

Part 1 – Fret Not

In chapter thirty-six, part 1, we learned that the title of this Psalm should have been rendered that it's a Psalm *relating to the Lord's* (YHWH's) *servant*, which is prophetic of Jesus Christ; and that it's another Psalm penned by David, at the behest of the Holy Spirit. And, as we've learned before, much of David's life (except for his sins) were 'types' (or examples) of what the Messiah (Jesus Christ) would go through – from His sufferings to His victory over His enemies. Secondly, we learned that there really are wicked people on earth. And David realized this during his persecutions. His experiences running from Saul, and the Israelite army, caused him to come to the conclusion, in his own heart and mind, that those who continued to seek after his life (for *years*) were not merely 'mean people' – they were *truly wicked*. Why? Because they were rebelling against God Almighty (they were transgressors). As such, they were totally devoid of knowledge of Him (His Word) and they didn't even acknowledge Him as their creator. They didn't care at all about sinning because they didn't fear God – obviously because they didn't acknowledge that He is real and that He always punishes sins that are not repented of. Thus, what David's life teaches us is that wickedness does *not* pay but being righteous *does*. And those who are righteous are those who admit their sins, humbly repent for them, accept Jesus Christ's atoning blood and work to put off their sinful ways and change their heart and mind to conform to God's Word. And we learned more about the wicked by going to Romans 3, where Paul quoted from this first verse in Psalms 36 (and a lot of other Scriptures as well) to explain what wicked people really are like.

In part 2 we learned more about what evil people are like. They truly don't fear to do evil because they don't fear God Almighty. They either don't think He's real or that He does He's not the Supreme authority over all His creation. Thus, there is no sin they are not willing to do. But we also learned much about their methods of operation. And the main thing is deception. Therefore, they certainly do not claim they are wicked; instead, they always claim they are doing what's right and looking out for people's best interest. That's why they like to use flattery to deceive people and to get them to go along with things that are contrary to God's Word. Flattery causes people to 'let their guard down' and believe what they are told. But the flattery are words of iniquity (evil) and deceit (lies). And those who are wicked think so much about how to continue to do evil *more effectively*, they'll even lay in bed awake at night, pondering what else can be done to deceive (and harm) people. And they also won't ever stand up for what's right because they hate truth and righteousness. They simply don't abhor evil, even though they claim they do. Thus, we know that we cannot trust what people say but we must look at their 'fruits' (works, Mth 7) to discern whether they are rooted into the 'ways of the world' (Satan) or rooted into Jesus Christ (John 15). And this goes for people *anywhere*, even those who claim they represent Jesus Christ. For, far too many people who call themselves Christian pastors (preachers, priests, etc.) are actually 'wolves in sheep's clothing'. Paul even warned us, in 2 Cor 11, that those who serve Satan *will* claim to be 'apostles' of Jesus Christ and 'ministers' of righteousness. And Satan himself claims to be an 'angel of Light', which means a 'messenger of the Light', when he's really the 'angel' of darkness (lies and deception).

In part 3 we learned that the Lord's (YHWH's) mercy and faithfulness are so great that David likened them to being as far above the earth as the sky and clouds are. In other words, they are infinite... as is His righteousness and His judgments (which are always just). Which is why David likened God's righteousness to the 'mountain of God' and His judgments to the deep ocean waters. And this is why we can search God's Word our entire lives and still keep learning. For one thing, it's impossible to retain all that we read from God's Word; so, it's always good to 'go back to the basics' to remember what we have forgotten. And also, as we grow and mature, spiritually, we'll better understand what's written when we study the same Scriptures again - months, or even years later. So, while God's Word (His knowledge) may be 'unsearchable', in the aspect that we cannot absorb (nor understand) it all while in a flesh body, the Holy Spirit does help us in our 'searching' God's Word so that we can understand it. After all, our Heavenly Father sent us His Word to because it contains things He *wants* us to know.

