

## **PSALM 37 – The Heritage of the Righteous and the Calamity of the Wicked!**

3/19/22 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com)

**“NEAR TO THE HEART OF GOD”** – Cleland McAfee; Tom Fette (2:06)

*Psa 37:4 Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.*

*There is a place of quiet rest, Near to the heart of God;  
A place where sin cannot molest, Near to the heart of God.*

*Refrain:*

*O Jesus, blest Redeemer, Sent from the heart of God; Hold us, who wait before Thee, Near to the heart of God.*

*There is a place of full release, Near to the heart of God;  
A place where all is joy and peace Near to the heart of God. (Refrain)  
Hold us, who wait before Thee, Near to the heart of God.*

**PSALM 37** Let's turn now in our Bibles to the 37th psalm. An acrostic, easier to memorize, Psalm. A didactic, one that is filled with instruction, something that we are to learn from. David in this psalm gives us a series of exhortations to begin with. It is unknown whether or not David was really addressing this psalm to us or addressing it to himself. David had a way of talking to himself about spiritual things and about his feelings. He would encourage himself in the LORD. He would say, Look, David, the LORD is able. The LORD will do it. He would encourage himself. It could be that this psalm is one of those places where David is sort of just encouraging himself in the LORD But what he is saying is good for us!

**PSALM 37 - The Heritage of the Righteous and the Calamity of the Wicked! He Will Not Forsake His Saints**

**Psa 37:1 A Psalm of David. Do not fret** (means to worry, as used in this Psalm!) **because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.**

- Fretting, worrying. There are words that express this common characteristic of man. In the New Testament, the word is translated *careful*, which is actually full of care. Be careful or anxious for nothing. That is, “be full of care for nothing; but in all things with prayer and supplication let your requests be made known unto God” (**Philippians 4:6**). Here, we are exhorted really not to worry because of evildoers. Evildoers are a consternation. We are prone to fret over those that are troubling us. Maybe someone has got it in for you. They are doing their best to really get you in trouble, trying to make you look bad. Lying about you. Don't worry. Don't fret concerning the evildoers!
- **Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.** Asaph, the chief musician of David, wrote Psalm 73. He spoke about his being envious when he saw the prosperity of the wicked. He almost tripped up over this issue. Sometimes when we see the workers of iniquity, how foolish it is to be envious of their possessions, the things that they have. Because the wicked are going to be cut off.

**Psa 37:2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, And wither as the green herb.**

- Heere is the reason not to worry! They'll be soon cut down! Life is but a vapor. It appears for a moment and then vanishes. The time that you may be here on earth in comparison with eternity is just as nothing! It's like a breath! It is amazing how people take this short time that we have and waste it so tragically! People who live for this life only, are missing it completely! This life is nothing compared with eternity! Yet where we spend eternity is being determined on how we live this life. There's only one life, it will soon be past. And only what you do for Christ is going to last. The rest is wood, hay and stubble. It's going to burn.

**Psa 37:3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.**

- **Trust in the LORD**, the second of the exhortations. Don't worry. The cure for worry is trust. So, trust in the LORD!
- **Do good! Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.** If we trust in the LORD, He will take care of us. Now Jesus put these two things together in the Sermon on the Mount. As He told us that we weren't to take anxious thought for tomorrow. What you're going to eat, what you're going to drink. What you're going to wear. For after all of these things do the heathen worry. But if you will seek first the kingdom of God, His righteousness; these things will be added to you! (**Matthew 6:26-33**). Then He tells us to consider the birds of the air. They don't worry about eating. They just go out and eat. And your Father feeds them! They don't plant or gather into barns. Your Father feeds them. Your Father will feed you! Trust in the LORD, you'll be

fed. The thing that we often worry about is our food. “But trust in the LORD dwell in the land and feed on His faithfulness!

***Psa 37:4 Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.***

- *Delight thyself also in the LORD!* A delightful scripture! If we delight ourselves also in the LORD. If He is our delight, the joy of our life, we just love fellowshiping with Him, being conscious of His presence! Oh, just that delighting in the LORD. If you “delight yourself also in the LORD; *he will give you the desires of your heart.* This is not a blank check as people often think. So often people, sort of seek to use God for their own ends. If I am delighting myself in the LORD, He is truly the joy, the delight of my life, then the desires of my heart are for Him and for the things of the LORD! I want a close relationship for the development and the deepening of my fellowship with Him. That’s the desire of my heart. The interesting thing for the child of God is that the LORD writes His laws in our hearts.
- The way God leads us as His children today is very unique in the way God reveals His will to my life. When I’m walking in real fellowship with God, when I’m seeking God, when He is first, I’m delighting myself in Him! What He does in my heart is his placing His desires, so that I desire to do a certain thing. Then, I think, Oh my, that would just be tremendous. Oh, if I could only do that. The glorious thing is I discover that’s exactly what God wants me to do, which results in the doing of the will of God is never a burden.
- The doing of the will of God is always just a fulfilling joy. It’s just a glorious thing to be doing the will of God because He has written His law on the fleshly tablets of my heart. It is just blessed. Jesus said, “I delight to do Your will” (*Psalms 40:8*). It is that way for everyone truly walking with the LORD! As He puts His desires in my heart, I really delight doing His will! It’s the joy, the delight of my life. Nothing I’d rather do.

