

## Part 8 – Depart From Evil and Do Good

In part 7 we learned more ‘instructions’ and ‘promises’ from God. While the wicked borrow (through unsound money) the wicked show kindness and lend to those who truly need it, with discernment from the Holy Spirit. After all, our Heavenly Father shows us great kindness and mercy (giving us things we don’t deserve) so it’s befitting that those who love, and serve Him, do the same thing. And that’s why He blesses them, and will allow them to inherit the earth while the wicked of the earth (who oppress people and show no compassion for others) will be ‘cut off’. This means they’ll not only be ‘cut off’ from the Kingdom of God (being in prison instead) but, if they refuse to repent for their sins by the end of the Millennium, they’ll even be ‘cut off’ from life itself, because they’ll be totally blotted out, never to exist again. So, the blessings or cursings from God are very important to understand because it truly boils down to ‘life’ or ‘death’. And we also learned that those who delight in the Lord (YHWH) will be established by Him. He’ll help them to clean their heart and mind and learn how to do what’s right so they can receive the blessings, instead of the cursings. And even though we all ‘fall’ short and sin sometimes (Rom 3:23), the Lord (YHWH) will make sure we’re never ‘cast down’ to the point where we go back to habitual sinning and apostatize. Like a parent helps their young child learn to walk, by holding their hand, so too does our Heavenly Father do for us. Only, He teaches us to ‘walk’ in ‘the way’ of righteousness and everlasting life.

David also emphasized the point of the righteous never being cast down by saying that, in all his years (and he was getting older at the time this Psalm was written) he had never seen the righteous forsaken by God, nor had he even seen their seed (children) begging bread. That’s because the Lord always provides for our needs when we faithfully follow Him. And a good person (who loves the Lord) will also teach their children to do the same. David also pointed out that the righteous are always merciful (kind hearted to those who truly need help) and even their children benefit from this ‘good example’ set forth to them. So, over and over we see the stark difference between those who are evil (they love Satan and his sinful ways) verse those who are righteous (who love God and His righteous ways). And only those who are righteous are blessed by God, because our Heavenly Father simply doesn’t reward the wicked with blessings. He always gives them the cursings, which they so richly deserve, because *He is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works* (Ps 145:17). But, we are not done learning from this great Acrostic Psalm. There’s still yet many more ‘instruction’s and ‘promises’ yet to come...

### *Psalm 37*

*27 Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore.*

This is some of the best (if not the best) advice you will ever get: depart from evil and do good! Of course, we must study God’s Word to learn the difference between good and evil. His Ten Commandments do a pretty good job at summarizing it but there’s so much more information throughout God’s Word that explains how to do what’s right, depart from evil and how to get along with each other. We also have many examples that we *should* follow, as well as examples of what we should *not* follow. So, all of His Word is precious to us; more so than all the riches in

the world (Prov 8:11). Rom 13:10 also tells us that true love isn't just an emotion. *Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.* Our Heavenly Father has taught us how we should treat Him, and each other, in His Law. Which, again, the Ten Commandments summarize pretty good, as does this 27<sup>th</sup> verse in Psalms 37 when it says, simply, to 'depart from evil and do good'. But again, there are many other Scripture that give this timeless 'instruction' from our Heavenly Father. Remember what we learned a few chapters back?

