

## 20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 43 (October 19-25, 2014)

When it comes to teaching the promises available to those who trust God with all their hearts, no Old Testament passage can compare to Psalm 37. That will be our source of study this week.

**Sunday**, October 19 (read Psalm 37:1-4)

*Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. (Psalm 37:4)*

God does not want us to waste time envying or worrying about those who do not love Him, because He will take care of them in due time (v. 1). Instead, He wants us to be active in our pursuit of living a holy life for His glory. Note the following active verbs in this text: **Trust, do good, dwell, enjoy and delight** (v. 2-4). This does not pertain to a person who merely joins the church and never seeks a relationship with Christ. This is for the person who wants to know Christ in an intimate relationship. Why would you want to do that? Just look at His promise: **“He will give you the desires of your heart.”** Your main desire should be the salvation of your entire family. Use this great passage to claim your family for Christ as you learn to love Jesus with all your heart! More promises are coming in this wonderful psalm.

**Monday**, October 20 (read Psalm 37:5-7)

*Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this. (Psalm 37:5)*

God adds some additional verbs to bring about the fulfillment of His promises: **“commit”** (v. 5) and **“be still”** and **“wait,”** perhaps the toughest of them all (v. 7). To our society that craves instant gratification, the word “commit” has become almost an irritation. Likewise, the words, “be still” and “wait” go against the grain of our fast-pace lifestyles. But when we quit striving to get the desires of our hearts by our own hard work and simply allow the Lord to work through us, He promises that **“He will do this”** for us (v. 5). He also promises to “make your righteousness shine like the dawn” and “the justice of your cause like the noonday sun” (v. 6). Why is this important? You are the only Jesus some folks will see, so “let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16b).

**Tuesday**, October 21 (read Psalm 37:8-11)

*But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace. (Psalm 37:11)*

In today’s text, God gives us two things we are not to do. He says, “Refrain from anger” and “do not fret” (v. 8). Once again, He is trying to teach us to trust Him and not to take matters into our own hands. The Bible says, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay” (Deuteronomy 32:35a). God will take care of the wicked in His time (v. 9-10). His promise to us who truly trust Him is that we “will inherit the land” (v. 9 & 11). This means that we will spend 1000 years ruling with Him on earth during the Millennium, and then we will spend eternity with Him in heaven. The word, “meek” has a different Biblical application than the way you may use it. In the English language, meek means weak, but in the days of the psalmist, it pictures a wild stallion that has been broken so as to be useful to the master. The animal loses none of its beauty; it only becomes available to serve the master with dignity. Can you see the wonderful promises to those who seek **sanctification** (living under the Lordship of Christ)?

**Wednesday, October 22** (read Psalm 37:12-17)

*Better the little that the righteous have than the wealth of many wicked; for the power of the wicked will be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous. (Psalm 37:16-17)*

Today's text continues to encourage God's people to leave judgment of the wicked to Him instead of taking matters into our own hands. I love the fact that "the Lord laughs at the wicked, for He knows their day is coming" (v. 13). God will not allow the wicked to oppress believers forever; instead, He will turn their weapons back on themselves (v. 14-15). The printed verse above reveals two wonderful promises: 1) "the power of the wicked will be broken," and 2) "the Lord upholds the righteous" (v. 17). Can you trust Him to protect you from the assaults of the enemy? Can you claim His wonderful promises and live at peace in this world, which is controlled by Satan?

**Thursday, October 23** (read Psalm 37:18-24)

*If the Lord delights in a man's way, He makes his steps firm; though he stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with His hands. (Psalm 37:23-24)*

These verses contain more wonderful promises concerning our future. Verse 18 reassures us that God knows all the days of believers, and no one can take away the inheritance He has given them (see John 10:27-30). We don't have to waste our time worrying about the future, because He promises to supply all our needs (v. 19; see also Philippians 4:19). After reminding us of the separation between the wicked and the righteous (v. 20-22), the Lord gives one of my favorite promises in our printed verse above (v. 23-24). I claim this wonderful assurance from God, even as I struggle with neuropathy in my feet and legs. Physically, I may stumble and fall, but spiritually, I am secure in Christ! God has something to say to **you** today! Are you listening enough to make His Word personal to your individual needs?

**Friday, October 24** (read Psalm 37:25-31)

*I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. (Psalm 37:25)*

Do you want to leave an inheritance for your children that will last forever? Today's printed verse tells you how to accomplish it! I want my faith to endure forever, not only to guide me, but also to lead my children into the paths of righteousness. As wonderful as eternal life will be for me, it must also include my family as well. I have no interest in leaving them this world's wealth, but I have consistently claimed their souls for Jesus Christ (v. 25-26). God concludes today's passage by reminding us of some of His earlier promises (v. 27-31). We can be assured of inheriting the land and dwelling in it forever if we "turn from evil and do good" (v. 27). Can you see why I have placed such an emphasis on living each day under the Lordship of Jesus Christ? Can you identify promises you have not claimed because of a lack of faith?

**Saturday, October 25** (read Psalm 37:32-40)

*The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord; He is their stronghold in time of trouble. (Psalm 37:39)*

God's promises are seen in every verse of this marvelous psalm; therefore, I have run out of week before He has run out of assurances in this passage. Most of the commands and resulting promises found in today's text have been articulated earlier so I will amplify only two more in this study. First, God assures us that "there is a future for the man of peace" (v. 37) and perhaps most importantly, "the salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord" (v. 39). If you have gotten to this point and still believe that God grants salvation to those who deserve it, you have missed the truth completely. He is our salvation and He upholds all who truly trust Him (v. 39-40). Praise His wonderful Name!