And we also saw David speak of the excellence (valuableness) of God's lovingkindness for indeed the kindness He shows to us is precious. If it were not for that, we'd all be doomed to die, spiritually, because of our sins. But, by the grace of God, the blood of Jesus Christ atones for our sins and His Holy Spirit helps us understand truth (His Word) so we don't have to die spiritually. And that's why David spoke of the 'children of men' (people in a flesh body) putting their trust under the 'shadow' of His 'wings'. This simply means we trust in His Word, and Jesus Christ, for our salvation; as well as to protect us from all evil (spiritually and physically). For, just as the shadow of His cloud (which He dwelt in) covered the children of Israel when they were in the wilderness, so too does His Holy Spirit cover us; protecting and warming us (spiritually) while we 'wander' in this wilderness (the world) as we serve God in a flesh body. We also learned that the blood sacrifices they had to perform in the days *before* Jesus came (Heb 10:10) were a 'shadow' of Jesus Christ; because - as a shadow leads to the 'thing' that casts a shadow - so too did those blood sacrifices (even the Aaronic priesthood) lead us to Jesus Christ (who was the *true* 'Passover Lamb' and is also the *true* 'High Priest'). In other words, the blood sacrifices were a 'type' (an example) for what Jesus Christ would do for us. As such, they still teach us today (Gal 3:24-25) even though we are not to perform them anymore (Heb 10:10).

In part 4 we learned that, if we trust in our Heavenly Father, He'll make sure we are abundantly satisfied inasmuch that we'll have more than enough to eat and drink both physically and (more importantly) spiritually. Truly, the blessings of God (physically and spiritually) are *wonderful*. But as Peter warned in 1 Peter 4:2, we shouldn't live life in the flesh to fulfill our lusts, but to obey the will of God. And, if we do that, indeed the Lord will 'abundantly' satisfy us with the best of His 'house', meaning the best He's got to offer... which is everything! And truly, the best 'thing' we can have in life is peace of mind; which can be gotten no other way than being at peace with our Heavenly Father (our Creator). And that only comes when we keep studying His Word daily, trust in it and obey it the best we can. That's when He gives us His Holy Spirit which truly fills our soul with such a sweet peace, and joy, that there's nothing on earth to compare it with (Phil 4:7). We also learned our Heavenly Father (YHWH) is the only 'fountain of life' and His fountain of Living waters (truth) is everlasting (John 4). But those who trust in Satan (and the 'ways of the world', such as riches and so forth) are like those who trust in a cistern instead

of going to the only true ‘fountain of life’, which is our Heavenly Father. And the only way we can ‘drink’ out of the ‘fountain of life’ is by faith in Jesus Christ (John 4, 14:6). We also learned that God’s kindness will only be given (and prolonged) to those who ‘know’ Him. And then we learned that believing in lies (deception) is how we do *not* know Him. Thus, learning (and loving) truth is how we get to know Him. Which is why He gave us His Word and then sent His Son, Jesus Christ (God incarnate), to teach us the truth as well as pay for our sins; so that, when we sincerely believe upon Jesus (and the Word of God) we can receive the Holy Spirit which teaches us the truth, by helping us to understand the written Word of God.

In part 5 we learned (once again) that our Heavenly Father won’t let the evil actions of the wicked (or their evil devices or vain imaginations) prevail against us so long as we remain faithful to Him. This timeless lesson in God’s Word is reiterated to us over and over again in His Word. While the wicked may *seem* to be ‘getting ahead’ in this life, they are truly ‘digging their own grave’ because ***the wicked will be ‘brought down’ by their own wicked words and works***. In our heavenly Father’s Word, we’re *repeatedly* assured that, short of sincere repentance, the wicked of this earth will be convicted and die by their own sword - which is to say, by the weapons of their own devising, which includes the lies, deception and decrees *coming out of their mouths* which they’ve used to help tear down Christianity (and the western Christian nations) and largely place themselves in charge of our heavenly Father’s kingdom on this earth (Mt. 11:12). This next Psalm we’ll be covering will really ‘hammer home’ this critical point.