*14 Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.*

*15 The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.*

*16 The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.*

Ps 34:14-16

Yes, indeed, we are to 'depart from evil' and 'do good'. But these verses also tell us to seek peace and pursue it. In Rom 12:17-18 Paul also tells us *to recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.* This naturally implies that it's not always possible to live peaceably with all people. Those who are 'hell bent' on doing evil are people that we can't live peaceably with because, *they seek to do us harm.* In other words, they don't want to get along. And we do have the God-given right to self-defense. Our Heavenly Father *never* said we should be 'walking mats' for anyone. But, our self-defense - and all other interactions, and communications - with others should still be *guided by God's Word.* As we learned earlier in this Psalms 37, we can't let the wicked people's evil doings cause us to become so angry that we are controlled by our emotions. We cannot let ourselves become enraged with misguided, or even sinister zeal, to the point where we end up doing evil ourselves. And we dang sure should not be envious of the success of the wicked because 'their day is coming' – they will be punished for their sins; and *so will you if* you resort to doing evil to 'pay back' those who you think harm you. Do all you can within the confounds of God's Law (and the laws of the land) and then take it to Him in prayer (Phil 4:6-8); *and* trust He'll take care of it. *He will,* in due time.

Now, the Proverbs also has much to say about departing from evil as well. Prov 3:7-8 says to *be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.* Here we see that in order to fear (and revere) the Lord we *must* depart from evil. So, instead of trying to take 'vengeance' for ourselves we should control our emotions and work hard to obey God's Word *in every situation* that life 'throws' at us; even the difficult ones when our emotions are stirred up. Further on in Romans 12, Paul advises us...

*19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*

*20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.*

*21 **Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.***

Rom 12:19-21

‘Give place’ to wrath means to *depart from it*; don’t let your emotions (and anger **is** an emotion) control you. Use self-control and do what’s right, no matter how angry you are over the way you are treated. And truly, ‘feeding’ and ‘giving drink’ to our enemies doesn’t have to be physical. It more so applies spiritually, by giving them God’s Word (truth); for that truly heaps coals on their heart more than anything else, because they hate the truth (John 3:19-21). And, in verse 21 above, Paul points out that we shouldn’t let evil overcome us; this means *we should not let the evil (or bad) things that happen to us cause us to become evil ourselves*. Instead, we are to **overcome evil by doing good**. That means to obey God’s Word in every situation; even when you are being persecuted for things you might deserve, as well as for things you don’t deserve. There’s never a good reason to disobey God’s Word, no matter how mad you are. As the old saying goes ‘two wrongs don’t make a right’.

But the Proverbs have more to say about departing from evil than this one verse. Prov 13:19 tells us that *it is abomination to fools to depart from evil*. The word ‘fool’ here not only means **fat** but also **stupid** or **silly** (#3684). Those who are stupid let their emotions (carnal mind) control them and they therefore lash out when they are ‘treated wrong’ – no matter if they really are, or if they just ‘think’ they are being wronged. But the wise learn to control their emotions (and desires) and discipline themselves to do what’s right (obey God’s Word), regardless of the situation. As Prov 11:12 also says: *he that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace*. The wise (those who understand God’s Word) will not go around gossiping about someone who has ‘done them wrong’. They’ll ‘hold their peace’ by keeping quiet about it until something can be done (legally) or they’ll ask the Lord to take care of it. But gossiping is sinning (Lev 19:16) and that’s why the wise will hold their tongue (peace) instead of slandering those who they perceive have done them wrong.

And Prov 16:6 also tells us that *by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil*. When people fear to do evil (because they fear God’s punishments for doing evil) they will work hard *not* to do evil. As Ps 119:101 says: *I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word*. As you mature in your walk with God (studying His Word) you will also begin to greatly revere Him, so that you don’t want to do evil, even when provoked to do so. And Prov 16:17 also tells us that *the highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul*. The ‘highway’ of the upright (righteous) means a ‘path’ or the ‘way’ of the upright. It’s speaking of God’s ‘way’ of doing things – i.e. doing what’s right. Because our Heavenly Father *is righteous in all His ways and holy in all His works* (Ps 145:17), **He expects us to do the same**. The ‘course’, or ‘path’ (the ‘way’) of our life should follow His example, as set forth in His Word (1 Pt 2:21). And when we do this, our soul is indeed ‘preserved’, which means *guarded* or *protected* as one puts a hedge (fence) of thorns around them for protection (*shamar*, #8104).

