

# Psalm 037 - Patient Trust in God

## Psalm 37

[A Psalm of David.]

### Patiently Trust in God

**1 Do not get upset** because of evildoers, Do not be envious of wrongdoers.

**1** Do not fret because of evildoers, Be not envious toward wrongdoers.

**1** Don't be angry because of those who do evil, do not be jealous because of those who commit iniquity.

**1** Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.

- "Do not get upset" - to burn, get heated up

— David says "stay cool." The wicked are temporary and will eventually be gone.

— A fretful heart is not a trusting heart. This is the key theme of this psalm.

**2** For they will wither quickly like the grass, And decay like the green plants.

**2** For they will wither quickly like the grass And fade like the green herb.

**2** Indeed, they soon will wither like grass, and like green herbs they will fade away.

**2** For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.

**3** Trust in the LORD and do good; Live in the land and cultivate faithfulness.

**3** Trust in the LORD and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.

**3** Trust in the LORD and do good. Dwell in the land and feed on faithfulness.

**3** Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

- David gives one negative instruction—don't fret—and four positive instructions:

- Trust in the Lord (v3)
- Delight in the Lord (v4)
- Commit yourself to the Lord (v5-6)
- Rest in the Lord (v7)

**4 Delight** yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart.

**4** Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart.

**4** Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

**4** Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

- "Delight" - from a root which means "to be brought up in luxury, to be pampered"

- To enjoy the blessings and ignore the Blessor is to practice idolatry
- Do you seek more “things” or more of God in your life?

5 **Commit** your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.

5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.

5 Commit your way to the LORD; Trust him, and he will act.

5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

- “Commit” - “to roll off your burden”; cast your care upon Him (1 Peter 5:7)

— He will bring to pass the vindication of His servants who have been slandered by God’s enemies

6 He will bring out your righteousness as the light, And your judgment as the noonday.

6 He will bring forth your righteousness as the light And your judgment as the noonday.

6 He will bring forth your righteousness as a light, and your justice as the noonday sun.

6 And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

7 **Rest** in the LORD and wait patiently for Him; Do not get upset because of one who is successful in his way, Because of the person who carries out wicked schemes.

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 carries out wicked schemes.

7 Be silent in the LORD’s presence and wait patiently for him. Don’t be angry because of the one whose way prospers or the one who implements evil schemes.

7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

- “Rest” - “be silent,” “be still”

8 Cease from anger and abandon wrath; Do not get upset; it leads only to evildoing.

8 Cease from anger and forsake wrath; Do not fret; *it leads* only to evildoing.

8 Calm your anger and abandon wrath. Don’t be angry— it only leads to evil.

8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.

9 For evildoers will be eliminated, But those who wait for the LORD, they will inherit the land.

9 For evildoers will be cut off, But those who wait for the LORD, they will inherit the land.

9 Those who do evil will perish. But those who wait on the LORD will inherit the land.

9 For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

10 Yet a little while and the wicked person will be no more; And you will look carefully for his place and he will not be there.

10 Yet a little while and the wicked man will be no more; And you will look carefully for his place and he will not be *there*.

10 Yet a little while longer, and the wicked will be no more. You will search for his place, but he will not be there.

10 For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.

11 But the **humble** will inherit the land And will delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

11 But the humble will inherit the land And will delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

11 The humble will inherit the land; they will take in abundant peace.

11 But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

- "...humble" - does not mean weakness: force under control of faith

— Moses was the meekest on the earth (Num 12:3), but of great power

— For us to get upset because of evil schemes is to doubt the justice of God

**12** The wicked plots against the righteous, And gnashes at him with his teeth.

**12** The wicked plots against the righteous And gnashes at him with his teeth.

12 The wicked person plots against the righteous, and grinds his teeth at him.

12 The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth.

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

13 The Lord laughs at him, For He sees his day is coming.

13 But the Lord laughs at him because he sees that his day is coming!

13 The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming.

14 The wicked have drawn the sword and bent their bow To take down the afflicted and the needy, To kill off those who are upright in conduct.

14 The wicked have drawn the sword and bent their bow To cast down the afflicted and the needy, To slay those who are upright in conduct.

14 The wicked take out a sword and bend the bow, to bring down the humble and the poor to slay those who are righteous in conduct.

14 The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation.

- Since God can be trusted, we should not fret. Since God understands our situation, we should not fear.

15 Their sword will enter their own heart, And their bows will be broken.  
15 Their sword will enter their own heart, And their bows will be broken.  
15 But their sword will pierce their own heart, and their bows will be broken!  
15 Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.

16 Better is the little of the righteous Than the abundance of many wicked.  
16 Better is the little of the righteous Than the abundance of many wicked.  
16 Better is the little that the righteous have than the abundance of many wicked people.  
16 A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.

17 For the arms of the wicked will be broken, But the LORD sustains the righteous.  
17 For the arms of the wicked will be broken, But the LORD sustains the righteous.  
17 For the arms of the wicked will be broken, but the LORD upholds the righteous.  
17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD upholdeth the righteous.

18 The LORD knows the days of the blameless, And their inheritance will be forever.  
18 The LORD knows the days of the blameless, And their inheritance will be forever.  
18 The LORD knows the day of the blameless, and their inheritance will last forever.  
18 The LORD knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever.

19 They will not be ashamed in the time of evil, And in the days of famine they will have plenty.  
19 They will not be ashamed in the time of evil, And in the days of famine they will have abundance.  
19 They will not experience shame in times of trouble; in times of famine they will have plenty.  
19 They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.  
- The Lord knows how "to make a little go a long way" (loaves and fishes, et al.)