Now, this next Psalm (37) is of utter important to remember. Mark it in your Bible, and in your mind, and *never* forget it, because the entire Psalm is devoted to explaining, and reiterating, the timeless truth that the wicked *will be* ‘brought down’ by their own wicked words and works. If you ever feel like the wicked are ‘getting ahead’ **remember this Psalm!** The *Companion Bible* titles this Psalm: “**instruction as to present blessing ‘in view of’ Psalm 23** (which was a Psalm of ‘resurrection’, after the ‘death’ Psalm of 22)”. It also explains that this Psalm is “**Messiah’s admonition**” as to present blessing, arising from the fact that YHWH is His Shepherd”. Therefore, this beautiful Psalm is written *specifically to God’s elect*, which simply means those *He chooses* to serve Him - which are all those (of any race) who sincerely believe in Jesus Christ and faithfully study His Word (daily), striving to serve (and obey) our Heavenly Father (i.e. the Body of Christ). And, it also demonstrates our Heavenly Father’s *great love* toward His faithful servants, as well as His complete faithfulness to them. So, in a sense, this Psalm represents our Heavenly Father’s special instructions to His ‘election’ (the Body of Christ), as well as His special vows to them, particularly in regards to the coming time of “Jacob’s trouble”, which is also called the ‘great tribulation’ – the time when Satan is cast of heaven (to earth, with his fallen angels, Rev 12) and proclaims that he is the ‘savior’ of mankind. It’s then that he’ll work to get the whole world to worship him and his evil ‘beast’ governing system (Rev 13). This is another vital reason to remember this Psalm. We’ll *need* to remember it during that time.

Also of importance is that this Psalm is an *Acrostic Psalm*. As we’ve learned before, an Acrostic is simply a type of ‘poem’ in the Bible - specifically in the Book of Psalms - where the initial letters of each successive line, or stanza, spell out a word, phrase, or pattern. In the case of the

Acrostic *Psalms*, the pattern is based on the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. But, as we've learned, some Psalms are 'irregular', such as Ps 9-10, where seven letters are omitted throughout the two chapters (which are truly one Acrostic together). And also, in Psalms 25 and 34, where one letter was omitted and one letter was duplicated to stress the point of the central verse (11). However, Psalms 37 is a bit different. In this Psalm the series is perfect and complete. Every letter has two verses of lines each, *except three*: verses 7 (**Daleth** = D), 20 (**Kaph** = K), and 34 (**Koph** = K) (apx 63:VII). So, each acrostic has four lines (a quatrain) assigned to each successive letter of the alphabet, except the fourth (vs 7), the eleventh (vs 20) and the nineteenth (vs 34); which each have three lines (a triplet) assigned to them. These triplets occur in *perfect order*. The seventh verse is the seventh letter from the beginning; the thirty-fourth verse is the seventh letter from the end; while the middle verse (20) marks the end of the first half with the first of the two middle letters. That sets verses 7, 20 and 34 apart from the other verses. ***Read together, those three verses sum up the beautiful message of the Psalm, and form what you might think of as an 'exclamation point' to God's overall message to His 'elect'.*** We'll take a look at that later in our studies on this beautiful Acrostic Psalm.

Further, this Psalm follows a very specific alternating pattern of "Instruction – Promise - Instruction - Promise". This is important because it gives specific instructions to the 'elect', directly from our Heavenly Father, *followed by specific promises* (or vows) to the 'elect' from our Heavenly Father. But it also has an alternating pattern of preservation of the elect contrasted with the cutting off of the seed of the wicked. So, as we move through studying this wonderful Acrostic Psalm, be sure to pay attention to the two specific types of patterns that have been written into this great Psalm. Which again, are (1) the pattern of alternating instruction and promise to the elect and (2) the alternating pattern of preservation of the elect contrasted with the cutting off of the seed of the wicked. Those two patterns pervade, and even define, this very special Psalm. With that in mind, let's proceed...

Psalm 37

I A Psalm of David.