Now, just as there is an ‘instruction’ in this verse, there is also a ‘promise’. The ‘promise’ is that, **IF** we depart from evil, *and* do good, **then** we will *dwell for evermore*. The word ‘dwell’ here means *to reside or permanently stay* (#7931), which is very close to the meaning of ‘mansions’ in John 14 when Jesus told us...

*1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*

*2 In my Father's house are many **mansions**: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

*3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

*4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.*

John 14:1-4

The Greek word for ‘mansions’ is *mone* (#3438), which means **a staying**, i.e. **residence** (the act or the place). So, indeed, it’s very similar to the word ‘dwell’ here in Ps 37:27, which means *to reside or permanently stay* (#7931). So, Jesus Himself reiterated this beautiful promise. And truly, who doesn’t want to ‘dwell for evermore’? Don’t we all yearn to live forever? Only those who ‘depart from evil’ and ‘do good’ will! So, we must work on obeying God’s ‘instructions’ so we can indeed obtain the promises of God. Because ***it is through our obedience to God’s ‘instructions’ that we ‘claim’ His Promises.***

*Psalms 37*

*28 For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.*

Why does God bless those who obey Him, by departing from evil and doing good? Because He loves judgment. True judgment is *righteous* judgment, otherwise known as **justice**. And that’s why He *never* forsakes (abandons, #5800) His ‘saints’ - those who obey Him *wholeheartedly*. Instead, He ‘preserves’ them *forever* by giving them peace of mind, power and protection for serving Him faithfully, even in this life. And, once Jesus Christ returns, they’ll be ‘preserved’ *forever* because they will be given eternal life. But, contrarily, even the ‘seed’ of the wicked shall be cut off. That means that *all* those who follow Satan’s evil ways (his ‘seed’, either his literal physical children [Gen 3, Mth 13] or those who follow him [Rev 21:8]) will be cut off through spiritual death, *just as Satan’s fate is* (Ezek 28, Rev 20). So, indeed, this is another wonderful ‘promise’ from the Lord (YHVH). Our Heavenly Father loves judgment, and will make sure that everybody gets exactly what they deserve (2 Cor 5:10). It is soon coming, and you can count on it. He will *not* forsake us who love and obey Him. We are preserved forever. But the wicked one (Satan) and his seed [learn more about: <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/251>] don’t have much longer to control this world. *Very soon every one of these promises will come to pass. You can count on it.*

What’s more, this verse 28 of this Psalm 37 is also set apart in the Hebrew manuscripts by the fact that: in the second part of the verse, which starts a new quatrain (a new set of four lines), the corresponding Hebrew letter ‘Ayin’ is hidden behind the preposition ‘Lamed’. For those with a *Companion Bible*, you can read Dr. Bullinger’s sidenotes on this topic. Suffice it to say that ***the verse itself contrasts the preservation of God’s saints with the cutting off of the seed of the wicked. This is another striking pattern you will notice throughout the entire Psalm.*** In the

original Hebrew manuscripts, that letter ‘Ayin’ (represented by the human eye in Hebrew pictography), hidden behind the preposition ‘Lamed’ (represented by the Shepherd’s staff in Hebrew pictography), tells those who have ‘eyes to see’ (whose heart is not hardened, Ezek 12:2) that the ‘seed’ of the wicked - while hidden from view within the Shepherd’s own tribe of Judah (as Rev 2:9 and 3:9 point out) - will nevertheless be cut off... while his saints will be preserved forever. *The hidden enemy is not hidden to our heavenly Father*, who is our great Shepherd (John 10). **He knows *exactly* who the wicked ones are.** That is the special message to His ‘saints’ hidden in this 28<sup>th</sup> verse of this 37th Acrostic Psalm. It confirms to us (as His Word does over and over again) that He is in control, He does see *everything* and the wicked won’t get away with *anything*.

