

What Do You Choose: Life or Death?

Psalm 37 is a Psalm for Today!

Fred R. Coulter—January 10, 2026

What I want to cover today is what's happening in the world and there are a lot of things taking place.

Just before we started that there was another attack against Isis in Syria and with all of this talk of peace and prosperity and making money and all of this thing the question becomes:

- Where is the Truth of God?
- What are we to do?
- How are we to live?
- What is it that God expects from us?

We've covered that many, many times!

Let's look at why the world is in the shape that it is in today and look how that it's very profound that the influence of Sodom and Gomorrah in today's society is absolutely without parallel in recent times. All of the things that are taking place in the background, you have all of that insidious sin and evil that people are doing and practicing. Hosea 6 tells us exactly:

- what is happening
- why it's happening
- what we need to do about it

This is why that with men peace is really most difficult. In today's world everyone has to ask: Can you really trust a Muslim? When you study the Muslim religion, one of their doctrines is that **all the infidels have to be killed!**

That's at the basis of everything with their religion and what they carry out. So, what's going to happen? Now today, there are a lot of people who say, 'We want to get back with God. But will they? *Here's what they need to do!* This is what we see going on with this Turning Point USA, other churches and so forth!

Hosea 6:1: "Come and let us return to the LORD, for He has torn, and He will heal us; He has smitten, and He will bind us up."

They have all turned to sin. They have all gone after their own ways. ***They have all turned things upside down and evil!***

Let's come here and see what we have in the book of Proverbs concerning evil because we see a lot of riots. We see a lot of things going on.

Think of this with all the riots going on, all the problems that are there. If you go back and look at the this recent controversy in Minneapolis, there's in the background Sodom and Gomorrah.

Proverbs 11:20^[transcribers correction]: "Those who are of a perverse heart *are* an abomination to the LORD..." *Perverse means:*

- they're lawless
- they're especially sinful
- they are hateful
- they hate God
- they hate His Laws
- they hate other people who want to follow God

"...but the upright in the Way are His delight" (v 20).

- Who is in the Way of God?
- Who is in the way of the world and Satan and evil?

Let's see what's going to happen. Here He says to the evil. Now think about this with the mobs. Think about this with the riots.

Verse 21: "*Though* hand *join* in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished, but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered."

IF you study the book of Proverbs, you will see right and wrong, good and evil, and all of those things are what we need to understand and rely on. Here's what it is with everyone.

- think about this when you see all those riots
- think about this when you see those poor ICE and border patrol agents

trying to get rid of all of the criminals!

But you see most people don't understand why we have all of this. Because in general, Americans have turned away from God. Now, there will be a few who will say 'let us return to God.' But **IF** you return to God, you have to come to God **HIS way.**

Proverbs 16:5: "Everyone who is proud in heart *is* an abomination to the LORD; *though* joined hand in hand, he shall not be unpunished."

Doesn't matter how you have how many you have out there and what they do. Here's what has to happen; here's the thing that needs to change. Because everyone thinks they're right when they're living a lie. You see that, and that's why they justify and doing what they're doing.

IF you want to come back to God as we read in Hos. 6:1, here is what you do. You don't come back

to God the way of man. **You come to God the way that HE shows:**

Verse 6: “By mercy...”

- not hate
- not destruction
- not selfishness

Verse 6: “**By mercy and Truth iniquity is purged...**”

That’s what has to happen. They have to come to see:

- what they need to repent of
- what they need to change
- how they need to understand the Word of God and what God’s Word has for them

It is purged because it’s in all of us!

“...and **by the fear of the LORD** men turn away from evil” (v 6).