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

First off, this is another 'Psalm of David', which is (as we've learned) one of God's epithets for His own son, Jesus Christ (Mt. 3:17; Mt. 12:18). This means that, while David wrote about his own personal experiences in the Psalms he wrote, it's also *prophetic* of the *true* Messiah, Jesus Christ. That's why this Psalm is full of instructions, and promises, to the Body of Christ. For, as a member of the Body of Christ we are indeed part of *Christ's own Body* (government). Secondly, the first 'instruction' in this great Acrostic Psalm is a *vital* one; one we've learned about in previous studies in the Psalms. We are **not** to "fret" over the work of evildoers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity. The word "**fret**" is very important to understand because it means ***to glow*** or ***grow warm***, figuratively ***to blaze up, of anger, zeal or jealousy***. And the word '**evildoers**' means those who ***spoil, make*** (or be) ***good for nothing***, or are simply ***bad people*** (physically, socially or morally) (#7489). Further, the word '**envious**' (in the context of this verse) refers to a ***sinister form of zeal*** (#7065) in which, essentially, the flesh takes over your

common sense, *as well as your faith in God*, causing you to act zealously, but *misguidedly*, against evildoers. And who are the evil doers? Those who *follow Satan*, which includes *most* all of his children here on earth (Gen 3:15, John 8:44, Rev 2:9, 3:9, etc.). You can learn more about them in the following studies...

Saga of the Disobedient Figs - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/295>

Parable of the Tares - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/251>

He That Hath an Ear, Part 1 - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/381>

He That Hath an Ear, Part 2 - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/382>

He That Hath an Ear, Part 3 - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/383>

Mature in the Word of God - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/411>

A Special Warning - <https://t.me/BestStudyBible/153>

Genesis Chapter 3 - https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Genesis/62

But importantly, it *also* includes *all other people* (of any race) who obstinately reject (and thus *hate*) Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the promised Messiah. The wicked (evildoers) *hate* Jesus Christ *and* anyone who follows Him. And since Jesus Christ is God incarnate (John 1:1, 14, Col 1:15, Heb 1:3, etc.), *they also hate God Himself* (John 8:19). So, we're not talking about people who occasionally sin, but still have their conscience that bothers them when they do. We're talking about people who are *habitual* sinners and have purposely made themselves Jesus Christ's enemies; which also means they are the enemies of those who faithfully follow Jesus Christ. And, it's important to understand that people like this (evildoers) *are the people that currently govern the world*, albeit through stealth means [learn more in the special study on: **Builders of Cities and a Good Repentance** - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/304>].

So, we are not to allow anger at the success of evildoers to consume us. We are not to get all worked up over their apparent progress in evil-doing, because our heavenly Father is in control, and he has the situation well under control. A good example of this is the political 'regimes' that have controlled the US recently. Many people (especially Christians) got all worked up over their actions, and apparent success in getting socialistic (yea, satanic) programs implemented. Some people were actually in deep emotional anguish over it. Our heavenly Father is very clear on the matter: "Fret not," and ***don't let it lead you into a misguided sense of zeal that could get you into trouble***. Of course, this doesn't mean we should be a 'walking mat' for anyone. We still have a right to defend ourselves and so far, we still have a right to 'free speech' in America, although that is waning quickly. And you still have the right to voice your opinion in the voting booth. So, as of right now, there are still some ways to utilize your rights, under civil law, to exercise your viewpoint. *But don't let the rabble-rousers get you all carried away*. Above all, you must ***maintain control of our emotions*** and keep your faith in your heavenly Father (and in His ability to rule) *strong*. He knows exactly what He is doing. No one rules over His People without His permission. Never forget that. The bottom line is that 'fretting' (or, being consumed in anger) over the success of the enemy ***is an act of unfaith***. It says to God, "I'm concerned you're not handling this as effectively as you should be." And that, my friend, is a great big "No, no." So, stay calm and learn to put your trust in our Heavenly Father, and His promises, rather than

getting all ‘lathered up’ about them. And use prayer, and study, to stay in touch with Him *every day*. His Word leads, guides and directs us. Trust it. And be sure to follow it. After all, when we focus on His Word daily, with sincerity and diligence, He gives us those precious unction’s, and insights, *directly from the Holy Spirit* that enlighten us, and guide us, and strengthen our spirit from within, and help us understand the unfolding of His great Plan to save His children on a far deeper level than anything we’ve ever experienced. And it also gives us peace of mind that passes *all* carnal understanding (Phil 4:7).

