

SALEM HEIGHTS

THRIVING

IN THE WORD . IN PRAYER . IN FELLOWSHIP

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

“Ever find yourself annoyed, resentful, frustrated or worried? Psalm 37 reminds us that the believer is playing the long game. When evil appears to be winning, when the wicked seem to be walking down an easy street, we have no reason to be discouraged or distracted. We can and must determine to trust the Lord for the final verdict when He declares victory on our behalf. Our goal...is to trust Him every single day!” — Julie Bernard

“Those whose main happiness is found in this world are living on borrowed time. Look upward.”

— Tim Keller

Psalm 37

Instruction in Wisdom

Of David.

¹ Do not be agitated by evildoers; do not envy those who do wrong. ² For they wither quickly like grass and wilt like tender green plants. ³ Trust in the LORD and do what is good; dwell in the land and live securely. ⁴ Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's desires. ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act, ⁶ making your righteousness shine like the dawn, your justice like the noonday. ⁷ Be silent before the LORD and wait expectantly for him; do not be agitated by one who prospers in his way, by the person who carries out evil plans. ⁸ Refrain from anger and give up your rage; do not be agitated—it can only bring harm. ⁹ For evildoers will be destroyed, but those who put their hope in the LORD will inherit the land. ¹⁰ A little while, and the wicked person will be no more; though you look for him, he will not be there. ¹¹ But the humble will inherit the land and will enjoy abundant prosperity. ¹² The wicked person schemes against the righteous and gnashes his teeth at him. ¹³ The Lord laughs at him because he sees that his day is coming. ¹⁴ The wicked have drawn the sword and strung the bow to bring down the poor and needy and to slaughter those whose way is upright. ¹⁵ Their swords will enter their own hearts, and their bows will be broken. ¹⁶ The little that the righteous person has is better than the abundance of many wicked people. ¹⁷ For the arms of the wicked will be broken, but the LORD supports the righteous. ¹⁸ The LORD watches over the blameless all their days, and their inheritance will last forever. They will not

be disgraced in times of adversity; they will be satisfied in days of hunger. ²⁰ But the wicked will perish; the LORD's enemies, like the glory of the pastures, will fade away— they will fade away like smoke. ²¹ The wicked person borrows and does not repay, but the righteous one is gracious and giving. ²² Those who are blessed by the LORD will inherit the land, but those cursed by him will be destroyed. ²³ A person's steps are established by the LORD, and he takes pleasure in his way. ²⁴ Though he falls, he will not be overwhelmed, because the LORD supports him with his hand. ²⁵ I have been young and now I am old, yet I have not seen the righteous abandoned or his children begging for bread. ²⁶ He is always generous, always lending, and his children are a blessing. ²⁷ Turn away from evil, do what is good, and settle permanently. ²⁸ For the LORD loves justice and will not abandon his faithful ones. They are kept safe forever, but the children of the wicked will be destroyed. ²⁹ The righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it permanently. ³⁰ The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom; his tongue speaks what is just. ³¹ The instruction of his God is in his heart; his steps do not falter. ³² The wicked one lies in wait for the righteous and intends to kill him; ³³ the LORD will not leave him in the power of the wicked one or allow him to be condemned when he is judged. ³⁴ Wait for the LORD and keep his way, and he will exalt you to inherit the land. You will watch when the wicked are destroyed. ³⁵ I have seen a wicked, violent person well-rooted, like a flourishing native tree. ³⁶ Then I passed by and noticed he was gone; I searched for him, but he could not be found. ³⁷ Watch the blameless and observe the upright, for the person of peace will have a future. ³⁸ But transgressors will all be eliminated; the future of the wicked will be destroyed. ³⁹ The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD, their refuge in a time of distress. ⁴⁰ The LORD helps and delivers them; he will deliver them from the wicked and will save them because they take refuge in him.

1. What stands out to you in this passage?
2. What does this passage teach us about God?
3. What does this passage teach us about Man?
4. What purpose does this passage call us to live out?