Now, here’s what’s set before every human being whether they know God or not. This is quite a thing, and this is what it is with all of us every day of our lives, everything that we go through. Now, it tells us right here in Deut. 30:15. I want you to think about this! Those of you who may be new or try to understand the Word of God you need to realize this right here:

Deuteronomy 30:15: “Behold, I have set before you this **day life and good...**”—*life means you can live in the flesh in a decent life*

- **IF** you follow God’s Commandments
- **IF** you believe God
- **THEN** the New Testament brings us ***to eternal life***

Now, eternal life is a whole other subject and what has to happen with that. But nevertheless, ***even in the society it’s set before them:***

“**...life and good, and death and evil**” (v 16).
Now, most of those rioters are for:

- perversion of sex
- hate of everyone who wants to do good
- destroying and killing those that they don’t like

Because they choose evil! So the question becomes to each one of us every day is:

- What are our choices?
- What do we do?

As one man asked Jesus, ‘Lord, which is the greatest Commandment? He said, ‘The greatest Commandment is ***love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul, all your mind and all your being!***’

Now, listen carefully to what else He said: ***‘And to love your neighbor as yourself!’*** That’s what we don’t see out there at all with all these riots going on and all the corruption. Then He said: ‘On these two Commandments...’

Now you want a simple discussion of how to begin to solve the problems and all of the hate and all of the evil. Here it is right here. ***You repent of your sins, which are the transgressions of God’s Laws and Commandments! That’s how you love God!*** It’s not just an acknowledgement, but:

- a way of thinking
- a way of living
- a way of conducting your life with
 - ✓ all your heart
 - ✓ all your mind
 - ✓ all your soul
 - ✓ all your being

Then Jesus said, ***‘On these two Commandments—loving God and loving neighbor—hang all the Laws, and the Prophets.’*** Everything that God does is based upon that!

That’s why He says here; Deuteronomy 30:15: “Behold, I have set before you this day life and good, and death and evil.”

Now notice what it says right after that, because a lot of people say, ‘Well, the Old Testament is filled with hate. The Old Testament has been done away. But in the New Testament we have love and grace, and with love and grace, everything is fine.’

Well, let’s read on and see right here in what is called the Old Testament.

Verse 16: “In that I command you this day... [that fits in exactly with what Jesus said]: ...to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways...”

Now, that’s the whole story of the Bible right there. What is the Way of God? The Way of God ***begins with the Ten Commandments!*** Now, let me just bring this out to someone who may be a hardline Protestant. You show me of the Ten Commandments, which of those are not based on love? ***Think about it!***

- Do you know the Ten Commandments?
- Do you understand the Ten Commandments?

That puts you in relationship with God and in relationship with other people, in relationship with your family. What is right and good, that is called the way of the Lord.

“...walk in His ways, and to keep His Commandments...” (v 16).

Everything God says to do is right and good. That’s why we say we are Scripturalists, ***because we believe the Word of God!***

- we preach the Word of God
- we preach love
- we preach Truth
- we preach grace
- we preach understanding
- we preach how to live your life
- we preach how to keep you from the evil that's going on in the world

Deut. 30 is important, because it affects every human being every day and every hour, minute, whatever, of everyone's life.

- What are you going to do?
- How are you to think?
- How are you to interact with other people?
- Why is there evil? *Evil is of Satan the devil and the choices that people make, which are not good!*

Verse 15: "Behold, I have set before you this day life and good, and death and evil... [that's to every human being, everywhere] ...in that I command you this day..."

Of course, you can say today is this day. It says in one of the Psalms, '**Today, if you will hear His voice, harden not your heart.**' That means don't set up roadblocks in your mind to reject what God has said. Don't think at any time that you are capable of doing things that are really good by what you just think.

- you have to have the Word of God
- you have to have the Commandments of God

That's why He gave them; that's why they need to be a part of us. That's why God is giving these instructions here. He says:

"...I command you this day to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments **so that you may live and multiply....**"

Well, today, all the statistics are we are living and dying *and decreasing*. All of that is because of sin! Because everyone, everyone. You think about it! You watch those rioters out there. Watch what happens when they interview them. Everyone thinks that they are right. And when people get so entrenched in evil, they will not entertain the slightest notion of doing good. Now, with this current thing that happened in Minneapolis with that woman, that's exactly what it is.

