

Psalm 37 - The Character and Fruit of the Righteous

March 12, 2020

Never fear, nor be envious of, the wrongdoers. Don't be deceived by apparent, temporal success. Remember their final end.

Psalm 37:1-2 ESV Of David.

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.

Ecclesiastes 8:10-13 ESV

10 Then I saw the wicked buried. They used to go in and out of the holy place and were praised in the city where they had done such things. This also is vanity.

11 Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil.

12 Though a sinner does evil a hundred times and prolongs his life, yet I know that it will be well with those who fear God, because they fear before him.

13 But it will not be well with the wicked, neither will he prolong his days like a shadow, because he does not fear before God.

Don't be conformed to this world's obsession with self-promotion and self-gratification. Instead of pushing your agenda, your status, your promotion - be faithful to do good and what's right.

Psalm 37:3 ESV

3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.

Isaiah 1:16-20 ESV

16 Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil,

17 learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

18 "Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

19 If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land;

20 but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Micah 6:6-8 ESV

6 With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

When your heart is disciplined to be satisfied in God alone, He delights in making your life good and enjoyable. The more your satisfaction is in God, the more your appetite and tastes change for the heavenly, the less you need from this world.

Psalm 37:4 ESV

4 Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Philippians 4:4 ESV

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

Isaiah 55:1-3 ESV

1 "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

3 Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

Psalm 16:11 ESV

11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

When I am confident in God's care and plan for my life, that sets me free from selfish ambition, striving to execute my own plan. When we commit our way into God's hands, He will defend us and execute what is right and just.

Psalm 37:5-6 ESV

5 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.

Philippians 2:3-5 ESV

3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:5 ESV

5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.