

Psalm 37

Learn to be Meek

We think of a wicked man eating a magnificent dinner while a godly man goes hungry. The wicked man eats anything and everything he wants, and his table is loaded as he enjoys his meal. Then we see the bigger picture: he eats his last meal on death row and in a moment will face terrible judgment. Now, with larger perspective, the godly man doesn't envy or worry about the wicked man. "Evil men instead of being envied are to be viewed with horror and aversion; yet their loaded tables, and gilded trappings, are too apt to fascinate our poor half-opened eyes." (Spurgeon)

- I. It is common for the righteous to get mad or envious of the wicked, wondering why they experience such prosperity without any repercussions for their actions. Whether they are godly or ungodly, it is God who is the dispenser of the bounty they enjoy, and He has a right to do what He will with His own. To be envious in such a case is to criticize God's authority, which makes you just as foolish and wicked. We do not know God's full plan and generally don't consider the full perspective.

Matthew 5:5

Galatians 5:22-23

Colossians 3:12

1 Peter 2:23; 3:15; 5:7

James 1:19-21

Proverbs 24:19-20; 25:21-22

Isaiah 40:8

1 John 2:17

Romans 12:17-21

Luke 6:32-36

Acts 7:54, 16:22-26

Numbers 12:3

Esther 9:24-25

1 Chronicles 10:4

- II.** We need to think in terms of eternity and not just in terms of this life. While it may seem that we have little, we must remember that we are building treasures in heaven. If we focus on our eternal rewards that cannot be destroyed or stolen, we will have peace in this life because our hearts will be focused on God and not the temporary things of this world. In addition, we need not worry about our needs in this life because God is a good father that knows what we need and will provide for us.

Proverbs 28:6
Matthew 4:4; 6:19-21,25-34; 28:20
Psalm 1:3,6; 112
Philippians 4:12-13
Genesis 12:2
Zechariah 8:23

- III.** These last days will be challenging. As we continue to focus on our eternal rewards and life with Christ, we need to rely on God, not ourselves, for these upcoming battles. God has equipped us with everything we need to survive these times. We are to be vigilant in guarding our hearts while we wait for Him. This level of alertness allows us to be prepared and have the strength to endure the upcoming hardships, with the knowledge that the struggle is worth the rewards to be found in eternity and that the Holy Spirit will also intercede to protect and provide additional strength during times of hardship.

Ephesians 6:11-13
Job 5:3
Ecclesiastes 2:1
Proverbs 3:5-6; 5:3-4
Luke 21:34-36
Romans 8:17-18,26-27
Matthew 11:28-30