She wouldn't entertain the simple thing. 'Please, get out of your car.' **No**, she made a weapon out of it. Then you investigate the things that they've said about her before she came to that point. So, here's what it says.

IF you do what is right and good to live, ***IF*** you do what is right to live, "**...the LORD your God shall bless you** in the land where you go to possess it" (v 16). *That's wherever you live!*

- Do you want the blessing of God?
- or***
- Do you want the automatic curse that comes with transgression?

That's what you see with all of these riots. That's what you see with all of these wars. We just got an announcement that Donald Trump just struck ISIS again in Syria. Well, look what he did in Venezuela. now we don't know where all of this is going to go, but we certainly know that God is setting up end-time events to transpire. *So keep your eye on it.* So, here's the choice:

- What is it that you want?
- Have you ever sat down and asked yourself:
 - ✓ Who am I?
 - ✓ Where am I going?
 - ✓ What am I doing?
 - ✓ What is my life?
 - ✓ How should I live?

It's all in the Bible! ***IF*** you want a simple place to start, start in the book of Proverbs and read through the whole book of Proverbs and think about it verse-by-verse, sentence-by-sentence.

- What should I do?
- What should I think?
- How should I react?
- How do I avoid evil?
- How do I do what is good?

All of those things. So, God says here, but ***IF***, now you look up there, 1400 ***IF***s in the Bible, most of them all apply to us. All right.

Verse 17: "But ***IF*** your heart turn away so that you will not hear..."

Now think about that! Look at all of those rioters out there:

- they won't listen
 - they won't hear
 - the politicians urge them on
- they're all involved in:*
- lying
 - cheating
 - stealing
 - committing adultery
 - homosexuality
 - Sodom and Gomorrah perversions
 - killing and murdering

Verse 17: "But ***IF*** your heart turn away so that you will not hear, but shall be drawn away and

worship other gods and serve them.”

- Where are most of the other gods? *Not just in the religion!*
- Where are they?
- How many do you have?

Ezekiel 14—let’s see one of the most profound Scriptures in the book of Ezekiel. A lot of people want to know:

- What is God going to tell us today?
- What does God want us to do?

A lot of people mock God and say:

What is God going to tell us today? ‘I’ll go to God and challenge Him.’

In Ezek. 14 this is what happened, and ***here’s where you find out where the false gods really are!*** They’re not just in temples. They’re not just in statues and idols. Where are they?

In Deut. 30, we’re talking about ***what do you think? What do you choose?*** In Ezek. 14^[transcriber’s correction] is what happened to the children of Israel: ***they were carried off in captivity because they sinned against God and because they didn’t repent!*** They were in captivity and Ezekiel was sent there to warn them!

Ezekiel 14:1: “And some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me.... [they wanted to know about God] ...And the Word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts...’” (vs 1-3).

Now think of that statement. What idol do you have in your heart? Whether it’s:

- a thought against God
- a thought to sin
- a justification to do evil

What is the idol in your mind? *That is your ‘god’!*

Have you ever thought of it that way? ***When God says don’t go after other gods, the first thing you need to do is control your mind!***

Verse 3: “‘Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts and put the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces....’”

- unwilling to repent
- unwilling to recognize what is wrong

Verse 4: “‘Therefore, speak to them, and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Every man of the house of Israel...’”

That means every person everywhere. Now think about this: ***God knows at any time!***

“...‘Every man of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart...’” (v 4).

- What is your goal?
- What do you think?
- What is your mind on?
- Do you really believe God?
- Do you really love God?
- Do you really search out the Truth of God?
- What is it?

“...and puts the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and comes to the prophet; **I the LORD will answer him according to the multitude of his idols**” (v 4).

Now think about that in relationship to what we’re reading in Deut. 30. So let’s turn back there and look at that again.

Deuteronomy 30:17: “But **if** your heart turn away **so that you will not hear...**” *You refuse to listen!*

What happened to that woman who refused to listen to a simple instruction? She had:

- her own ways
- her own idols
- her own perversion
- she was incaltrant
- she would not move her car

So, she’s going to run over the ICE agent; the one sent to bring law and order! Then, in self-defense, he shot her!

