

If you have your Bibles, if you could please turn to the Psalms. I want to thank those who are watching by internet, and we ask that the Lord would richly bless them. Psalm chapter 37. Psalm chapter 37. And why don't we stand, if you're capable of standing. Psalm chapter 37, beginning in verse 1. The Bible says, Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like a grass and wither as the green herb. Trust in the Lord and do good. So shalt thou dwell in the land and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord, and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord. Trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light and thy judgment as the noonday. Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for him. Fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger and forsake wrath. Fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.

Let's pray. Father, we thank you. Father, we just ask you, Lord, that you would bless your word. Bless those who are hearing your word. And Father, help us. Help us to put all our faith and trust and be patient in you and what you're doing in our lives. And Fathers, we live in this crooked world, Lord. Help us keep our eyes on you. And Lord, bless those who hear the word. Help me as I preach it. And may it be to the hearts of your people an encouragement. In this I pray in Jesus' name, amen.

Well, you can be seated at this time. And here we know that this psalm was written by King David. And here in this psalm, David is discussing the age old problem of why the righteous suffer while the wicked seem to prosper. Amen? And man, isn't that going on today? You know, when you're doing right, it seems like you're being punished for it. And that's what's going on today. And as you look, and I hate to say this, but it seems like the wicked are getting away with everything. Amen? And this has been going on over and over and over. And listen, we need to fret not. And here he reminds the people of God to remember the promises and faithfulness of God. And that's what should be where our focus is on, amen? And look back at Psalm 36. And he reminds the people in this psalm in 36, look what it says in verse 7. It says, how excellent is thy loving kindness, O God. Therefore, the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house. And thou shall make them drink of the river of thy pleasures. For with thee is the foundation of life, and thy light shall we see light. O continue thy loving kindness unto them that know thee, and thy righteousness to the upright in heart. Let not the foot of the pride come against me, and let not the hand of the wicked remove me. So here he's speaking of the promises that God's given us all through the Bible. I'm always holding on to that promise in Hebrews, that God will not forsake us, nor, you know, what's the, that he will not forsake us, nor, yeah, I'm messing up. But you know what I mean, amen? So we have to recognize that with all the evil in this world, all the things that come against us, all the trials that we go through, that we're not supposed to fret. And he reminds the listeners of the wicked's ultimate end.

Again, look at Psalm chapter 37.

Look at verse one and two. Again, here's the word fret. It says, fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass and wither as the green herb. What's this talking about? Evil will be dealt with. And I heard this today at Sunday school. Yeah, Sunday school. In America, in 2021, out of all Americans, 73% of Americans believe that there's a heaven. 73%. And then there's only 62% that believe there's a hell. What does that mean? That means there's a lot of people that believe that there's no hell, that this is all we have. But that's not what God's saying. Amen? And listen, we need to commit our ways to the Lord. We need to keep our focus on him. We need to live our lives pleasing him. Nevermind what anybody else is doing. Amen?

1 Peter 5, verse 7 says, casting all your cares upon him, for he careth for you. Listen, how many times you're caught in a time where you're struggling and things are not working and you feel all alone and you feel the weight of your life coming down on you. And sometimes you feel alone. Sometimes you feel like, God, where are you? But I'm here to tell you, God careth for you. That's what the Bible says in 1 Peter 5. I'll say it again. 1 Peter 5, verse 7, casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you. And how do we know that? Listen, it's not a feeling. It's not a feeling that you feel. It's all about what he's done on the cross. Amen? That's all good enough for me. I may feel alone, but I know I'm not alone. I may not feel like I'm being loved, but I know I'm being loved. Sometimes I feel like I'm not being cared for, but I know I'm being cared for, because that's the promise and the faithfulness of God. And David is saying, you weren't meant to carry your own burdens. Place it all on the one who cares for you. Amen? You know, we need to stop doing it all on our own. The Bible says that we need to surrender to him. We need to trust him. A deliberate act of surrender is giving God the right to direct our lives. You realize that? And that's what it means when we commit. Secondly, we see that God will vindicate us. Amen? God is going to vindicate us. Look what it says in Psalm chapter 37, verse 6. Again, go back to the text we're in.