20 But the wicked will perish; And the enemies of the LORD will be like the glory of the pastures, They vanish—like smoke they vanish away.  
20 But the wicked will perish; And the enemies of the LORD will be like the glory of the pastures, They vanish—like smoke they vanish away.  
20 Indeed, the wicked will perish. The LORD's enemies will be consumed like flowers in the fields. They will vanish like smoke.

20 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.

21 The wicked borrows and does not pay back, But the righteous is gracious and gives.

21 The wicked borrows and does not pay back, But the righteous is gracious and gives.

21 The wicked borrow but never pay back; but the righteous are generous and give.

21 The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth.

22 For those blessed by Him will inherit the land, But those cursed by Him will be eliminated.

22 For those blessed by Him will inherit the land, But those cursed by Him will be cut off.

22 For those blessed by God will inherit the land, but those cursed by him will be cut off.

22 For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off.

**23** The steps of a man are established by the LORD, And He delights in his way.

**23** The steps of a man are established by the LORD, And He delights in his way.

23 A man's steps are established by the LORD, and the LORD delights in his way.

23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

24 When he falls, he will not be hurled down, Because the LORD is the One who holds his hand.

24 When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong, Because the LORD is the One who holds his hand.

24 Though he stumbles, he will not fall down flat, for the LORD will hold up his hand.

24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.

25 I have been young and now I am old, Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken Or his descendants begging for bread.

25 I have been young and now I am old, Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken Or his descendants begging bread.

25 I once was young and now I am old, but I have not seen a righteous person forsaken or his descendants begging for bread.

25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

26 All day long he is gracious and lends, And his descendants are a blessing.  
26 All day long he is gracious and lends, And his descendants are a blessing.  
26 Every day he is generous, lending freely, and his descendants are blessed.  
26 He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed.

**27** Turn from evil and do good, So that you will dwell forever.  
**27** Depart from evil and do good, So you will abide forever.  
27 Depart from evil, and do good, and you will live in the land forever.  
27 Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore.

28 For the LORD loves justice And does not abandon His godly ones; They are protected forever, But the descendants of the wicked will be eliminated.

28 For the LORD loves justice And does not forsake His godly ones; They are preserved forever, But the descendants of the wicked will be cut off.

28 Indeed, the LORD loves justice, and he will not abandon his godly ones. They are kept safe forever, but the lawless will be chased away, and the descendants of the wicked will be cut off.

28 For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.

29 The righteous will inherit the land And dwell in it forever.  
29 The righteous will inherit the land And dwell in it forever.  
29 The righteous will inherit the land, and they will dwell in it forever.  
29 The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever.

30 The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, And his tongue speaks justice.  
30 The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, And his tongue speaks justice.  
30 The mouth of the righteous one produces wisdom; his tongue speaks justice.  
30 The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment.

31 The Law of his God is in his heart; His steps do not slip.  
31 The law of his God is in his heart; His steps do not slip.  
31 The instruction of his God is in his heart; his steps will not slip.  
31 The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.

32 The wicked spies upon the righteous And seeks to kill him.  
32 The wicked spies upon the righteous And seeks to kill him.  
32 The wicked stalks the righteous person, seeking to kill him,

32 The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him.

33 The LORD will not leave him in his hand Or let him be condemned when he is judged.

33 The LORD will not leave him in his hand Or let him be condemned when he is judged.

33 but the LORD will not let him fall into his hands. He will not be condemned when he is put on trial.

33 The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged.

34 Wait for the LORD and keep His way, And He will exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are eliminated, you will see it.

34 Wait for the LORD and keep His way, And He will exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you will see it.

34 Wait on the LORD, Keep faithful to his way, and he will exalt you to possess the land. You will see the wicked cut off.

34 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.

**35** I have seen a wicked, violent person Spreading himself like a luxuriant tree in its native soil.

**35** I have seen a wicked, violent man Spreading himself like a luxuriant tree in its native soil.

35 I once observed a wicked and oppressive person, flourishing like a green tree in native soil.

35 I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree.

36 Then he passed away, and behold, he was no more; I searched for him, but he could not be found.

36 Then he passed away, and lo, he was no more; I sought for him, but he could not be found.

36 But then he passed away; in fact, he simply was not there. When I looked for him, he could not be found.

36 Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.

37 Observe the blameless person, and look at the upright; For the person of peace will have a future.

37 Mark the blameless man, and behold the upright; For the man of peace will have a posterity.

37 Observe the blameless! Take note of the upright! Indeed, the future of that man is peace.

37 Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.

38 But wrongdoers will altogether be destroyed; The future of the wicked will be eliminated.

38 But transgressors will be altogether destroyed; The posterity of the wicked will be cut off.

38 Sinners will be destroyed together; the future of the wicked will be cut off.

38 But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off.

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

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

39 But deliverance for the righteous one comes from the LORD; he is their strength in times of distress.

39 But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble.

40 The LORD helps them and rescues them; He rescues them from the wicked and saves them, Because they take refuge in Him.

40 The LORD helps them and delivers them; He delivers them from the wicked and saves them, Because they take refuge in Him.

40 The LORD helps and delivers them; he will deliver them from the wicked, and he will save them because they have sought refuge in him.

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.

- The final destiny is the ultimate measure; not intermediate temporal appearances