But further, this verse also tells us not to be envious (#7065) against the ‘workers of iniquity’, which means those who work evil (#5766). This is another important point. When people weak in faith see others seemingly ‘getting away with sin’, it *can* cause them to *want* to sin because they think they can ‘get away with it’. But we are strictly warned not to be envious of them, nor to do evil ourselves (Ps 34:14). The Proverbs also teaches us this point when it says: *Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them. For their heart studieth destruction, and their lips talk of mischief* (Prov 24:1-2). The heart of the evil doers (and workers of iniquity) study what? They study *destruction*. They are not looking for peace, but looking to hurt other people for their own selfish gain... and that never ends well. All it does (as we’ve learned so many times before) is dig a hole for their own grave because the Lord (YHVH) will send Jesus Christ back to punish the wicked and reward the righteous. As Proverbs 24 goes on to point out: *Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious at the wicked; For **there shall be no reward to the evil man**; the candle of the wicked shall be put out* (Prov 24:19-20).

And in Ps 73, the Psalmist wrote about his experience being sucked into the mindset that the wicked ‘get ahead’. In verses 2-3 he said: *But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked*. In other words, **his being envious at the prosperity of the wicked nearly caused his faith in God to fail**. But it was not until he ‘went into the sanctuary of God’ (i.e. studied His Word) that he finally ‘understood their end’ (Ps 73:17). And what was their end? He declares: *Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction. How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment!* [Rev 18:19] *they are utterly consumed with terrors* (Ps 73: Ps 73:18). And the Psalmist concludes the Psalm with the following thoughts: *For, lo, **they that are far from thee shall perish**: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee. But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works* (Ps 73:27-28). So again, even if it seems like the ‘wicked’ are getting away with their sins, they are truly just ‘digging their own grave’. We must not allow ourselves to be so short-sighted that we get consumed with the apparent ‘success’ of the wicked. Following Satan (i.e. the wicked ‘ways of this world’) is not the way to truly ‘get ahead’ in life. After all, the Lord has *twice* told us that *there is no peace to the wicked* (Isa 48:22, 57:21). So, at the very least, in the flesh they will never have peace of mind. They are truly unhappy people, even if that’s not apparent on the camera or in pictures. Moreover, the New Testament also sternly warns us against envying...

*14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.
15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.*

16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.
*17 But **the wisdom that is from above** is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.*
18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.
James 3:14-18

So, being envious of the evildoers and ‘workers of iniquity’ is not only foolish but it’s also devilish (satanic) wisdom; the kind that comes from letting your carnal mind control you so that you lose all common sense and forget all of God’s promises. Prov 16:32 also tells us that *he that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.* Did you catch that? Those who can control their emotions are stronger than someone who is physically strong enough to attack and conquer a city all by himself. Eccl 7:9 also warns us to *be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.* While there is such a thing as ‘righteous indignation’, getting angry at things that we are not to get angry at is not pleasing to God. And, our Heavenly Father specifically tells us not to get angry to the ‘boiling point’ about evildoers, nor be envious of the ‘workers of iniquity’. Un-righteous anger is also something Paul tells us to put away...

30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.
*31 Let all bitterness, and **wrath**, and **anger**, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:*
32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.
Eph 4:30-32

In these verses Paul links things such as bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking, and malice as being things in our spirit (heart and mind) that **grieves** the Holy Spirit that’s within us. And he sternly tells us to ‘put them away’ – get rid of them! How do you do that? Go back to God’s Word and read His promises because *the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished* (2 Peter 2:9). If we truly believe in that, we should not ‘fret’ (get angry to the boiling point, nor be envious) at the seemingly success of the wicked. But, what’s the reason so many people get so worked up at the ‘success’ of the wicked when *God Himself has told us that they will succeed* at building a ‘new world’ order, insomuch that Satan himself will rule it when he gets here? After all, He’s given us the ‘battle plan’! [learn more about it: **Point A to Point B** - <https://t.me/BestStudyBible/221>]. The reason is simple: *they don’t have their priorities straight.* Those who have not kicked ‘idols’ out of their heart, get extremely angry at those who make it hard for them to afford (keep) their idols. And idols can be anything from entertainment, your house, car (or any ‘things’); even fantasies and daydreams can be idols, as can politics, your job or even your ‘religion’, if it’s not founded upon God’s Word. And, in the book of Colossians, Paul told us...

