

REACTING TO WICKEDNESS WINNING (Psalm 37:1-6)

1.Cease from anger (Psalm 37:1-2).

- a. One way that Christians have reacted to victories won by unrighteous people is getting angry.
 - i. There is a way to be angry and not sin (Ephesians 4:26).
 - ii. God has been angry at sin and sinners.
 - (1) He was angry at Balaam (Numbers 22:22).
 - (2) He was angry at Uzzah (2 Samuel 6:7).
 - (3) He was angry at Israel (1 Kings 16:13).
 - iii. However, many times we burn hot at people who are in sin and say things we shouldn't.
- b. David tells us to "fret not".
 - i. We usually think of this word like dictionary.com defines it: "to feel or express worry, annoyance, discontent, or the like".
 - ii. That is not what this particular Hebrew word that has been translated fret means.
 - iii. It means, "to be hot, furious, burn, become angry, be kindled".
 - iv. One writer compared it to the striking of a match.
 - (1) When the match is first struck, it blazes hot.
 - (2) It flares up and that is the idea of this word.
- c. David, by inspiration, tells us not burn hot at the wicked when it seems they are winning.
 - i. Many times those in sin gloat over their prosperity or cry out because of their victories.
 - ii. If you were to do that to them they would be so offended.
 - iii. When they do it, there is nothing wrong and we should not be upset with them.
 - iv. We can't blow up at them and tell them how we really feel or whatever may come to mind.
- d. This is so tempting that David reminded us of this by using this phrase, fret not, three times in the first eight verses of the chapter.
- e. We can't be envious of them either.
 - i. Everyone likes a winner.
 - ii. We like to win and when we see others winning in life, at least by the worldly definition of winning, we may be tempted to be envious.
- f. Verse 2 lets us know why we shouldn't burn hot or be envious.
 - i. In the end, when it really matters, these people are going to lose.
 - ii. They are going to be cut down like all the other sinners and lose their souls.
- g. This was written a long time ago but we know that such is true.
 - i. The whole book of Revelation points to the fact that Christians win.
 - ii. Maybe not in this life, like the world wants, but in the end, when the Lord returns and it really matters.
- h. We can't allow the wickedness of the world to drag us into sin with them.
 - i. Our anger or envy at their sin is just as sinful.
 - ii. We don't want to condemn one sin while committing another: that is hypocritical and we don't want to be guilty of that.

i. A proper reaction is to cease from anger.

2. Continue to do good (Psalm 37:3).

- a. There are those who, when seeing the victories of sinful people, whether it be a legal victory or social climbing or wealth being gained, decide that, "if you can't beat them, join them".
- b. They just give up and feel that all is hopeless.
 - i. It is tempting to do so to fit in with the world.
 - ii. And, like we said, everyone wants to win.
- c. We live in a time when delayed gratification is thought of in a horrible way.
- d. We simply need to continue doing good.
- e. David says trust in God and do good.
 - i. God is going to right all wrongs, but in His time.
 - ii. Romans 12:19.
- f. We must put our faith in the God who rules in the affairs of men (Daniel 4:32).
- g. Our trust in God is shown by continuing to do good.
 - i. Good is that which is from God.
 - ii. We must keep doing His will.
- h. We stay where we are and keep doing what we've been doing and feed off of God's faithfulness to us.
 - i. Later in this chapter, we come to realize that David wrote this psalm in his old age (Psalm 37:25).
 - ii. He had learned these things through experience.
 - iii. Don't fight back in a worldly way, but continue doing good and God will take care of those who do.
 - iv. Just a few psalms before this one, David revealed that to us (Psalm 34:15).
- i. Trust is something that is earned and God has earned our trust.
 - i. God has been faithful to every promise He has ever made.
 - ii. He promises to take care of the righteous and He does and will continue to do so.
- j. We must do our part by trusting in Him and continuing to do the good things He has commanded us to do.

3. Count on God (Psalm 37:4).

- a. God is always going to do what is good and best for us spiritually.
 - i. His word has shown this time and again.
 - ii. By trusting in God, we show that we believe this to be the case.
- b. The word "delight" is an interesting word.
 - i. It literally means to live delicately and effeminately.
 - ii. The Psalmist uses it to get us to understand that we are to completely count on God for what we need.
- c. He then tells us that God will give us the desires of our heart.
 - i. He does not mean that we will get anything we want.
 - ii. If we are truly counting on God, our will is going to be in line with God's will.
 - iii. We will be seeking those things that are needful for us spiritually.
 - iv. Jesus said this was the case in Matthew 6:33.
 - v. Trusting in God is wanting the things that God wants for us.

- vi. When we want those things, we will live in a way to get them and God has promised to give us those things.
- d. It has always been the case that God's people, those that truly live for Him, have had the things they needed.
 - i. We mentioned Psalm 37:25 already.
 - ii. We will have those spiritual blessings as well as physical blessings that are needful in this life when we live for the Lord.
- e. God can always be counted on and we must live in such a way that it shows we believe that.

4. Commit yourself to His way (Psalm 37:5-6).

- a. While it is true that a picture paints a thousand words, words can paint pictures as well.
 - i. The word "commit" paints a beautiful picture of trust in God.
 - ii. It literally means to roll on to someone.
 - iii. It paints the picture of rolling a burden off of you onto God.
- b. We show that we are committing our care to God by the trust we place in Him.
- c. He has called for our cares and burdens (1 Peter 5:7).
- d. Yet, how many of us hold on to those things that are weighing us down?
- e. When we truly commit to His way, God is going to show us to be righteous.
 - i. There are times that those evil people who are winning in the world's eyes, will attack us.
 - ii. We see it starting now when it comes to standing against homosexual marriage.
 - iii. God will vindicate those who are living for Him and committing themselves to His care.
- f. The word "noonday" literally means double light.
 - i. The brightest light possible will be shone on our righteous character.
 - ii. No one will be able to truly blacken our character with false accusations because God will show in the brightest light that we are not such.
- g. We must commit ourselves to God's way when wickedness is prospering.