Psalm chapter 37, verse 6. And it says, and he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light and thy judgment as the noonday. And this is one of the most helpful promises in scripture. God's going to vindicate you. You may feel alone. You may feel like everything's falling apart. You may feel like evil is going and doing better than you. And they're getting the best of you. But I'm here to tell you, there's a God that loves you. There's a God that's protecting you. But it's not in our time. Amen? David is making a bold theological claim here. God himself vindicates his people. He's the one who will bring their path to completion. their path to completion. You know, you see it all the time. All in the Old Testament. I'm looking back all through the scriptures and what do I see? I see when God freed his people from the clutches of Pharaoh and freed them from their bondage and as they walked through, they came up to the Red Sea. Amen. Can you imagine standing there as a freed Israelite, and you're standing at the Red Sea and you got the sea in front of you and you got the greatest military power behind you and you have no weapons and here they come, they're going to wipe you all out. That's not what the story, that's not what it ended up to be, amen? I can just imagine, I got this imagination of mine, I can just imagine standing there and all of a sudden hear the pillar of fire now moves away and this whole army is just charging in their chariots coming after the Israelites. But God's man puts the staff in the water being directed by God and the water opens up and they begin to walk on dry ground. At the last minute, as they're walking through the walls of water, they're hearing these chariots and they're hearing these soldiers coming. And can you imagine at that moment of hopelessness, God intervenes. The waters close in on the army of Pharaoh and what happened? Not one more word, not one more sound. You know what they heard? I live next to the ocean, you know what you hear all the time? Seagulls. Amen? God's going to vindicate what you're going through. God himself vindicates his people. And vindication is not achieved, it's unveiled. Amen? What do you mean by that? You can't achieve it. You have to rest in the mighty hand of God and allow him. You do all you're supposed to do, but allow him and at the end he's going to take care of it. And you know, it's not always early, it's not on your time. Isn't that true? Amen? Sometimes we're waiting and waiting and waiting. Sometimes you're there like, God, why are you allowing this to happen? Why did I get disappointed with this? Why did this get canceled? Why did this not happen? Why didn't I get that position? God says, wait, hold on. I'm still in control. Amen? It's still on me. And if you commit yourself to me and you follow me, I will get the desires of your heart. Did you hear that? It's a promise. You won't get that red Maserati. Amen? But we got to understand we're living in a wicked, a wicked world where there's wickedness and there's evil people all around us. But God's watching. God himself will take responsibility for the results of those lives that put their trust in him. Amen? Did you hear that?

It's God's responsibility when you trust him with your life. It's no longer you. Your problems are not your problems, they're his. How many times you're fretting over something, you're upset about something, when all you got to do is say, God, you're watching, right? I love you. I know you're going to vindicate me. I know you're watching over me. I know you're my protector. You're my shield and buckler. And he says, wait, it's not the right time. Amen? You look what's going on. You will look what's going on in this world right now. Evil is going rampant, but there's going to be a time when people are going to be arrested. Judgment's coming. Amen? God's watching, but he's waiting also. And God himself will take responsibility for your life when you entrust it to him. Amen? You know, the greatest lesson I ever learned was I was a young Christian. And I was having problems, and this was coming, and that was coming. I had a leak in my roof. You know what? All these things were happening. I don't want to go through the whole thing, but I went up on that roof, and I began trying to fix that hole right near the chimney. I had it all open. And you know, it was on a day where there was rain everywhere. And I'm praying, I'm saying, God, look what's going on. And then I started to pray like this. God, when I gave my life over to you, you took responsibility of my life, my bills, my house, my car, my wife, my kids. This ain't mine. This is yours. And you've given me stewardship. But Lord, I can't do it all. And do you know I was up there all by myself trying to work that, fix that hole in there? And do you know it was raining cats and dogs all around me? And it was right where I was working, right in my area, there was a pocket of sunshine and cloudiness. But everywhere around was raining cats and dogs. And I didn't notice, but God kept it all open until I finished the job and I got down off that ladder. And as soon as I got off down that ladder, I felt these big drops. You know those big drops that come. And then it just came down. And I couldn't believe it. Called my cousin who lived in the next city. He said, man, was it raining cats and dogs all day? But not for me. Amen. I'm trying to tell you this. There's a God that's going to take care of you. And Psalm chapter 40, verse 1 and 2, the Bible says, I waited patiently for the Lord and he inclined unto me and he heard my cry. He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and he set my feet upon a rock and established my goings. Don't you love that? He pulled me out of my pit and he established my feet on the rock of Jesus Christ. Amen. And I'm going to tell you, God takes responsibility of the outcomes of a surrendered life. I'm here to tell you, when you commit your ways to the Lord, when you commit your ways, when you do all that you're doing for him, living right, doing right, speaking right, I'm here to tell you, he will take care of you. God is good all the time. Amen. And do you know he accomplishes what you can't do? Amen. And trusting your way to him and not losing control, but placing all control to him. Listen, that's where the blessing comes, because that's when you can stand in the midst of peace, in the midst of all that's going on. Amen.