- What else was he going to do?
- What did she have?
 - ✓ she had idols in her mind
 - ✓ she was incaltrant in her thinking
 - ✓ she wouldn’t turn from the evil
 - ✓ she wouldn’t listen to a simple command

And if she had done what he said. She would be alive today! Even in spite of her gross Sodom and Gomorrah sins.

Verse 18: “**I denounce to you this day that you shall surely perish...**”

In her case, that was immediate! So, there’s an example right there that’s been headlined on the news, and that’s all they talk about. Everyone who’s evil-minded can’t understand why she got shot. Then they do the same thing to law enforcement that they do to God.

- they hate God
- they reject God
- they despise God
- they despise anyone who wants to do good
- they want their evil
- they want to make their evil work

*Evil works only in one way: **destruction!***

Verse 18: **"I denounce to you this day that you shall surely perish;** you shall not prolong *your* days on the land where you...go to possess it."

Here's what we have for everyone, and everyone. really needs to think on this. Everyone needs to sit down and have a good long talk with themselves, and ***then between you and God!***

- What are you going to do?
- Where are you going to go?
- How are you going to do it?

Verse 19: "I call heaven and earth..."

Now, Earth is exactly what we are living on. How's. That for a witness? You have to have a witness to what you say. Well, the witness of God is His creation: Heaven and Earth.

Verse 19: "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing..."

Everyone's confronted with that. All of your choices. every day are confronted with this:

- right and wrong
- good and evil
- love and hate
- Truth and Righteousness vs sin

"...I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing. Therefore, **choose life**, so that both you and your seed may live" (v 19).

What's that going to lead to? You may have to forsake a lot of your thoughts. You have to give up some of your activities. But what will it lead to ***IF*** you do what God says?

There it is confronted right on the streets with thousands of people! Here's what God wants you to do:

Verse 20: "That you may love the LORD your God, **and may obey His voice...**"

Everything you need to obey from the voice of God has been written down, so you can's say, 'I wasn't there and I didn't know.' And there are more Bibles than there are people.

Verse 20: "That you may love the LORD your God, **and may obey His voice**, and may cleave to Him; **for He is your life and the length of your days...**"

- Is that not what you want?
- Do you want life or death?
- Do you want Truth or sin?
- Do you want lies?

And remember, ***IF*** you follow lies, your 'god' is Satan. ***IF*** You believe your own mind against God, you have idols in your mind.

"...for He is your life..."

- I don't care where you are.
- I don't care how old you are
- I don't care how young you are

Your life has come from God!

"...for He is your life and the length of your days, so that you may dwell in the land, **which the LORD swore to your fathers**—to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob..." (v 20).

Psa. 37 is especially for those who are trusting in God and fighting against the difficulties and problems that come along. The whole Psalm is dedicated to:

- how we exist in the world today
- how we look to God and trust in God
- how we look forward to the promises that He has said

Remember: Jesus said to His disciples that **'it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom.'** Now that's quite a statement when you take that statement and analyze it.

Psalm 37:1: **"Do not fret yourself because of evildoers..."**

That's what we have. You turn on the television, that's all you see!

"...and do not be envious against the workers of iniquity' (v 1)—*by saying*, 'How did they get all of that and I didn't get anything?' None of that! God will give to you"

- ***IF*** you ask for it
- ***IF*** you yield to God
- ***IF*** you love Him
- ***IF*** you keep His Commandments

You will be blessed! BUT:

- ***IF*** you fight God
- ***IF*** you hate God
- ***IF*** you go against His Laws
- ***IF*** you go against those who are trying to do good
- ***IF*** you go against the authorities which God established (Rom.13)

You're going to have trouble! So, don't be envious of them.

Verse 2: "For they shall soon be cut down like the grass; and wither as the green herb. **Trust in the LORD...**" (vs 2-3). *Now that's quite a statement!*

Prov. 3 is one of the first lessons that Proverbs teaches us. Here's how you begin to get things going in the right way, in trusting God. Notice again how all of this depends on your emotions, your thoughts and your choices.

