

Walking with the Lord

Psalm 37: 34-40

The passage we have read comes from another psalm of David. It is believed that David penned these words toward the end of his life. It appears he is looking back over the many years he had lived and pondering the great mysteries of life. Why do those who live apart from God, indulging in the pleasures of the flesh seem to prosper while those who devote their lives to the Lord often struggle?

While David failed to find the answer to this age old question, he did come to a settled conclusion – following God and walking with Him is far better than all the wealth and pleasure this world could provide. Even while facing much adversity, David knew his relationship with the Lord was worth every struggle he had faced along the way. He had received something that would endure throughout eternity.

As you approach this beloved psalm, there are many familiar verses. I am sure we have all heard Vvs.3-5 quoted many times. Also, Vvs.23 and 25 are favorites of many. I have preached from those passages in the past, and I felt led to consider the closing verses for our text today. As David concludes this beautifully written psalm, he discussed the advantages believers have over those who seek the ways of the world. I want to examine those [advantages](#) as we consider the thought: [Walking with the Lord](#).

I. The Believer's Persistence (34a) – [Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land](#). David speaks of the great advantage of persistence in our lives. This involves:

A. Our Patience – [Wait on the LORD](#). David declared that we must be willing to wait on the Lord. This has the idea of “*waiting and looking for with hopeful anticipation*.” If anyone understood this concept, David certainly did. He had experienced seasons when he was forced to wait upon the Lord to fulfill His plan for his life. While waiting was often difficult and confusing, the end result was always well worth the wait.

- I have admitted many times that I struggle with patience. Such impatience often spills over into my walk with the Lord. It is often difficult for me to wait, but I too have found that God always works according to His timing and His sovereign will. If we lack patience, getting ahead of God, we often miss the blessing and guidance He has for us. While it is difficult, we must learn to wait on the Lord.

B. Our Pursuit (34a) – *Wait on the LORD, and keep his way.* Along with waiting on the Lord, David also challenged the believer to walk with the Lord, continually pursuing the way of God. David knew the difficulty associated with walking contrary to the path God had chosen. He had suffered defeat and humility by seeking to make his own way, walking according to the desires of the flesh instead of the ways of God. David had learned it was always better to keep God's way before him.

- While this is simple enough to understand, it is often difficult to practice in today's society. There is so much competing for our affection and devotion. The world presents a path that we are often tempted to choose, and yet we know that path leads to suffering and misery. We must commit to keeping the way of God, even in the midst of a society that chooses a different path. The believer must be willing to seek the straight and narrow way!

C. Our Provision (34a) – *Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land.* Waiting on the Lord and walking in His way provided great benefit for the believer. God promised to provide a land of abundance for Israel, and those who followed Him would inherit the land. Simply, God would bless those who sought Him above the world. Their faithfulness would not go unnoticed or without reward.

- It would be selfish to serve the Lord simply to receive His blessing, but we too are assured of the provision of God. He has always blessed those who sought Him. Nowhere does He promise riches or material blessings to the church, but He does promise to honor those who honor Him. While many of the blessings we receive may not be tangible things we can hold in our hands, their value exceeds the material blessings offered by the world. We are promised an inheritance in heaven when this life is over. When I consider the two paths men can choose, I am glad I have been given the opportunity and desire to walk with the Lord.

II. The Believer's Perspective (35-38) – While contemplating the great mystery in life, David revealed the perspective he held and encouraged others to consider life the same way. Notice:

His Experience (35-36) – *I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree.* ^[36] *Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.* Through the years David had experienced many wicked men come to power, and yet they all went the same way as other men. Their allotted time on earth ended and they passed away; they ceased from the earth and could no longer be found. Their power, wealth, and influence could not stay the hand of death. Their prosperity was but for a season.

- David viewed life from an eternal perspective. We would be wise to do the same. This life is but a vapor. It is appointed unto men to die and stand before the Lord in judgment. Our wealth and position in this life will not guarantee acceptance into heaven. That is secured in Christ alone! The wise seek the Lord and His righteousness instead of pursuing the temporal gains of this world.

B. His Example (37) – *Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.*

David had known men who influenced his life by living upright before the Lord. While they may not have enjoyed the success and wealth measured by the world's standard, they died in peace with God and man. Their legacy lasted long after they were gone, unlike many who had reached the pinnacle of worldly success. David encouraged others to mark those who walked with God and seek a similar path.

- I suppose my view is somewhat skewed because I have never developed a personal relationship with those who are rich and prosperous. However, my life has been greatly influenced by those who walked with the Lord. They were unable to share riches or possessions, but they shared biblical wisdom, providing a godly example for me to follow. Such an investment cannot be bought and is worth far more than the treasures of this world. We should give the Lord praise for those who have invested in our lives, pointing us to Jesus and modeling a walk with Him!

C. His Expectation (38) – *But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off.*

The two paths described by David were vastly different in this life and they lead to totally different destinations. While the righteous enjoy an end of peace, the transgressors are destroyed and the wicked are cut off. David knew the ways of the flesh may provide pleasure for a season, but the ends thereof were the ways of death.

- This emphasizes the importance of a relationship with Christ the Lord. When this life is over, our standing with Christ will make the difference. Those who reject the grace of God and live a life of wicked rebellion will face the judgment of God. Those who are in Christ will be welcomed into His glorious presence throughout eternity. *Rom.6:23 – For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

III. The Believer's Promise (39-40) – As David concludes this psalm dealing with the many contrasts between the righteous and wicked, he speaks of the promises we have in Christ. Consider:

A. Our Salvation (39a) – [But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD](#). Those who denied the Lord may have enjoyed a prosperous life here, but it cannot compare to the gracious gift of salvation. This comes only from the Lord. Christ bore our sin and endured the judgment of God in our place. The saved by grace have been forgiven of sin, reconciled to God, and promised a home in heaven. Nothing this world offers compares the blessedness of salvation!

B. Our Strength (39b) – [he is their strength in the time of trouble](#). Wealth and social status provides much for those who possess them, but they cannot provide strength and peace in times of trouble and adversity. Money cannot buy peace of mind, health, or secure another moment of life. It provides much, but there is much that money cannot secure. Strength from the Lord and peace with Him are invaluable. I am thankful for the assurance of God's strength as I face the adversities of life and the grip of death.

C. Our Shield (40a) – [And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them](#). David enjoyed a source of help and provision many did not. While the prosperous could buy protection, they constantly worried about the loyalty of their subjects. If loyalty came at a price, someone else may have been willing to pay a higher price. David was not resting in the devotion of men; he rested in the hand of God. The Lord was his help and shield. He provided security for David in every situation.

- We too can rest in the hand of Christ our Lord. We are secure in Him. We have nothing to fear. We face nothing in life that our Lord doesn't allow. For the enemy to get to us, he has to have the approval of the Lord.

D. Our Serenity (40b) – [he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him](#). David had been forced to deal with those who sought his life while desiring the throne of Israel. God had been faithful to deliver him and David rested in complete peace. His faith and trust was in the Lord and in Him alone.

- Living securely in the hand of Christ affords great peace and comfort. We face much in life that is beyond our control, but we can face any situation with confidence while trusting in the Lord. We have been bought with a price. We belong to the Lord, being placed within the body of Christ. My trust and hope rests in Him alone. There is great peace in Christ. I have nothing to fear because I am kept within His mighty hand.

Conclusion: The world would have us believe we are walking an unprofitable path, but just the opposite is true. There is a way that seems right unto man, but the ends thereof are the ways of

death. I am so thankful for the opportunity to walk with my Lord. Are you walking with Jesus today? If so you have much to be thankful for. If not, I urge you to consider the path you are on. It will only lead to death and destruction. Come to Christ for salvation and begin your walk with Him!