

## Studies in Psalms by [John T Polk II](#) For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalms 37

11/6/12

Vs. 1-6 discourage frustrating comparison of do-gooders with evildoers;  
Vs. 7-20 discourage comparison of the wicked's prosperity with the meek's gain;  
Vs. 21-33 show the wicked's attack against the righteous on God's side;  
Vs. 34-40 describe the lasting reward of the righteous and destruction of the wicked.

This Psalm uses the expression, "do not fret" (vs. 1, 7, 8) to discourage believers' comparisons of their blessings from God with the seeming prosperity of evildoers. In David's day, some who would flee from their "promised land" to *greener grass* needed to be told to: "Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness" (vs.3, also 9, 11, 22, 29, 34). Great emphasis is placed on those who "inherit the earth," described as "those who wait on the LORD" (vs.9), "the meek" (vs.11), "those blessed by Him" (vs.22). Verse 11 seems to be Jesus' very wording in Matthew 5:5, that Christians should be content in His spiritual kingdom (the church of Christ, Matthew 16:18).

Very quotable thoughts are found throughout:

Vs.2-"For they [*the wicked, jtpII*] shall soon be cut down like the grass, And wither as the green herb" (Isaiah 40:6-8; 1 Peter 2:24-25);

Vs.5-"Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring *it* to pass" (used later by Solomon, Proverbs 16:3);

Vs.8-"Cease from anger, and forsake wrath" (used by Paul, Ephesians 4:26);

Vs.16-"A little that a righteous man has *Is* better than the riches of many wicked" (Proverbs 15:16; 16:8);

Vs.23-"The steps of a *good man* are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way" (Proverbs 16:9);

Vs.24-"Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds *him with* His hand" (Proverbs 24:16);

Vs.31-"The law of his God is in his heart; None of his steps shall slide" (certainly the thought in 1 John 3:6, 9; 5:18).

In **verse 21**, one who "borrows and does not [*intend to, jtpII*] repay" are WICKED, governments included! (Ecclesiastes 5:4-5)

There is no "once-saved-always-saved" in **verses 23-24**, for then a "*good man*" wouldn't be able to "fall." The persistent recovery promised by God goes to those who "fall," but return to "his way."

Perhaps the entire Psalm is best summarized by the statement: "I have been young, and *now* am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread" (vs.25). In 1 John 3:7, we have: "Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous." Being "righteous" is simply doing the will of God and following the steps of Jesus Christ. Being "righteous" is NOT

**All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.**



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being "self-righteous," as the ungodly and sinners would self-righteously charge. David's statement is that in the experiences of life, God blesses and cares for His people (those obedient to His Word), and even though at times it seems the wicked prosper more, the final reward will be the ultimate reward. The wicked will be forgotten, but the righteous, never! Righteousness consists, therefore, in: "Depart from evil, and do good; And dwell forevermore" (vs.27). Today, only by obeying Jesus Christ can this be done (Acts 2:38, 40-41; 2 Corinthians 7:1).

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