

Last week I made three points about this Psalm: 1. The punishment of the wicked is assured by the providence of God and His control over all things; also the blessing of godly is assured. 2. We are warned against two wicked responses to the prosperity of the wicked: fretting, and envy. 3. The cure for fretting and envy is to dwell in our inheritance.

Today I would like to speak more about the inheritance of the saints. Last week, as well as speaking concerning Psalm 37, we looked at Psalm 73, where the writer described his own envying and fretting over the prosperity of the wicked, until he went to the sanctuary and had his eyes opened to the real state of the wicked—that God had set them in slippery places, and their destruction comes horribly and suddenly, for the minute their eyes close in death they find themselves engulfed in the fires and torments of hell forever. Do not envy the unjust—flee from that estate and condition, and trust in the Lord. So the Psalmist in Psalm 73, after seeing the true condition of the ungodly awakens as from a sleep, and glories in his own inheritance, as we shall see. Remember that Psalms 73 and 37 are complementary Psalms.

So I would like to speak of three things this morning about Psalm 37, especially verses 4 and 5. **First**, God is our inheritance, and we were created for Him; **Second**, We are, therefore to delight in Him; **Third**, The possession of the Inheritance.

I. God is our Inheritance. Vs. 2,3: We are to trust, delight, and commit. Wow! There is a sermon in itself. Trust, Delight, Commit.

A. Described in Ps. 73:

“22 So foolish *was* I, and ignorant: I was *as* a beast before thee. 23 Nevertheless I *am* continually with thee: thou hast holden *me* by my right hand.

24 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me *to* glory. 25 Whom have I in heaven *but thee?* and *there is* none upon earth *that* I desire beside thee.

26 My flesh and my heart faileth: *but God is* the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever. 27 For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.

28 But *it is* good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.” (Ps 73:22-28)

1. I am continually with thee. Whom have I in heaven; none on earth that I desire beside thee. Thus we see the fulfillment of the First Commandment: “Thou shalt have no other gods.....” My portion forever. We were created to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Only Jesus Christ fully realized this love for His Father.

2. This is man's true natural condition: To love God with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength. The image of God is man's natural state; he was not created a beast and then given a stamp of the image of God: This is Romanism. Righteousness was natural to Adam; He had to violate his own nature to rebel against God.
3. It is good for me to draw nigh to God, to trust in Him and to declare His works. This is the natural good for man, for which He was created.

B. Think of the immense riches that Adam possessed at his creation: See Genesis 1:24-31. The devil will have you believe that this is not so, and deprive you of your inheritance, and seize upon it for himself. And that is exactly what the devil did at the temptation of Adam and Eve, and he still attempts that today.

C. But the meek inherit the earth, for it belongs to them. Ps. 73:23,24. You have the reality, and the ungodly wallow in the signs; they worship and serve the creature more than the Creator. The meek say, "I will declare all thy works," For God is revealed in all His creation, in all His works His glory is seen: Psalm 19

II. We are to delight in God, for that is the reason all things were created.

A. Idolatry is unnatural and foolish, and the desires for the world will not satisfy the desires that are created in the very soul of man for God, His Creator.

B. This is precisely where the temptation came: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, the pride of life. These are natural and good desires that the devil perverted in the mind of Adam and Eve; they saw the world as an end in itself, rather than a means of serving the Lord and loving Him. 1John 2:15,16

1. Desires of the Body: Jer 15:16 "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts." Joh 6:27 "Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed." There is no desire of the body that is evil in itself, but becomes evil when it is separated from God and His commandment and becomes an end in itself.
2. Lust of the Eye: the desire of the mind. [Eph. 2:3]. That which is pleasing to the eye, satisfies the mind. God created the world with beautiful things for the pleasure of man; heaven is a beautiful place, prepared for those who love Him.
3. Pride of Life: to be like God; exactly what we were created for, to be the image of God in everything we say or do.

C. These desires are natural, created desires that are good in themselves, but are perverted by man's rebellion and unbelief, so that he does not glorify and obey God in them—that which was designed to point men to God is perverted and used to drive men from God by their unbelief.

III. But how do I possess this inheritance? By trusting in the Lord: He will bring it to pass. "It" means everything that God promised to man in the creation of the world.

A. The present:

1. Covenant: Thou wilt guide by thy counsel.
    - a. Trusting in the Lord;
    - b. Delighting in Him;
    - c. Commitment to Him. "Roll" Casting all on Him.
  2. "Do all for the glory of God." God is the end of all creation, and the invisible things are seen from the visible, and we are to proclaim this to the world. "Whether ye eat, or drink...etc. Everything points to God and bears something of His image: but especially man.
    - a. First Table: protects God's Being
    - b. Second Table: protects God's Image.
  3. Fulfilled in Christ alone.
- B. The Future: Afterwards receive me to glory. This was always the end and purpose of God: Christ returned there, to show us that our inheritance is not on the earth, earth is only a figure of our eternal inheritance. He will come to take us where He is, and then will be fulfilled the promise: the meek shall inherit the earth, the reason for its creation.

Application: Every one of these things must exist in the heart before God.

1. Let us trust
2. Let us desire: pant after the Lord
3. Let us commit: roll everything of this life and the world to come upon the Lord. And He will bring it to pass.