Now you all know I got that phone call. My cancer surgery was canceled. Amen. And I know my dear, my wife, she didn't like that. We were all like ready. I was all prepared. You know, I was prepared for Thursday. I was going to have Brother Jim in the pulpit on Thursday night to preach in my stead. And I was already prepared. Okay, Thursday morning, I'll head up to the hospital. I'm going to get in there and get dressed. I'm going to go into the surgery room. And when I come out, probably about three o'clock, you know, when I'm in that little thing, and they're taking care of me, and it's all over, and they settle me up in the room. And I was thinking to myself, man, I'm going to grab that menu, the hospital menu, and I'm going to be looking for carrot cake. Amen. Well, it didn't work out the way I thought. Amen.

And at first I was getting, ah! And I said, wait a minute. God's in control. Maybe I didn't get operated on that day because God says, hey, wait, I got something different. Now, a lot of you know that I was asking you to pray that God would use me as a testimony as I have peace and confidence, even in the midst of a surgery. I was asking some of you, and you know what I'm saying,

I was asking some of you that God would give me the opportunity to even witness to the surgical team that was about to operate on me, that I would have the opportunity to pray for them. Well, maybe it wasn't going to happen. Amen. So I'm here to stand in here to say, you know what, I'm in perfect peace because I know He's in control. Amen. And that's exactly where He wants us to be. I've entrusted my life to Him. He's going to take care of me. Even when it looks bleak and all hope is gone, I have a way maker. Amen. His name's Jesus. And I'm here to tell you, I will be vindicated. You will be vindicated when you put your commitment and your trust in Him. Amen. My third one is rest. Look again in Psalm chapter 31 verse 7. I mean 37 verse 7. Back to the text. Psalm 37 verse 7. It says, Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him. Fret not thyself because of Him who prospereth in His way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. What is He saying? He said, Rest in Him. Rest in the Lord. Don't fret. Don't worry. But here, this word fret doesn't mean that. Amen. It says here, Fret not thyself because of Him who prospereth in His way. What's He saying? You're going to see evil prospering. And then we have a word fret. There's a word fret that means worry and another word of fret, like I said earlier, of having this anger, this heated attitude in you. And that's what God don't want you to have because if you're trusting in God, you know that God's going to work it all out. Amen. And we need to rest. And I notice people are not resting in the Lord. They're all being hit from all different angles and they're not in the place of rest. And if you could only stop and recognize the promise of God and His faith How many know what I'm talking about? God is still on the throne. Instead, look how you should respond. Look at Proverbs 24, verse 17 and 18. Go to Proverbs. This is how God wants you to respond. He wants you to trust in him. He wants you to rest in him. But look how he wants his people to respond. In Proverbs 24. Look what it says in verse 17. It says, Rejoice not when thy enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth. Lest the Lord see it, and it displeased him, and he turn away from his wrath from him. What is he saying? What is God saying? You realize that we're different than the world? We're supposed to be salt and light? We're supposed to do the opposite of how the world handles things? We're supposed to be in complete peace when we're being attacked? Isn't that what Jesus did? He said not a word. All the beating, all the whipping, being nailed to that cross. And what does he say? Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do. Do you realize we're not supposed to be like the world? We're not supposed to be filled with hate and anger? Do you realize what the Bible is saying? Look what it's saying again. Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth. Do you realize that your enemy, we're supposed to what? Pray for them. Bless them that persecute you. Listen, I'm here to tell you, you can only do that in the spirit. You can't do that in the flesh. Amen? And do you realize sometimes if you're over there gleaning on the fact that your enemy, all these people are now finally going to get what they deserve. You know what? God's going to pull back. So I want you to ask him, acting like that. Amen? Why? Do you realize that God is love? Do you realize that God's not willing that any should what? Perish? He's waiting for every one of you to live right, do right, speak right, and be in perfect peace when you're being attacked. So those enemies that are looking at you will turn and recognize, I want what he has. Amen? You know what I've started to realize? Those people that come at me, they come at me because they envy me. I may not have everything, but they envy me because they know deep down inside, they know that God loves me. Amen? They know that God is using me. And listen, whenever you're used by God, you have the enemy coming against you. Whether it's speaking behind you, whether they're setting up a pit for you to fall in, listen, that's on them. You need to pray for those people that spitefully use and abuse you and persecute you. Why? Because there's a God that's watching over you, protecting you. And if you're coming with the right spirit, maybe someday that enemy might turn his whole life around and turn to Jesus Christ because of you. And that's the goal, amen? And I'm here to tell you, anger and envy are not harmless emotions. They expose the heart to spiritual danger. And what do I mean by that? Your heart, you keep living like that, getting angry and all that. Listen, you're going to draw up the root of bitterness in you. And that's going to creep out the joy that God wants in you, the peace that God wants

you to sit in and live in. Amen? The enemy's greatest victory is not, listen, it's not his success. It's your reaction to it. When you start building up and having hatred and anger towards what somebody else has and building up envy, man, you're in trouble because you're not trusting God. When you start focusing on your problems and your situations and how you don't deserve to go through, listen, you got it all wrong. Trust him in the midst of it all. And in time, he will vindicate you. In time, he will straighten out the problems that you're in because he's a loving, faithful God. And if you give your life, you commit yourself to him, and you rest in him, he will take care of it all. Amen? So fret not. Fret not. But be the blessing he's called you to be. Amen?

Why don't we stand? And you know, I know somebody's saying, man, that was just for me. Oh, pastor, you don't know what I'm going through. Man, you were speaking right to me. No, God was speaking to me. And everything that I was going through, he was telling me not to fret. He was telling me to trust him. He was telling me that his time is impeccable. His timing, not mine. I got a microwave mindset. I want it now, now, now. God says, listen, you need to let that thing fester and work itself out because there's other things that I'm doing in the midst of it. But when I move, it's going to be perfect. Amen? Rest in me, he says. Father, we thank you. Father, we thank you that so many times we walk around worrying and fretting. And so many times we see people prospering. This is that age-old adage that we always see. Why do people, wicked people, prosper while we suffer doing right? And God says, trust me. I'm still in control. Trust me. I love you. I will never leave you nor forsake you. And, Father, we just want to thank you for your loving kindness, your mercy to us. Father, we want to ask you to forgive us for not trusting you more, for not sitting in that place of restfulness where all our cares have been rolled over to you. Father, forgive us. Help us now, Lord, to live right. Help us to seek the peace that only you can give us. Help us, Lord, to be fully surrendered to you, knowing that you are capable to run our lives. And, Father, help us to always have the spirit of thankfulness because you are so good to us. We don't even deserve how good you are to us. And, Father, help us. Help us to pray for our enemies. Help us to pray for those who spitefully persecute us and say all manner of things against us. Help us to love them, too, just as you love them. And this I pray in Jesus' name, amen.