Proverbs 3:5: "**Trust in the LORD with all your heart...** [that's the same as loving God with all your heart] **...and lean not to your own understanding.**" *Think about that!*

- A lot of people come up with good ideas *that are really not good ideas!*
- A lot of people come up with a lot of evil ideas *that they think are good ideas!*

"...lean not to your own understanding" (v 5). Why?

- because you are incomplete
- because you don't understand
- because you don't have all the facts

That's why you have to come to God! Here it is:

Verse 6: "**In all your ways...**"

- everything you do
- everything you think
- how you live your life

See how that ties in with Deut. 30?

"...acknowledge Him..." (v 6). *Now think about that!*

- everything you do
- every thought you think
- every proposal that you have

Do you ever just get up and:

- thank God that you have life?
- thank God that you understand His Word?
- thank God that He is merciful and gracious?
- praise Him for His love, His Truth and everything that He has?

Verse 7—*here's the key:* "**Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil.**"

Psa. 37—this whole Psalm is a Psalm for today with all the things that we are facing.

Palm 37:1: "Do not fret yourself because of evildoers, and do not be envious against the workers of iniquity, for they shall soon be cut down like the grass; and wither as the green herb. Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and cherish faithfulness" (vs 1-3).

Verse 4—here's what it is, the true contentment of God with His Spirit is going to lead you to do this.

Verse 4: "**Delight yourself in the LORD...**" *Think about that!*

- you love God
- you praise God
- you think about God
- your life is centered around God the Father and Jesus Christ

Notice what that will bring:

"...He shall give you the desires of your heart" v 4).

- How? ***IF*** you look to God for His love, goodness and Truth!
- What is it that you really want? Not in covetousness:
 - ✓ so that you can have riches
 - ✓ so that you can have wealth
 - ✓ so that you can have all of that

True desire is:

- to love God
- to love each other
- to keep His Commandments
- to draw close to Him

This is what we should do every day:

Verse 5: "**Commit your way unto the LORD; trust also in Him...**"

He says that all the way through here: Trust in God. Let's look at the other side of the coin:

- Are you trustworthy with God's Word?
- Are you trustworthy with His Truth?

IF you are, you're trusting God! Like it says in Prov. 3: ***Don't lean to your own understanding!***

- What are you doing?
- What is your own understanding?
- What are the two words that you would say when you lean to your own understanding? *I think or I believe!*

Now both of those are brought up when people are confronted with: Are you going to love God and keep His Commandments? *I think or I believe!* ***IF*** you *think and believe:*

- Is it with God's Word
- Is it with what is right?

If you commit your ways to Him—v 6: "And He shall bring forth your righteousness like the Light... [you will be living within the Laws of God] ...and your judgment like the noonday."

- you'll make right decisions
- you will think properly

That's what's wrong with the whole world today and the whole society in America and everywhere in the world:

- they don't think properly
- they have idols in their minds
- they trust in their own decisions
- they know nothing about God

Verse 7: “**Rest in the LORD...**” *That means trusting in Him and put everything that you think, say, and do into the hands of God!*

“...wait patiently for Him; **do not fret yourself** because of him who prospers in his way, because of him who carries out wicked schemes” (v 7).

That's what we see in the world today. **Do not measure yourself by other people! Measure yourself:**

- by the Word of God
- by the Commandments of God
- by the love of God

Do you trust in Him?

Verse 8^[transcriber's correction]: “Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; **do not fret yourself**, it leads only to evil, for evildoers shall be cut off, but **those who wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth**” (vs 8-9).

Now all the way through here in this Psalm he says **the righteous will inherit the earth!** What does that mean? You can go back to Rom. 8 and read it. That means **the whole world under Christ!**

- Could you ask for anything more?
- Could you think of anything greater?

That's the whole Plan of God in conversion, right there!

Verse 10: “It is but a little while, and the wicked shall be no more...”