***Psa 37:5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.***

- *Commit your way unto the LORD!* So, trust in the Lord. Delight in the Lord. Commit your way to the Lord. The focus of your life is on the Lord. That’s the whole secret is focusing yourself on Him. “Seek first the kingdom of God, His righteousness.” Focus in on the Lord. As you focus in on the Lord, He takes care of everything else. Life is glorious. It’s just wonderful joy when you’re focused on the Lord, committing your way unto the Lord!
- There is in commitment, a rest. You cannot really always rest in faith. Because many times we struggle with faith. Because sometimes we seek to have faith for something that isn’t the will of God. That puts me within an inner turmoil. I’m desiring something that the Lord doesn’t really want for me. I am believing the Lord for it. There are a lot of people that are in this struggle of trying to somehow generate faith to get things to satisfy their own flesh. And God knows better. So, they struggle.
- Faith and prayer were never intended by God as instruments to accomplish your will on the earth. They were instruments by which God allows us to come in harmony with Him in the accomplishing of His purposes on the earth. That’s really where it’s at! As Jesus said, “Nevertheless not what I will, Thy will be done” (Mark 14:36). In that commitment to God’s will, there is rest. But not until.
- The LORD oftentimes in the issues of life allows us to come to the place where we can do no more. We’ve struggled with it, we have come up against that spot where I can’t go any further. There’s nothing more I can do. I am helpless.
- Sometimes God lets us get to the place where man is helpless. The doctor says I am sorry, there is just nothing that we can do. Medical science can’t help you. That’s all there is. Many people at that point that just go absolutely to pieces. Oh, it’s terrible, the doctor said there’s nothing to do. And we just go to pieces. But I believe that many times the Lord allows us to come to that place of the end of our resources and man’s resources, that we might discover the glorious resources of God! He brings us to that place where we can do nothing but commit. Well Lord, it’s in Your hands. I’m just going to trust in You, Lord, to work out whatever You want in my life. If You want to take my life, Hey, I’ll be with You! If You want to leave me around here for a while, Lord, I’m going to serve You.
- As Paul said, “For me to live is Christ, to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21). When you come to that commitment to the Lord, where it really doesn’t matter anymore, then I’m resting! Whichever way it happens, alright Lord, it’s in Your hands. It’s Your will. You accomplish Your will, and I can always rest in God’s will being done because I know that God’s will is best even though I may not understand it. I know it’s best!
- It’s always great when I am brought to that place of commitment where I cease from my trying to work it out or figure it out. I just say, Okay, Lord, whatever. You work it out! I’m just a flunky around here. You’re the One that’s going to stand or fall. It’s Your problem.
- When you learn to turn it over to the LORD. Just say, LORD, that’s Your problem, You take care of it. You just rest because you know that He is able to take care of it and He will take care of it. So “commit your ways unto the Lord,”
- *Trust also in Him; and He’ll bring it to pass.* His will! He’ll bring His will to pass in the situation. So that whatever comes is what God wants and that’s what I want, too!

***Psa 37:6 He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday.***

- God is for righteousness and God is for justice! As I commit these issues to the LORD, God will work it out in the right, just way. Then, if I have committed, the next exhortation really isn't necessary because it's the natural outcome of commitment.

***Psa 37:7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.***

- *Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him!* That's the natural result of commitment is rest. And then back to this fretting,
- *Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. not thyself because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked devices to pass.* Don't fret over the evil. God will take care of them, too. We don't need to fret over them. We don't need to worry about them. God is going to take care. I have found the Lord is perfectly capable of defending Himself. When you see yourself as a defender of the Lord, you see yourself in a peculiar light, I'm sure. He doesn't really need me to defend Him. He's perfectly capable of defending Himself.
- I think that many times we make a mistake in trying to defend the Bible against the attacks. The Bible is like a "sharp two-edged sword" (Hebrews 4:12). You don't defend a sword, you use it. Instead of trying to defend the Bible, use it! Just quote the scriptures and use the sword. Don't defend the sword. I've got a sharp sword here. This sword is Sheffield steel. Honed to the finest edge and it's Sheffield steel, this sword is. And you're defending the sword. You don't need to, just use it. Don't have to defend the Bible. You don't have to prove that it's the word of God. You don't have to prove that it's inspired. Just use it! Quote it! The word of God itself is like a sharp two-edged sword. Not to be defended but to be used!

