

More about the Good Life

A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked. For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD upholdeth the righteous. The LORD knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever.

(Psalm 37:16-18)

I. Even in Poverty the Righteous Man Has the Advantage

- A. Righteousness is the genuine measure of resources. A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked. (Psalm 37:16)
- B. The sovereign Lord of Providence assigns assets and opportunities toward His gracious objectives. For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit. (Ecclesiastes 2:26)
- C. Christian history illustrates the conflict of appearance and eternal purpose. Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith. Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith. (Proverbs 15:16-17)
- D. Jesus taught believers to find advantage in God's immediate provision. Give us this day our daily bread. (Matthew 6:11)

E. Christian contentment is valuable above worldly potential. But godliness with contentment is great gain. (1 Timothy 6:6)

F. Possession may be 9 10ths of the law, but title deeds matter over time. Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right. (Proverbs 16:8)

- G. Without contentment in Providence, morals twist and people do what ruins them. Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die: Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain. (Proverbs 30:7-9)

II. The Wealth of the Wicked Works Against Them

A. Resources work against the unrighteous who misuse them. For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD upholdeth the righteous.

(Psalm 37:17)

B. Part of being righteous is seeking and end to unrighteousness The People of God Take Sides in the World. Break thou the arm of the wicked and the evil man: seek out his wickedness till thou find none. (Psalm 10:15)

C. God takes sides against evil. Son of man, I have broken the arm of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and, lo, it shall not be bound up to be healed, to put a roller to bind it, to make it strong to hold the sword. Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and will break his arms, the strong, and that which was broken; and I will cause the sword to fall out of his hand. And I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and will disperse them through the countries. And I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, and put my sword in his hand: but I will break Pharaoh's arms, and he shall groan before him with the groanings of a deadly wounded man. But I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, and the arms of Pharaoh shall fall down; and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall put my sword into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall stretch it out upon the land of Egypt. (Ezekiel 30:21-25)

- D. God makes promises the wicked can never hear. Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. (Isaiah 41:10)
- E. God delights in the Messiah Whom He has appointed to bring judgment on the wicked. Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. (Isaiah 42:1)
- F. Remember the promise made to you which the wicked cannot hear. Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, (Jude 1:24)

III. Take the Long Perspective

- A. Genuine resources are those the Lord entrusts to His people for eternity.
The LORD knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever.
(Psalm 37:18)
- B. Nothing escapes the Lord's attention and life will turn out according to God's plan. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish. (Psalm 1:6)
- C. Set your attitude on the outcome, not the struggle. I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy: for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities; (Psalm 31:7)
- D. Jesus warned that times would get worse before getting better. For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.
Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.
(Matthew 24:21-24)
- E. The last days in particular will be dangerous. This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:
from
such turn away. (2 Timothy 3:1-5)