What's going to happen to the incorrigible wicked? As Lyle brought out, **they're going to be cast into the Lake of Fire**. No tormenting in fire, *you will be burned up, you will not exist!*

{note message: #3 Satan vs the Church of Christ by Lyall Johnston}

“...yea, you shall diligently consider his place, *but* he shall not be *there*. But the meek shall inherit the earth and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace” (vs 10-11). *Quite a thing!*

- Do you want love?
- Do you want joy?
- Do you want peace of mind?

You have to go after it! God will give it to you; He will bless you with it!

IF you have not repented and been baptized and received the Holy Spirit, then you need to get our

book about baptism and repentance—*Preparation for Baptism*—and get your life squared around.

You can't use your own judgment to make it right. You can't use your own thought to make it good. **You have to have the Way of God! Trust in God!**

Verse 11: “But the meek shall inherit the earth and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. The wicked plots against the righteous and gnashes against him with his teeth. **The LORD laughs at him...**” (vs 11-13).

Now think about that. Think about all the great things that all of these people are going to You'll see it on television; what they brag about and everything like that.

Verse 13: “**The LORD laughs at him**, for He sees that his day... [day of correction]...is coming. The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, to kill those who walk uprightly. Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken” (vs 13-15).

- don't worry about how much you may have or don't have
- don't worry about how much you have in the bank or whatever your fortune may be or not

Consider it!

- What do you really want?
- Do you really want peace of mind and love of God?
- Do you trust in God's Way?
- Do you live in His Way?

Verse 16: “Better is the little that a righteous man has than the riches of many wicked.”

- **IF** you have peace of mind
- **IF** you have truth and love
- **IF** you have trust in God

it's more than all the wealth in the world!

Verse 17: “For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but the LORD upholds the righteous.”

This Psalm is quite a Psalm! It tells us on a day-to-day basis, situation-by-situation basis:

- what we need to do
- how we can see things God's Way
- where we are going

So, God says this of the righteous:

Verse 18: “The LORD knows the days of the upright, and their inheritance shall be forever.”

- What is it that God is offering with the New Covenant? **Eternal life!**
- What is eternal life? *To live forever!*

- What will your inheritance and blessing—that comes from God—be? *Forever!*
- Where will you end up being? *New Jerusalem* (Rev. 21 & 22)!

Beyond what anything we can think of!

“...their inheritance shall be forever. They shall not be ashamed in the time of evil, and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied. **But the wicked shall perish...** [we’ll see that] ...and the enemies of the LORD shall be like the beauty of pastures—they are consumed, and like smoke they vanish. The wicked borrows and does not pay again... [sound like a little corruption going on there] ...**but the righteous is gracious and gives**” (vs 18-21).

Amazing, isn’t it? What does God want us to do with all the knowledge that He’s given to us to make it available to people without cost. That’s why you don’t hear us begging for money. That’s why you don’t read our monthly letters that go out saying, ‘Oh, send us more, send us more, send us more.’ ***No!*** “...**gracious and gives**”

Verse 22: “**For those blessed of Him shall inherit the earth...**”

Think about that! Now, there’s coming a day that all of us are going to be come to an end. ***There’s a beginning, there’s an end!***

- What are you going to leave?
- What is it you’re going to take with you?

It’s like at the funeral with this billionaire. One man was talking to another and he said, well, how much did he have? And the answer is: *he left it all behind. He didn’t take it with him.*

IF you don’t believe that’s true, watch any archaeological undertaking in Egypt with the pyramids and with those who were embalmed and so forth. They’re still there! They are dead! They have nothing! So, they built these great monuments. So what? ***God made the Heavens and the Earth!***

Verse 22: “**For those blessed of Him shall inherit the earth...**”

I want you to contemplate that. What does Rev. 21 & 22 tell us?