***Psa 37:8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret—it only causes harm.***

- *Cease from anger.* Don't be stewing. Don't be upset.
- *And forsake wrath!* It's not going to do any good to get angry over that situation. I have a tendency towards this. I read of some of the things that are going on and I have a tendency to get angry, to get upset. I can just hear or read about something and get pretty angry at the conditions of the world. "Cease from anger, forsake wrath." I have to read this quite often.
- *Do not fret—it only causes harm.* That I have to do when I read these things because I could easily get involved in a vigilante group.

***Psa 37:9 For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the LORD, They shall inherit the earth.***

- *For evildoers shall be cut off.* You find yourself on the same boat. ***But those who wait on the LORD, They shall inherit the earth.*** I do not think that as Christians can't just stand by and wring our hands and say, Oh, isn't it horrible the way evil is prevailing in this world and feel that there's just nothing we can do. Yes, there is something we can do and should be doing! Recognizing that evil comes from Satan. It's a spiritual thing. There's a spirit of evil. We need to stand against it with the spiritual weapons that God has given to us which is prayer.
- I think that one of the greatest problems in our society today is **that though conditions in the world around us are desperate, the church isn't desperate before the Lord in prayer!** And I think the time has come when we need to recognize, we are in a real spiritual battle. We must begin to enter into this battle with the weapons that the Lord has given us. But it isn't going out in a vigilante group to bomb the abortion clinics or whatever. It is getting together and praying! Through prayer, to tear down the strongholds of the enemy. How we need to pray. "They that wait upon the Lord" (Isaiah 40:31). We need to do that. *But those who wait on the LORD, They shall inherit the earth.*

***Psa 37:10 For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; Indeed, you will look carefully for his place, But it shall be no more.***

- *For yet a little while, and the wicked shall be no more!* The wicked are going to be cut off. They don't last.
- We just need to look at some of the wicked people. Look at their place. They're not around anymore.

***Psa 37:11 But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.***

- Jesus said this, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." (Matthew 5:5).

***Psa 37:12 The wicked plots against the just, And gnashes at him with his teeth.***

- At this point, he's going to start making contrast between the wicked and the righteous. We're going to get a lot of contrast here. So "the wicked plots against and gnashes at the just.

***Psa 37:13 The Lord laughs at him, For He sees that his day is coming.***

- I get comfort in that, too. When I see the wicked and they just seem to be so blasphemous against God, I think, Well man, your day's coming. Now I know that that isn't a totally right attitude. I should be praying for them more.

***Psa 37:14 The wicked have drawn the sword And have bent their bow, To cast down the poor and needy, To slay those who are of upright conduct.***

- But God will turn their sword against them.

***Psa 37:15 Their sword shall enter their own heart, And their bows shall be broken.***

***Psa 37:16 A little that a righteous man has Is better than the riches of many wicked.***

- I like this verse! Paul, in the New Testament said, “But godliness with contentment is great riches” (1 Timothy 6:6). Want to know what real riches are? Just walking with God and being content. Because you see, those that possess so very, very much quite often are not satisfied with what they have. They’re spending their whole life to get more.
- Walking rightly with the LORD, we are far richer than the wealthy, who can’t take one single thing with them. They have to leave it all here. The contentment that I have as a child of God makes me rich. There really is no worldly thing that we desire. Godliness with contentment, that’s really rich.

***Psa 37:17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, But the LORD upholds the righteous.***

- Notice the contrast: “Wicked, righteous. A little that a righteous man has is better than the riches of the wicked. The arms of the shall be broken but the righteous will be upheld by the LORD!

***Psa 37:18 The LORD knows the days of the upright, And their inheritance shall be forever.***

- The riches I have are forever! They are eternal riches. The treasures that I’ve laid up in heaven, they’re mine forever! I’m not taking it with me. I’ve sent it ahead! It’s on deposit! It is there!

***Psa 37:19 They shall not be ashamed in the evil time, And in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.***

- The Lord will take care of you. If you will just put Him first in your life.

***Psa 37:20 But the wicked shall perish; And the enemies of the LORD, Like the splendor of the meadows, shall vanish. Into smoke they shall vanish away.***

- When they would offer the sacrifices, as they would butcher the lamb, the priest would take the fat and the entrails of the lamb and place it upon the fire of the altar. As the fat of the lamb was placed upon the fire of the altar, of course, the oil and the fat and all would just really flame up, becoming quite an intense flame. The smoke ascends up. The Psalmist said that the wicked are like the fat of the lambs. They’re just going to be consumed into smoke. They’ll just consume away.

***Psa 37:21 The wicked borrows and does not repay, But the righteous shows mercy and gives.***

- Another contrast! The wicked takes, borrows and does not repay! The righteous is merciful. He gives and not takes!

