

PTB 3-21: DEVOTIONAL and PASSIONATE CHRISTIAN LIVING from Psalm 37:15.

“A Psalm of David. Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. (37:1-5)

Consider devotionally that mountain top assurance of wants or “desires” of the human heart, starts with the discords of fret, evildoers, envy, and workers of iniquity. That was the world in which David lived, and that is the world in which we live today.

A case as evidence is the other Facebook group called by the same name as this one, “Hear Him”, but one that is sponsored by the LDS, a group of evil and have two evil curses on there headed for effectively denying the real Lord Jesus Christ. First with 4 Bibles including our Bible, they claim to be the Word of God they have adopted to themselves the curses of Revelation of adding to and taking away from the real Word of God. The second curses they have on their head is that of the Apostle Paul who listed what the real Gospel is, then said let anyone be cursed that delivers any Gospel other than this: well, the LDS consistent with evil, in another one of their bibles, the doctrines and the covenants, say there is a “reformed gospel” that works for salvation. Consider these two curses on their heads, when you make a choice of which “Hear Him” group on Facebook, you will choose, and recall in the nature of listening to Jesus how He said, “Judge not according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment.”

The message and messages of the Bible, if really from the Bible, do not cater to your imaginations that the world is with you, and that the world will bless you.

The Bible here in Psalm 37 and in the rest of the Bible recognizes that there are evildoers and workers of iniquity all around you—in fact, in the majority. How true is the classical song of Christian worship, “this world is not my friend to lead me on to God; sure, we must fight if we are to win, increase my courage Lord”. David, called a friend of God by God Himself, painted the darkness of the real world in which the godly life as a necessary background for the excitements of having “the desires of thine heart”.

Wish we could tell you, as the most famous popular preachers do now and all the

false prophets of Jeremiah, that as a Christian you are immune to fretting, evildoers, envy, and the workers of iniquity; however it is not so. The price of joining the human race and all its blessings provided by God is pain, suffering, and sorrow, and the price of accepting the way of being a Christian is a CROSS. As William Penn, the Quaker, expressed long ago, "No cross, no crown." If God had intended for your life to be one of all ease and comfort, He would have taken you to heaven before you reached the age of accountability, which out of His mercy and grace He does for some when He recognizes that is the only way of escape that they might be able to bear it. Have you ever noticed that with every calamity like a hurricane, typhoon, and any destructive work of nature that there are many significant acts of grace where those like little babies are saved?

Now that is the dark background of the realities of the world in which we live; but accepting this as a necessary challenge of life, we have sufficient background to seek for how and what are the desires or wants of our heart {generally considered happiness}, that we can expect to receive from our Maker. David received them in His life, and we can expect to receive them also if we understand what they are and how we can meet the requirements. Popular preachers today would spoon feed you on the how of receiving those dreams of your heart, and above all they will sugar coat both the cross and how to get your wants.

You know the words; they just have not sunk into the heart of the average Christian that is faked out by popular preachers of ease, comfort, and things:

"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." (Psalm 37:4)

1. "Delight in the LORD" God is the necessary prerequisite of the satisfaction of your happiness. This alone requires work, but it is pleasant work, sort of like Jesus taught, "Come unto me all you that are heavy laden {by that dark background of the realities of the world}, take my yoke and learn of Me for my yoke is

easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30) Satan's trick is to present with temporal and easy substitutes of delighting in God, and the popular preachers are subtle in providing these worldly-minded Christians with short and quick substitutes at 1 hour of church attendance, which break down during the rest of the week when confronted with the darkness of the world.

2. Wait a minute, it is necessary as David did to lighten the darkness of the background by the believer taking the long look of the temporal versus eternity. These words are not mentioned in the verse before “delight in the LORD”, but the encouraging thought is; and that thought is that the darkness of fretting, evildoers, envy, and workers of iniquity will only last for a little while, and “then comes the morning”.

“ For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.” (37:2)

3. And after that in the third verse, you have to get your head screwed on right with a message the popular preachers will seldom share with you in entirety:

“ Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.” (37:3)

Give them the right message: (a) they will be feed, “having food and raiment”, not have a oil well or gold mine in every back yard in the sweet by and by; (b) you will a measure of security in your land and home' (c) however once again you must meet the prerequisites of doing good and trusting in the LORD.

4. You want the desires of your heart to come to pass, THEN--

“Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. (37:1-5)

It you look up “love” in a large concordance like YOUNGS, the first thing you notice is that more of them are in the book of Psalms than any other of the 66 books of the Bible, and then while scrutinizing Psalms on love you will notice

statements often of what God loves, naturally revelations in the Bible about the nature and character of God. We like to know what God is like, realizing that in His self-revelation of Himself in the Bible, that is, how “every word proceeds out of the mouth of God”, we can have great confidence of what GOD REALLY LOVES.

1. Psalm 11:7-“For the LORD {LORD with capitals always refers in the Bible to God the Father and Lord to the Lord Jesus Christ, His son} is righteousness {any ‘is’ about God is about His character}, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright.”

NOTE: This implies that God Himself being righteous, and always looking down on the earth for righteousness--like a radar with a beacon return--focuses on the “upright”. And the category of people God Himself calls the UPRIGHT is something preparatory to the distinguishing in Psalm 37 between the wicked and the good man.