- New Heaven and New Earth
- a new spiritual body that you live forever
- contact with God that you can see and talk to and be blessed

But notice the opposite:

“...**and those cursed of Him shall be cut off**” (v 22). *They aren’t going to amount to anything!*

Like the message that I gave some time ago concerning the one Psalm that tells everything about

what God is doing. Let’s just repeat that, that’s a simple Psalm. *The very first Psalm reveals the whole of what God is doing in outline form!*

Psalm 1:1: “**Blessed is the man** who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scornful.”

The blessing if you don’t do it. But, now you have to go one step further:

Verse 2: “**But his delight is in the Law of the LORD; and in His Law does he meditate day and night.**”

- What does the New Covenant tell us where the Laws and Commandments of God ought to be? *Written in our heart and in our mind!*
- What do you do when you meditate? *You’re thinking about what’s in your mind! You meditate on God’s way!*

It’s amazing! Day and night! Think of that!

Now notice again the blessing; v 3: “And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water...”

What do you find in New Jerusalem? *The Tree of Life, the River of Life!* So, this goes clear to the end of the Bible.

“...streams of water that brings forth its fruit in its season, and its leaf shall not wither, and all that he does shall prosper. The wicked are not so...” (vs 3-4). *There again:*

- good
- evil
- Righteousness
- love
- Truth
- Holiness

All of it combined!

Verse 4: “The wicked are not so, but they are like chaff, which the wind drives away. Therefore, the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall perish” (vs 4-6).

Isn’t that amazing? That one Psalm, six verses, *gives the outline of everything that God is going to do!* The outline that God has already done.

Psalm 37:23: “The steps of a good man are made firm by the LORD, and He delights in his way.”

IF you love God, keep His Commandments, *He delights in you!* You ever thought about that? He delights in you.

Verse 24: “Though he fall... [you can make a mistake] ...he shall not be utterly cast down, for the LORD upholds him with His hand.”

I look at v 25 and think on this. I'm 91, almost 91 and a half, and I guess at my age you can count to half years.

Verse 25: "I have been young, and now I am old; yet, I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging bread."

It says in another Psalm, when you're old and gray, 'I won't forget you.' Isn't that something? There are a lot of you out there old and gray. A lot of you younger ones, you're going to get there one day.

Happens to everybody! When you're young and energetic and all of that, you don't think about what it's going to be when you get old. Then when you get old, you think about what it was when you were young.

Verse 26: "All the day long he deals graciously and lends, and his children are blessed."

Now here it is again. Notice how that ties in with Psa. 1, with all the Proverbs that we have read.

Verse 27: "Depart from evil..."

- What is evil? *Transgression of the Law!*
- What is the Law? *Love and Righteousness!*

Verse 27: "Depart from evil and do good, **and live forevermore.**"

Eternal life promised how many times right in this one Psa.. An amazing thing! Now, I look at this Psa. as especially something important for us with all the trouble that's going on around us.

Verse 28: "For the LORD loves justice and does not forsake His saints; they are preserved forever, but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off."

There is no profit in sin! There may be satanic benefits for a while, but you can never receive the blessing of God by living in sin.

Now then, we have a new booklet coming out, transcript booklet. And I've got one section in there that I'm going to read on Caravan to Midnight, which is this: which shows:

- there's not one Scripture that endorses Sunday-keeping
- there is not one Scripture that endorses holiday-keeping
- there is not one Scripture that says that it's okay to lie to your kids
- there is not one Scripture that says that you will prosper if you're evil

It's an amazing thing! Just like this. My whole life has been surrounded by what do we do with the Word of God and what is it to us! And how do we live it? It's an amazing thing because:

- it's always true
- it's always righteous
- it always has meaning

Verse 29: "The righteous shall inherit the earth and dwell in it forever."

That goes right into New Jerusalem, New Heaven and Earth.

Verse 30: "The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, and his tongue talks of justice. The Law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide (vs 30-31). {tie in Heb. 10:15-16}.

