

“PSALMS WE NEED TO SING”

Psalm 37:12-20 (PART 2)

October 7, 2018

Psalms 37:12-20

*“The wicked plots against the just,
And gnashes at him with his teeth.
The Lord laughs at him,
For He sees that his day is coming.
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.
Their sword shall enter their own heart,
And their bows shall be broken.
A little that a righteous man has
Is better than the riches of many wicked.
For the arms of the wicked shall be broken,
But the Lord upholds the righteous.
The Lord knows the days of the upright,
And their inheritance shall be forever.
They shall not be ashamed in the evil time,
And in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.
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.”*

INTRODUCTION: Every Christ follower needs desperately to grasp the lessons taught here. David is writing because of his vast experiences in life,

which have prepared him to give some really good advice.

Can't teach this Psalm without addressing the main question:

“Why do the wicked seem to prosper and the righteous suffer?”

To the believer that knows the Word of God, it is no problem at all. The Psalmist teaches that in the sanctuary God reveals and explains His purpose and plan. It is here that we understand the end from the beginning. **“It's not what happens here, but hereafter that really counts.”**

This chapter deals with the:

- **PERPLEXITIES**
- **PROBLEMS**
- **PROVIDENCES**

Let me mention some of the good advice David gives:

1. Entrust your Goodness to God.
2. Enjoy Fellowship with God.
3. Expect Guidance from God.

4. Exercise Reliance upon God.

This chapter has so much enlightenment for believers.

1. A Good Man's life is Guided by God.
2. A Good Man's life Gladdens the heart of God.
3. A Good Man's life is Guarded by God.

VV7-11 calls for a calm surrender; creative silence is a rare commodity today, even in church worship services.

As we wait silently before God, we will experience his peace.

Also **VV7-11** speaks of being “**humble**” or “**meek**” **V11**; not weakness but **force under the control of faith.**

Two weeks ago, we dealt with:

I. THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD. 1-11 (The Lord can be trusted)

Today we move to verse 12 and following.

II. THE TRUSTWORTHINESS OF GOD

12-20

Since God understands our situation, we should not fear.

The wicked plot against the poor and needy (**7, 12, 32**). Like wild beasts, they desire to devour them, yet the Lord knows that their own judgment is coming. Their weapons will turn against them; **V15**.

ILLUSTRATION: HAMAN in Esther

Esther 7:10

“So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath subsided.”

Proverbs 26:23-27

**“Fervent lips with a wicked heart
Are like earthenware covered with silver
dross.
“He who hates, disguises it with his lips,
And lays up deceit within himself;
“When he speaks kindly, do not believe him,
For there are seven abominations in his heart;
“Though his hatred is covered by deceit,
His wickedness will be revealed before the
assembly.
Whoever digs a pit will fall into it,**

And he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him.”

God upholds the righteous **VV16-17**.

In **V18** “**know**” refers to much more than intellectual understanding, God knows what’s going on; but indicates that He is involved and caring for us daily.

Also in **V18** the suggestion of something beyond the needs of this life. The Psalmist catches a glimpse of the eternal.

V16 Righteous may have little but in the end, it will prove more than all the possessions of the wicked.

III. THE FAVOR OF GOD 21-31

(The Lord Blesses His People)

Note the generosity of the righteous **v21**

V21-22 The Lord blesses them first of all with provision of their daily needs.

This isn’t a promise for every believer at all times in all places, for many believers have died in poverty and hunger. It’s a generalization that proves true in so many cases that we can safely apply it to life.

V23-24 The Lord gives protection.
“Ordered” – secured, established

Jude 24

**“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,
And to present you faultless
Before the presence of His glory with
exceeding joy,”**

V25-26 The Lord gives His presence with His people. David is testifying to God’s faithfulness.

Luke 6:38

“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

V27-29 The Lord gives His power to His people. God gives righteousness in character and justice in conduct. **V28** is a reminder that God’s blessings on the godly continue in the lives of their children, but the descendants of the wicked are cut off.

V30-31 God gives His promises to His children in His word. God’s word in the heart is the secret of a holy life.

IV. THE FUTURE WITH GOD 32-40

These verses return to the main subject, the seeming prosperity of the wicked and the adversity of the righteous. Why do the godly suffer while the wicked seem to live it up?

3 images illustrate God's judgement of those who reject Him and rebel against His law.

1. The Court Trial 32-34
 2. The Tree 35-36
 3. The Rescue 37-40
- The Psalmist knows the Lord is the highest judge and He knows how to deliver the righteous.
 - The godly are pictured by the fruitful tree

Psalms 1:3

**“He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.”**

The ungodly by a luxurious (overbearing and towering) shrub or tree, planted in its native soil where its roots can go down deep **(35-36)**. Not only did the tree die and fall, but there was no evidence left behind that there had ever been a tree there at all. So God will do to the wicked, who appear to be successful and permanent but are destined for judgement.

- God rescues the righteous **37-40**
There is a future for the man of peace, why?
Because they trust in the Lord **39-40**.