*1 If ye then be risen with Christ, **seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.***

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.
3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.
4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.
5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:
6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:
7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.
8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.
9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;
10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:
Col 3:1-10

When we take Paul's advice and set our 'affection' (interests, #5426) on God's Word (His plan and His Will) then we'll stop being mad when we can't make as much money as we'd like or do all the things we want to because the economy stinks. And we won't be envious at the filthy rich people who are rich from ill-gotten gain (workers of iniquity). That's why Paul says to *seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God*. When we seek those things that are 'above' **we are seeking God's Word**. Or, as Jesus put it in Matt 6:33, seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Our focus in life (our main priority) should be to learn God's Word and sincerely obey it the best we can; because we are **not** to live our life in the flesh to fulfill our lusts but to **live for God's Will** – to serve Him and help as many of His wayward children come back to Him through faith in Jesus Christ. That's our job, remember? (Mth 28:18-20). As Paul again reminds us...

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.
7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.
8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.
9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.
10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.
12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.
1 Tim 6:6-12

So, those who 'fret' because of evildoers, and are envious about the 'workers of iniquity', are often those who do not have their heart right with God; or, they have very weak faith in (and knowledge of) God's Word. They've lost focus on what truly matters in life: *Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into*

judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil (Eccl 12:13-14). For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad (2 Cor 5:10). And this leads us into the next verse...

Psalms 37

2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.

Have you ever mowed your lawn? Or, at the least, have you ever seen grass after it's been mown down? What happens to the grass? It dries up and withers away, of course. And *that's* what the evildoers, and the workers of iniquity, will be like; either when they depart from this flesh body or when Jesus Christ returns. In fact, we all will depart from our flesh body (just as grass is cut down and withers away) at some point in time, as it is written...

15 As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.

16 For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

Ps 103:15-16

24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

1 Peter 1:24-25

When we are young, it's easy to feel 'invincible' – like you'll never die. But, as you age, your body begins to remind you that you are not (as does the mirror). But, as Peter so beautifully points out, the Word of God endures *forever*, which is why...

*11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead **shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.***

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

*13 For **if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.***

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Rom 8:11-14

Only those who are led by the Holy Spirit will live eternally. They are the *only* ones who will make the 'first resurrection' (of eternal life) when Jesus Christ returns (Rev 20:4-6) and be allowed to reign with Jesus Christ forever. All others won't die spiritually (yet) but their flesh will be done away with (as 1 Cor 15 explains) and they will have to prove, by their works, that they are not incorrigible criminals else their soul (spiritual body) and spirit (intellect, heart and mind) will be 'blotted out of existence' in the great lake of fire at the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev 20). And we must keep this eternal truth firmly in our heart (emotions, desires)

and mind (thought process) so we don't get unfocused and end up serving our carnal mind instead of the Word of God. *For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace* (Rom 8:6). As another Psalm so aptly puts it...

6 A brutish [stupid] man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this.

*7 When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; **it is that they shall be destroyed for ever:***

Ps 92:6-7

So, let's strive to always remember this beautiful promise: *the evildoers won't last forever.* Though they may seem to be in control, they are merely puppets of our heavenly Father's will. And though their apparent rapid victories may seem shocking and unbelievable, it is only because our heavenly Father is trying to get the attention of His wayward children. He *is teaching lessons by allowing the heathen adversary to rise up against us.* Don't get in His way. Ultimately, **He is working to correct His wayward children** and you are supposed to be helping in that endeavor by faithfully (and zealously) using the gift(s) He has given you to help the Gospel of Jesus Christ be spread throughout the world (Lk 19:12-27). With this understanding firmly in our mind, let's close this study with another timeless reminder...

8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

*9 Persecuted, **but not forsaken**; cast down, **but not destroyed**;*

10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

11 For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

12 So then death worketh in us, but life in you.

13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;

*14 **Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.***

15 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

*16 For which cause we faint not; but **though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.***

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

*18 **While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.***

2 Cor 4:8-18

We'll pick this up in part 2...

AMEN.