

Psalm 112:1-10
Comparing the Righteous and the Wicked

Introduction: This is an acrostic psalm. Whereas Psalm 111 is about Yahweh, Psalm 112 is about the person who fears Yahweh. Everyone has someone or something that is at the very center of their lives. For some it is Stuff, for others it is their children, their career, their parents, their hobbies, their yard, their sports, or even pastoral ministry.

1) The righteous—112:1-9

- a) The **responsibility** of the righteous—112:1a
 - i) *Praise Yah!* (Hallelu-Yah)
 - (1) This is the only command in the entire psalm.

- b) Two-fold **character** of the righteous—112:1b
 - i) Worship: **Alef:** *He characterized by fearing Yahweh;* (cf. 111:10)
 - (1) He consistently lives in awe of God
 - ii) Active obedience: **Beth:** *in Yahweh's commands he is characterized by taking great delight.*
 - (1) He is consistently immersed in and gripped by God's Word

- c) The **blessings** of the righteous—112:2-5 (note the plural of "blessed" in v. 1)
 - i) Family—112:2-3
 - (1) Influence: **Gimel:** *2 His descendants will be mighty in the Land;*
 - (2) Blessing: **Dalet:** *the generation of the upright will be blessed.*
 - (a) A godly heritage passed on to children and grandchildren
 - (3) Prosperity: **He:** *3 Wealth and riches are in his house*
 - (4) Righteousness: **Waw:** *and his righteousness is characterized by enduring forever*
 - (a) Doing actions of loyalty and justice in the community
 - ii) Individually—112:4a
 - (1) Perception: **Zayin:** *4 Light rises in the darkness for the upright:*
 - (a) A metaphor for God's discernment when faced with potential confusion and adversity.
 - iii) Socially—112:4b-5 (he responds rightly to those in need)
 - (1) Godlikeness: **Het:** *he is gracious and compassionate and righteous*
 - (a) Just like his God (Ps. 111:4),
 - (2) Wellness:
 - (a) **Tet:** *5 It is well with the man who is characterized by being gracious (generosity springing from goodness) and lending,*
 - (b) **Yod:** *(It is well with the man ...) who conducts his affairs with justice.*

- d) The **security** of the righteous in the face of adversity—112:6-9

- With all the blessings mentioned above, there are potential temptations to respond wrongly to the future. The wise person will respond in faith to a sovereign, wise, and loving God.
- i) Stability: **Kaf**: 6 *He will not be shaken forever,*
- ii) Lasting influence: **Lamed**: *the righteous will be remembered forever.*
- iii) Confidence:
 - (1) **Mem**: 7 *He is not afraid of bad news;*
 - (2) **Nun**: *his heart is steadfast, characterized by trusting in Yahweh.*
 - (3) He faces the future with confidence that Yahweh will accomplish what is right and good.
- iv) Reinforced: **Samek**: 8 *His heart is sustained;*
- v) Victorious: **Ayin**: *he will not be afraid, until he looks on (the end of) his enemies.*
- vi) Generosity: **Pe**: 9 *He gives generously to the needy;*
- vii) Good reputation: (referred to in 2 Cor. 9:9)
 - (1) **Tsade**: *His righteousness endures forever.*
 - (2) **Qof**: *His horn rises high in honor.*

2) Contrasted with the wicked one—112:10

- a) The wicked will be frustrated:
 - i) Displeased anger: **Resh**: 10 *The wicked one sees and has become angry.*
 - ii) Jealousy-inspired weakness: **Sin/Shin**: *He gnashes his teeth and becomes weak.*
 - (1) A gesture of rage, aggression, or despair associated with clenched teeth.
- b) The wicked will be finished:
 - i) Unfulfilled desires: **Taw**: *The desire of the wicked one is destroyed.*
 - (1) He destroys himself in his resentment of what the blessed ones have.
 - (2) All his goals, dreams, and purposes will ultimately melt away. He will die a disappointed man.

3) Things to remember (believe, feel, do):

- a) Who or what is at the center of YOUR life?
- b) Which best described you: the righteous or the wicked?
- c) Are you ready to be changed from the inside out by this God of grace?