on at
the upright (longingly) because
they have a great future.’*

This is true and right. It is a good call for the lost to take heed because of the believer.

However, this verse
(and entire Psalm) is more about a
call to action for the believer, with
an affirming basis.

Not once in Psalm 37 is the unbeliever told (instructed) to do anything...rather the believer is instructed over and over and reminded of the fate of the righteous & wicked.

A common way to interpret texts is to study/read them backwards (especially texts with **for, because, therefore**):

*Mark the blameless and behold
the upright, for there is a future
for the man of peace.*

Let's flip the portions:

*Because there is a future for the man of
peace... the upright are beholding...
the blameless are marking.*

Aramaic Bible in Plain English:

*Keep perfection and choose integrity,
because there is a good end for men of
peace.*

Mark the blameless...

(1) The blameless, man, upright...

(2) Careful, careful to keep, giving
heed, heed yourself, pay attention,
perform, observing, watching,
remaining...

In other words:

The blameless are careful to **keep** God's instruction, they are ever watching, paying attention and heed God's warning/instruction.

Behold the upright...

(1) Upright one, the one who is...

(2) Observe, regard, display, show,
appear, public...

In other words:

The upright are careful to **observe** God's instruction and are able to **display** or show his justice, instruction etc. to the world.

For there is a future
for the man of peace...

(1) Because, since, certainly, truly...

(2) The outcome, the final end, the final
period, the future...

In other words:

The upright are careful to observe God's instruction **because** (since) they have the final, secured outcome of peace, eternal prosperity and reward.

SUMMARY



#1

The righteous, that is, the God-fearing, God-honoring person is to **obey God, be faithful, speak truth, live uprightly, not fret etc.** when the wicked succeed in evil.

#2

Seeing God's instruction as
more fulfilling and
more to be desired than anything
is the key to daily obedience.

#3

**Remembering the superiority of the
promised future and reward
that God has in store for the believer
is the way we overcome
the temptation to follow the world &
and the way we faithfully obey.**