### *Psalm 37*

*29 The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever.*

Here’s another beautiful ‘promise’... one, actually, we’ve seen several times before in this Psalm 37. When the Word of God repeats something, it’s done *for emphasis*. And the more it repeats it, ***the more emphasis is added to it***. So, this promise - that the righteous shall inherit the land and dwell therein forever - ***is very emphatic***. It’s telling us that this WILL happen. The righteous *will* be given eternal life when Jesus Christ returns and they *will* inherit the world, because they *will* be allowed to rule the world, under the direction and guidance of the King of kings, Jesus Christ. Jesus Himself reiterated this to us in Mth 5 when He said: *Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven* (vs 3), *Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth* (vs 5), *Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God* (vs 8) and *Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven* (vs 10). And, in Matt 19:29 Jesus said that *every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life*. And in Matt 25:33-34, He also said that the righteous will *inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world*. This is speaking of the ‘founding’ of this earth age, as the Greek word *katabole* (#2602) for ‘foundation’ explains. See apx.146 in the *Companion Bible* for more information on this. You can also check out the following studies to get more information (and Biblical documentation) on it...

**3 World Ages** - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/190?single>

**In The Beginning, The World That Then Was** - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/496>

Now, on the other hand to those who will inherit the earth, Paul specifically tells us the kind of people who will ***not*** inherit the earth...

*9 Know ye not that **the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?** Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,*

*10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*

1 Cor 6:9-10

And in Galatians 5, Paul explains again what those people are like who *won't* inherit the earth; but, he also explains the characteristics of those who *will* inherit the earth (as in Mth 5) ...

*21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that **they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.***

*22 But **the fruit of the Spirit is** love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*

*23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

*24 And **they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.***

Gal 5:21-24

The Kingdom of God – which Jesus Christ rules over – is *everlasting* - it's *eternal*. Therefore, it's also *incorruptible*... quite unlike the governments of the earth. And that's why, those who are wicked - who love evil instead of departing from it - *won't* be allowed into His kingdom; not even if they 'think' they are worthy (Mth 7:21-23). And Paul also points out, in Heb 6:12, that it takes faith in God (Jesus Christ) *and* patience, to inherit the promises (even the ones we've been learning of here in Ps 37). For example, as verse 15 points out: only *after* Abraham patiently endured did he obtain the promises. The promises to him, actually came to pass *long after he was dead*. It was *hundreds* of years after he died that Israel inherited the Promise Land and *hundreds* of years after that, that the Messiah, Jesus Christ (who was promised to come through his descendants) came to 'bless' the world (Gen 22:18) by shedding His blood for our sins, so we could receive salvation, by faith in Him (Acts 26:18). And then there is the great book of Revelations, which also tells us the difference of the righteous - who will inherit the land and dwell forever – verses the wicked, who will be 'cut off'...

*6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.*

*7 **He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.***

*8 **But** the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, **shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.***

Rev 21:6-8

So, indeed, there are many Scriptures (and more than what we've covered) that reinforce this solid truth that the *the righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever*. Just make sure you *do your part* to 'claim' these 'promises' by *obeying* the 'instructions' we are given!

*Psalm 37*

*30 The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment.*

Now we are being given some characters of those who are righteous; obviously for the purpose of making sure we know who gets the blessings. Those who are righteous speak wisdom. But... *what* wisdom? James warns us there are two kinds of wisdom...

*13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.*

*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 3:13-18

So, there is wisdom ‘from above’ (that is to say, from our Heavenly Father), but there’s also wisdom that is ‘from below’ (which is to say, from Satan). And James clearly explains the difference in the above verses. However, our Heavenly Father summarized it quite well in Jer 4:22 when He said of His chosen people, Israel... *For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.* They don’t know the Lord (YHWH) because they don’t know how to do ‘good’. And, as He said a few chapters later, *through deceit they refuse to know* our Heavenly Father (Jer 9:6). So, the wisdom that the righteous speak is God’s Wisdom, and we can only obtain His righteousness (and His wisdom) when we study His Words (Isa 54:17, 34:16, 2 Tim 2:15) and obey them wholeheartedly.

