STILL STANDING

Psalm 37

Psalm 37 is

- A Pastoral Psalm
- A Teaching Psalm
- A Nurturing Psalm

The Psalmist David is endeavoring to offer nurture in a situation when keeping the faith is difficult.

This Psalm is not written to the confident self-righteous. It is written to those who are on the verge of envious vexation and even destructive anger. They are bewildered by the success of the evildoers and their struggles and the difficulty of their way

The teacher's counsel:

- The exhortation of the righteous
- The description of the righteous
    - DO NOT FRET – to be hot-to be furious- to burn
    - Trust and Do Good
    - Dwell in the land, Feed on His faithfulness
    - Delight in the Lord as the ONLY source of joy and peace in living
    - Commit your way to the Lord
    - Trust Him; He is Faithful
    - Righteousness will rise
    - Justice will be straight up
    - Rest in the Lord
    - DO NOT FRET
    - Cease from anger

- DO NOT FRET

Correctly teaching this passage aligns us with the providence of God. When we align ourselves to it, at all times carefully doing what is right and patiently to leave any injustice with God, no matter dark things may look for the present; it shall be ***"well with those who trust Him."***

This Psalm is really about TRUST & INHERITANCE

- Trust issues right conduct ***vs. 3,27***
- Trust provides stability in life ***vs. 30-31***
- Trust waits in the stillness of the patience of the Lord ***vs. 7***
- Trust lives in hope ***vs. 34***
  - Even in times of trouble ***vs. 39***
- Inheritance
  - Inherit the earth, the land, their inheritance
    - ***Vs 9,11,18,22,29,34***

INHERIT THE EARTH…we now have the earnest of our inheritance

Ephesians 1:13-14, KJV
"In whom ye also trusted, after that, ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory"

Inheritance is because of birth, nothing else.
The promise of inheritance not just to the Israel of God but to the Israel of faith

"I brought you out and I will give you this land to inherit."
(Gen 15:7, NKJV)

When we see the bad guys winning, we need to shift our focus from the evildoers to the Lord. Five times in ***37:3-9,*** David mentions ***"the Lord"*** by name and five more times, he uses the third person pronoun (His, He, or Him) to refer to the Lord.

David is saying that the antidote for getting frustrated with the prosperity of the wicked is to be **deliberately God-centered.**

Being God-centered is illustrated by the following:

1) ***Put on trust (37:3, 5). "Trust in the Lord"*** is not a hollow slogan; it is a course of action. It means that when evildoers seem to be winning, and you are losing, you roll the whole problem onto the Lord and watch Him vindicate you in His time (37:6).

2) ***Put on obedience (37:3). Do good; dwell in the land***

3) ***Feed on His faithfulness."*** Leave things in God's hands (trust) and go on with your interaction before the Lord. Don't let the other person's sin lead you into sin. Do what God has given you to do in obedience to Him.

4) ***Be delighted in the Lord (37:4).*** Trust, obedience, patience, and humility can all be summed up in the phrase, ***"Delight yourself in the Lord."*** Be captivated with the Lord and all that He is. Rather than focusing on the things which the world seeks, focus on the Lord. In gaining the Lord, you gain everything else you ever need: "He will give you the desires of your heart." Delight yourself, doesn't mean that He will give you anything your selfish heart desires. If you are delighting yourself in the Lord, then your desires will be in line with His desires. Psalm 37:4 is ***Matthew 6:33*** of the Old

Testament: ***"Seek first God's kingdom and righteousness and all these things [your needs] will be added unto you."***

5) ***Put on patience (37:7, 9). "Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him."*** That's the hard part of submission, isn't it! He may not act on your timetable. It may take months, years, or even a whole lifetime for God to act and vindicate you. But if you trust Him to be a just and righteous God and if you submit to Him, then you'll wait patiently.

6) ***Put on humility (37:11).*** To be "humble" (NASB) or "meek" (NIV) means to realize our weakness and sinfulness so that we rely on the Lord, not ourselves. This awareness of our sinfulness means that we won't self-righteously judge the wicked. Apart from God's mercy, we would act just as they do. Humility is being aware of our inadequacy apart from the Lord. But, at the same time, aware of our adequacy in the Lord. Meekness does not mean weakness but, rather, brokenness. A humble or meek person is like a strong but broken horse: powerful, yet submissive to its master's touch.

NEXT WEEK: We will talk about where we have arrived when we step into our inheritance.

Hebrews 12

[12] Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, [13] and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.
[14] Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: [15] looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by

this many become defiled; [16] lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. [17] For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears. [18] For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, [19] and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. [20] (For they could not endure what was commanded: "And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow." [21] And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.") [22] But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, [23] to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, [24] to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.