

Eleutheros Newsletter

February 2021

News of Interest

Eleutheros Books is happy to announce that *19th Century Influences on 21st Century Christianity* has been completed and is now available in both eBook and paperback.

You can learn more about the book by accessing the website:

www.eleutherosbooks.com

While you're there, feel free to check out the other books:

The Ramifications of Our Salvation (eBook and paperback)

Bible Translations: A Closer Look (eBook and paperback)

Spiritual Gifts Verse by Verse: A Commentary on I Corinthians 12-14 (eBook and paperback)

A Portrait of Jesus (eBook and paperback)

The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ (eBook only)

Thoughts from the Psalms

[Psalm 37](#)

An imperative is a command. This lengthy Psalm contains seventeen of them.

1 ***Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious*** against the workers of iniquity.

When we look at all the ungodliness in this world it is very tempting to react in ways that God does not approve. Note the use of the prohibitives “**not**” and “**neither**.” Many tend to be so concerned with the potential dangers that present themselves so often that fear becomes the dominant emotion. When we focus on these people instead of the God Who is in control, this is a *natural* reaction. God, however, is insisting that we react to these people with a *supernatural* reaction! Jesus is the Prince of Peace ([Isaiah 9:6](#)) and often told those who were afraid to squelch that emotion through the relief He provides ([Matthew 1:20](#); [10:26](#), [31](#); [28:5](#) and many verses throughout the Gospel accounts).

A second reaction is to become *envious* of the power that evildoers seem to have.

God, however, explains clearly that such reactions are unproductive: *For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.*

Evildoers have major influence, but only for a short time! How many times have we seen God work to alleviate the problems we face, even the difficulties that are caused by oppressive people!

3 **Trust** in the Lord, and **do good**.

The reason for verses 1 and 2 is that we try so many times to solve our own problems. When we do this, we fail miserably!

Success is promised when we believe God and do what He wants us to do (“trust,” “do good”).

A hymnwriter did well to explain this:

*Trust and obey.
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey!*

Trust and Obey

John H. Sammis

God reveals the results that come by saying, *So shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.*

4 **Delight** thyself also in the Lord....

He surely should be the focus of our life!

5 **Commit** thy way unto the Lord; **trust** also in Him.

Many times, we humans have a way of calling out to God when we face trouble and receive blessings from Him but then, after a time, fall back into the tendency to trust our own ideas to solve the problem!

God wants us to *commit our way unto the Lord!* This means it should be our determination to keep trusting and obeying Him in all of our circumstances!

7 **Rest** in the Lord, and **wait** patiently for Him: **fret not thyself**....

Once we have learned to trust God and obey His Word in a committed way, it is much easier to *rest and wait patiently.*

Again, in our natural selves we are often tempted to become impatient, but when we have learned the lessons presented in this Psalm the blessings assure us to wait for Him to give the wisdom and deliverance that we need.

8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; fret not thyself....

Anger is very destructive! It causes emotional upheaval which can also produce physical problems! Even worse, it is a surrender to Satan!

Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun do down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the Devil ([Ephesians 4:26-27](#)).

We humans are human and do become angry at times, but we should never allow that anger to dominate our lives, and, according to [Ephesians 4:26](#), we should be over anger by the end of the day. Anger can turn into bitterness ([Ephesians 4:31](#); [Hebrews 12:15](#)) which should be avoided at all cost!

34 Wait on the Lord, and keep His way....

In this verse David repeats truths already mentioned earlier in this Psalm. We need reminders from time to time!

37 Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright....

God gives us the instruction from the Word that we need to face difficulties; He also places mature (“the perfect man”) and godly individuals (“the upright”) as examples to live as we ought to live: not fretting, trusting God, delighting in Him, committing to live as He directs, avoiding anger, waiting on the Lord to reveal Himself to us in our daily lives, and appreciating others who have learned these valuable lessons!

We will continue Thoughts from the Psalms in next month’s newsletter.