



CHRISTADELPHIAN ISOLATION LEAGUE

EXHORTATION

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SECTION LEADER:

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Readings: 2 Samuel 12, Jeremiah 16, Matthew 27

Lessons from Psalm 37

This Psalm contrasts the wicked with the righteous. First let us consider the consistent message of the Psalm regarding the wicked:

“Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.” (Psalm 37 1, 2).

“For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.” (vs 9, 10).

“The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth... Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken... But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away... The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him” (v 12, 15, 20, 32).

“The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged. Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it. I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. (tree growing in its own soil). Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found”. (vs 33-36).

Return to **Psalm 37:1** to see what the righteous should do and not do: *“Fret not thyself because of evildoers”*. The word “fret” is often translated angry or wrathful. So we are not to be angry because of the evil we see around us and this is shown in **v8**: *“Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not (don’t become angry) thyself in any wise to do evil”*. Paul says in **Romans 12:19** *“Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord”*.

We must not seek vengeance on those who do us wrong but rather trust in God. **Psalm 27:1-5**: *“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident. One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock”*.

Our lives must be dedicated to walking in the way of righteousness (**Psalm 1:1-6**): *“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish”*.

Assuming we live as did David then “...He (God) shall give thee the desires of thine heart” (Psalm 37:4) and as David requested in Psalm 27:4 so we should also desire to “... dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life”. Psalm 84:11 also promises us that “...the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly”.

Let us see how Peter deals with these same issues in **2 Peter 1:1-4**:

“Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust”.

Peter contrasts the lust or desire of the world, which leads to corruption, with the desire of godly things, which leads to eternal life.

In Psalm 37:5, 6 we read: “Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light and thy judgment as the noonday”. We need to ask ourselves an important question here. Is our way committed to God or is it committed to this life? According to the Cambridge English dictionary, ‘committed’ means: ‘loyal and willing to give your time and energy to something that you believe in’. Earthly masters often demand our total dedication which can test our commitment and love to our heavenly Master.

Let’s go back to **2 Peter 1** and pick up where we left off:

“And beside (alongside) this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; (moral excellence) and to virtue knowledge (from the Word); And to knowledge temperance; (self control) and to temperance patience; (endurance) and to patience godliness; (reverence of God). And to godliness brotherly kindness (affection); and to brotherly kindness charity (love which puts God first, others second and self last). For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 1:5-10).

In Psalm 37:7 David has complete confidence in the Lord even though the wicked appear to prosper: “...fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.” For, as David says in vs 23-25, “The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand. I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.”

Let us then remember in bread and wine the one who was righteous in all his ways ultimately destroying sin and wickedness upon the cross. And let us also remember that if we delight in God’s way, He will delight in us and bring us ultimately to His Kingdom. May that day soon come when all things in opposition to God will be no more and the earth is full of His glory.

Brother Geoff Cave: Clowne UK 26.07.20