2. Psalm 33:4,5-“For the word of the LORD is right, and all his work is done in truth. He loves righteousness and judgment; the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.”

NOTE: More people have their eyes honed to see the bad things in the world, overlooking the good with the mercy and grace of God. But in all the character and will of God, both permissive and directed, His love of righteousness and true justice and judgment dominates. And as about the LORD God the Father, so it is about God the Son--loving righteousness and hating wickedness as below in Psalm 45:6,7.

3. Psalm 45:6,7-“Your throne O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You love righteousness and hate wickedness, There God, Your God {the God the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, God is talking about Jesus}, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.”

NOTE 1: Oh ye of doubts and the sceptics that doubt God the Father is talking

about God the Son must according to the ASPI allow the Apostle Paul in Hebrews 1:8,9 to properly interpret and explain it for you. The slow of heart to believe, might say how could the Lord Jesus Christ be spoken of here in the Old Testament of Psalm way back to BC, when He was not born until the first of AD? Well before we look at the Son in Hebrews 1:8,9, we should remember John 1 where the “Word was in the beginning with God, and was God, and how all things were made through the Son; and that Word became flesh in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, and John and the other Apostles stated, “dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

NOTE 2: Now you are ready for the Apostle Paul’s quoting and only proper interpretation of Psalm 45:6,7 above; and hopefully this can settle for you how both the Father and the Son are at work in the book of Psalms.

“BUT TO THE SON He {God the Father} says: Your throne, O God is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.” (Hebrews 1:8,9)

2-1: Love and righteousness along with justice is what you want to remember about God and Jesus as we come to the second part of Psalm 37, starting with verse 23, “The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the LORD upholds him with His hand.” {Psalm 37:23-40}

1. Is “good man” in Psalm 37 enough to make it the title of the second half?
 - a. Well, in the first half, while the “good man” per say in those words is not mentioned, it is the same as in the words of “the righteous man”; so that in the in the second half if you read carefully 3;23-25, you will note that the good man is the same in the sight of God as the righteous man.
 - b. In the second half “good man” is mentioned only once; however as noted

above is made synonymous with righteousness and the righteous man and mentioned often.

NOTE: In Romans 3:10-13 where there is not one single human being on the face of the earth that is good or righteous, that is before the righteousness of God, declared and given internally, through faith. By nature and by continuing human spirit, called in the Bible "the flesh", man sins to the extent of no absolute goodness like God. Yet with the right attitude and faith in God, God will look at Him as a good man instead of a wicked man.

- (1). "the righteous are not forsaken" (37:25)
- (2). "the righteous inherit the {forever} land" (37:29), of the forever kingdom.
- (3). his "mouth speaks wisdom. And talks of justice" (37:30)
- (4). "the law of God is in his heart" (37:31)

NOTE: This is where the internal righteousness comes in. Please see "Righteousness of God and Man" as one of the top 12 topics of the Bible on the SunGrist_Bible web site of www.biblecombibleman.com .

- (5). "none of his steps shall slide" to the extent of slipping right down into eternal damnation and hell (37:31).

2. Even as the first part of this Psalm started in verse 1-3 with admonitions not to fret about what "evildoers" are doing , and not to in turn also envy or covet the "workers of iniquity", because at the end of time they will be cut down to size, and their life is very short; even so the second half begins with the blessings more of a "good man": (1) his steps are ordered by the LORD; (2) the God of righteousness and justice "delights in His" lifestyle; (3) constant stabilization from the LORD and by His large hand as he stumbles without being utterly cast down; (4) such righteous, good men are not forsaken by the LORD, and (5) His descendants do not beg for bread, with the implication of both they are hard workers but also they receive the mercy and grace of God for enough to live on.

3. This all is what God thinks of the good or righteous man and the way he will indeed live; but what is going to happen between the righteous men and the majority of wicked men. This continues in verse 32 with the fretting about them and coveting after them started in verse 1. {isn't it strange that it is the wicked that have always had so much that they easily encourage coveting after, while the righteous have less}.

"The wicked watches {like a hawk} the righteous and seeks to slay him." (37:32)

2-2: Worthy of special note are the 3 characteristics of the good man or righteous man of 37:26: (1) He is every merciful; (2) He lends; and (3) His descendants are blessed.

While this mercy {better known as unmerited and unearned favor} and lending focus on his descendants, others are not to be considered as outside the province of life habits of a good man. You would have to consider this verse in the Old Testament, the equivalent of the "cup of water" in the Name of Christ in the New Testament. It is so hard for us to understand and do as a habit of life, but Jesus was serious as He taught, "And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward." (Matthew 10:42)

This is where you can separate those of the world practicing good PR, and seemingly good for a reward, from the good. You can note the wicked of the world as they will not lend without usury {this is making interest, a sign of the wicked of the world}, and unless they think somebody is worthy of their help they give nothing. Hard standards from God; yes, in a way.

2-3: What is the outcome of this battle between the majority wicked and the minority righteous?

"The LORD will not leave him {the righteous as identified previously in the verse before, 37:32} in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged." (Psalm 37:33)

2-4: With this assurance of being in the hand of God and of the help of God, therefore (1) WAIT ON THE LORD and (2) don't let His way and ways slip out

of your life; and wait for the forever, eternal land! (Psalm 37:34-40).

they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles. they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint.