

I. An Order for Living, Psalm 37

(This apparently is where our series stops. There are many other psalms and many other titles and probably a lot of good ideas. But time and occasion has gone its way and our series is over. But it is noteworthy that the psalter gives us the order for living and that in agreement with all we know of God's will for our lives--Old Testament and New Testament alike)

1. Introductory notes on the Psalm...again a bit long for a full consideration so we skeletonize our ideas.

a. Outline:

p-practical advice for direction of life, vss 1-8
(covers most of what we want to say and is based on the Psalmist's own experience of what God both gave and required.)

--practical outcome of modes of living, vss 9-26
(includes a discussion of what befalls men in all classes, righteous and otherwise) (The thoughts are somewhat inter-mingled but note especially:

9 vs. 11

16 vs. 17

18 vs. 19

21 vs. 23, etc.)

--practical direction for attitude, vss 27-40
(In which the writer re-emphasizes what he has previously told us and makes it completely clear that the man who lives knowing the Lord is the "complete man.")

b. Significant notes on the Psalm:

- (1) This is the Psalm which gives ground for the beatitudes of Matthew 5. It exalts the place of the meek and derides the claims of those who magnify themselves. In every point, those who rely on the Lord are the better for it.
- (2) It is the Psalm of testimony on God's providence. In this light, note especially the following verses:

--16, little is better than much with the Lord.

--23, the Lord orders the steps of the good.

--25, those who trust Him are not forsaken

--31, the Lord makes steady the steps of the righteous man.

--37, the end of the upright is peace.

--40, because of trust, not gift, skill, or service, rendered, the Lord will save and keep His own.

The testimony of this Psalm cannot be taken lightly.