

A pass through The Psalms: **Week 18: Psalm 37 Part 3**

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

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

-Looking to the future and embracing the promises of God as **more** _____ and more rewarding than the promises of **present** _____. (Hebrews 11:24-26)

-The confident belief that what God _____ to the believer is of greater benefit than the promises of fleeting satisfaction that the world _____. (Hebrews 11:1)

-Keeping our _____ on what is ahead and what is _____ up for those who believe. (Colossians 3:1-2, 1 Corinthians 2:9)

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

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

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

(v30) 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 _____.

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 _____ of the ordinances of God in order to _____ the wicked of the destruction and judgement headed their way!

(v31) David says that the heart of the believer is _____ with the word/instruction of God & his **steps** are firmly planted on it.

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).

See Psalm 19:7-11 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.

(v32-33, 1-2) David says that the believer should not fret (worry) over the _____ of the _____ of the wicked because God is watching over the righteous.

(v34) David says that the believer should wait _____ for the future that the Lord has promised.....but that waiting is not _____, it keeps the way (path, instruction, guidance) of the Lord in the meantime.

Personal Notes:

(v37) **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.'

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 _____ 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 _____ God's instruction and are able to _____ 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 _____ (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.