To have the Laws and Commandments written in your heart and in your mind. **That brings peace and understanding coupled with the Spirit of God!** That's why you need to really understand about repentance and baptism. The big lie that all you have to do is say a little 'tiddly-wink' prayer that Franklin Graham says—that you see all the time on television —**that is an absolute lie!** No one tells God to come into their heart. God says, ***repent and come to Me!*** That's totally different. God doesn't come to you *because you command Him to!* Christ does not enter into your heart because you say, 'Lord, come into my heart!'

- you have to come to repentance
- you have to forsake your sins
- you have to give your life indefinitely
- you have to give your life in dedication to God

That's what baptism by immersion is all about!

Verse 32: "The wicked watches the righteous and seeks to kill him. The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged. Wait on the LORD and keep His Way..." (vs 32-34).

Don't run off and do your own thing! Don't think that you have a good idea, because good ideas have always ended up in sin and destruction. What was one of the worst evil things that came along right at the beginning?

Satan said, '**IE** you eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, you will be like God.' **Big lie!** Then what did Cain do to Abel? *He killed him!*

Verse 34: "Wait on the LORD and keep His way, and He shall exalt you to inherit the earth; **when the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.**" *Think about that!*

Verse 35: "I have seen the ruthless wicked in great power... [Haven't we seen that?] ...and spreading himself like a luxuriant tree in its native soil. **Yet, he passed away...**" (vs 35-36).

- Where's Hitler?

- Where's Mussolini?
- Where's Tojo?
- Where's Judas Iscariot?
- Where are all of those notable men who were sinners up to their eyebrows?

They are no more!

Verse 36: "Yet, he passed away, and lo, he was no more; and I searched for him, but he could not be found."

Verse 37: "Mark... [In other words, think on this] ...the blameless man and behold the upright one, for the end of that man is peace."

- peace with God
- peace with others

Verse 38: "But the sinners shall be destroyed together..." *Lake of Fire, all together!* (Rev. 20)

"...the prosperity of the wicked shall be cut off. **But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; He is their strength in the time of trouble.** And the LORD shall help them and deliver them; **He shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them because they take refuge in Him**" (vs 38-40). *Quite a Psalm!*

Very fitting for our day! Because you turn on the television and there's death and doom and gloom and lies and things like that. And I tell you one thing. I have no idea what's going to happen to the people in New York City who were stupid enough to elect Mamdani who is a dedicated Muslim who lies with satanic lies that almost incredible to believe!

Yet, people fall for them hook, line, and sinker. What are you going to do in New York when the Judgment Day comes? *You have trusted in a liar who hates you!* You have believed his pretentious lies that he can help you: ***You need to repent and turn to God!*** That's the only help that New York City has.

- mass repentance
- mass turning to God
- stop all your evil

Because your Day of Judgment is coming, you can be guaranteed! What will it be? Just wait, it's coming! When it hits, it's going to be *gruesome indeed!* So that helps us to understand what's going to happen.

We need to take Psa. 37 as a guideline for us in how we need to conduct our lives today and stay close to God and not get all involved

- in politics
- false emotions
- idols in our mind
- thinking that our own ways are good

Whatever that may be!

This is a tremendous Psalm for us to give us wisdom and knowledge and understanding today!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Hosea 6:1
- 2) Proverbs 11:20-21
- 3) Proverbs 16:5-6
- 4) Deuteronomy 30:15-17
- 5) Ezekiel 14:1-4
- 6) Deuteronomy 30:17-20
- 7) Psalm 37:1-3
- 8) Proverbs 3:5-7
- 9) Psalm 37:1-22
- 10) Psalm 1:1-6
- 11) Psalm 37:23-40

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Romans 13; 8
- Revelation 21; 22
- Hebrews 10:15-16
- Revelation 20

Also referenced: {truthofgod.org}

Message: *Satan vs the Church of Christ #3* by Lyall Johnston

Booklet: *Preparation for Baptism*

FRC:bo/po
Transcribed: 1/15/26

Copyright 2026—All rights reserved. Except for brief excerpts for review purposes, no part of this publication may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means without the written permission of the copyright owner. This includes electronic and mechanical photocopying or recording, as well as the use of information storage and retrieval systems.