***Psa 37:22 For those blessed by Him shall inherit the earth, But those cursed by Him shall be cut off.***

- What an important verse, I love it! Those who love Him shall be blessed and are promised to inherit the earth. Whereas the wicked, the cursed, shall be cut off!

***Psa 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way.***

- I use that scripture a lot. What a wonderful verse! The steps of a good man are ordered,” God orders our steps. And then God delights as we walk in His way. “And God delights in His way.”

***Psa 37:24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.***

- *Though he fall*, and who of us haven’t fallen? *He shall not be utterly cast down*. In other words, you don’t lie there. Often, it has been said, the sin really isn’t so much in falling. It is lying the mud! You may fall in the mud now and then, but you don’t lie there! You don’t stay there! Though he falls, he will not be utterly cast down!
- *For the LORD upholds him with His hand!* The Lord will pick you up with His hand. He takes you by the hand and lifts you out.

***Psa 37:25 I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread.***

- David said, I’m now an old man. I’ve been around. I have never seen God forsake the righteous! I’ve never seen God’s descendants begging bread!

***Psa 37:26 He is ever merciful, and lends; And his descendants are blessed.***

***Psa 37:27 Depart from evil, and do good; And dwell forevermore.***

***Psa 37:28 For the LORD loves justice, And does not forsake His saints; They are preserved forever, But the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off.***

- Oh, what contrast we have here! That is where the real contrast comes—in the eternal. That is what we need to look at. The eternal effects of the righteous life. The eternal results of the righteous life and the eternal results of the wicked life. The wicked is cut off. The righteous is preserved.

***Psa 37:29 The righteous shall inherit the land, And dwell in it forever.***

- That promise of eternal life!

***Psa 37:30 The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, And his tongue talks of justice.***

***Psa 37:31 The law of his God is in his heart; None of his steps shall slide.***

***Psa 37:32 The wicked watches the righteous, And seeks to slay him.***

***Psa 37:33 The LORD will not leave him in his hand, Nor condemn him when he is judged.***

***Psa 37:34 Wait on the LORD, And keep His way, And He shall exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.***

- Oh, it's a beautiful promise! We just wait upon the Lord, keeping the Lord's ways! We will keep our heart in His path. We will inherit the land!

***Psa 37:35 I have seen the wicked in great power, And spreading himself like a native green tree.***

***Psa 37:36 Yet he passed away, and behold, he was no more; Indeed I sought him, but he could not be found.***

***Psa 37:37 Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; For the future of that man is peace.***

***Psa 37:38 But the transgressors shall be destroyed together; The future of the wicked shall be cut off.***

- What is the end of this path? Where is it leading me? The path of righteousness, the end of it is peace! The path of wickedness, the end of it is being cut off! The transgressors will be destroyed together! The end of the wicked shall be cut off!

***Psa 37:39 But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; He is their strength in the time of trouble.***

***Psa 37:40 And the LORD shall help them and deliver them; He shall deliver them from the wicked, And save them, Because they trust in Him.***

- There is much to digest in this latter portion of Psalm 37, in the contrast of the righteous and the wicked. The contrast of the lifestyles and the contrast of the end results of a life of wickedness versus the life of righteousness!
- And as you read this and as you meditate upon it, you can only come to one conclusion and that is: It pays to live a righteous life, where as it is complete folly to walk in wickedness!

#### ***CALL UPON THE LORD (5.22) Elevation Worship***

*We need no other hiding place Our hope is safe within Your name This we know, this we know You promise never to forsake What you began You will sustain This we know, this we know*

*I will call upon the Lord For He alone is **strong enough to save** Rise your shackles are no more For Jesus Christ Has broken every chain*

*All of the heavens and the earth Announce the fullness of Your worth This we know, this we know*

*d every enemy will flee As we declare your victory This we know, this we know*

*I will call upon the Lord For he alone is strong enough to save*

*Rise your shackles are no more For Jesus Christ Has broken every chain [x2]*

*Jesus' name will break every stronghold Freedom is ours when we call His name*

*Jesus' name above every other All hail the power of Jesus' name [x2]*

*I will call upon the Lord For He alone is strong enough to save*

*Rise your shackles are no more For Jesus Christ Has broken every chain [x2]*

#### **FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD LEADERS: -**

**Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation, including: Xi Jinping – China; Narendra Modi-India; Joe Biden – USA; Joko Widodo - Indonesia; Jair Bolsonaro - Brazil; Arif Alvi - Pakistan; Muhammadu Buhari - Nigeria; Hasina Wazed - Bangladesh; Vladimir Putin- Russia; Lopez Obrador – Mexico; Naftali Bennett – Israel; Olaf Scholtz – Germany; Boris Johnson – U.K.; Kim Jong-un – North Korea; Yoon Suk-yeol – South Korea.**

#### **PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE OFFICERS/MILITARY; ISRAEL:**