Further to this, the Proverbs is also full of knowledge about wisdom. Prov 9:10 tells us that *the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding* (which is also written in Ps 111:10). And Prov 1:7 reiterates this when it says that *the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.* So, in order to obtain God’s Wisdom, we must revere Him (respect, honor, trust and believe in Him) as well as fear to disobey Him (fear to do evil) because we believe that He will punish us for doing so.

**That’s an essential part of gaining wisdom.** As Ps 111:10 tells us, *a good understanding have all they that do his commandments.* And the Proverbs further says...

*6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*

*7 He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.*

*8 He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.*

*9 Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.*

*10 When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;*

*11 Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:*

*12 To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things;*

Prov 2:6-12

Again, wisdom, knowledge and understanding (i.e. *the truth*) comes *only* from the Lord (YHVH) (Isa 54:17) and it protects us from the wicked ones. Meanwhile, lies and deception spew forth from Satan, and all those who follow him (John 8:44), including those who teach ‘traditions of man’, which obfuscate the truth, God’s Word. In fact, we’re even told that the Lord (YHVH) ‘layeth up’ sound wisdom for the righteous, just as a parent ‘lays up’ good things for their children to inherit! This brings to mind the Scripture in Isa 64:5 which says: *For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear; neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.* The word ‘**waiteth**’ here means **to adhere to** (#2442). And, what’s really great is that, we can obtain part of this ‘inheritance’ (wisdom) now. As Paul explains in 1 Cor 2:10 (after he quoted this verse in Isaiah), *God hath revealed them [His great promises] unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.* He does this, of course, by His Holy Spirit that dwells within us (1 Cor 1:22, 2 Cor 5:6, Eph 1:14).

Moreover, the Proverbs also tells us that *wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it* (Prov 8:11). So, our inheritance is truly great; better than any inheritance we’ll ever get from our earthly parents. But, this gift of wisdom also comes with responsibility. As Prov 10:21 also says, *the lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom.* We have a duty to share God’s wisdom with others, as the opportunities arise (Eph 5:15-16, Col 5:5-6). And how much more we can learn about wisdom from the Proverbs... Prov 11:12, Prov 14:6-8, Prov 14:33, Prov 15:21, Prov 15:33, Prov 16:16-19 all give us so much more insight into the importance of obtaining wisdom from God (by studying His Word). And Prov 19:8 sums it up really well when it states: *He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good.*

But there is yet another part to this 30<sup>th</sup> verse here in Psalms 37: *his tongue talketh of judgment.* The righteous will ‘talk’ of judgment. What does that mean? The word ‘**judgment**’ here means **a verdict** (favorable or unfavorable) **pronounced judicially**, especially **a sentence or formal decree** (human or [participant's] divine law, individual or collective), including the act, the place, the suit, the crime, and the penalty; abstractly, justice, including a participant's right or privilege (#4941). In other words, the righteous will speak of God’s Word (His wisdom) and His laws within it; they’ll explain things that are right, when the opportunities arise (Eph 5:15-16, Col 5:5-6). They won’t ‘go along to get along’ with foolish conversations. They’ll strive to direct the conversation so that it is useful in helping others come to God by faith in Jesus Christ. As Paul admonishes us in Phil 1:27, our conversation *should reflect* the Gospel of Jesus Christ. *For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ* (Phil 3:20). In other words, **our conversation should reflect the principles in God’s Word**. As Paul also points out in Heb 13:5 when he says, *let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

And James also advises us that those who are wise and endued with knowledge should *shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom* (James 3:13). Our conversations in life should ‘shine’ the Light of Jesus Christ (truth) because we speak with humility and wisdom,

not covetousness, lust or pride. And Peter also tells us that, we should *be ye holy in all manner of conversation* because we're supposed to be following our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ who is holy... therefore, *we should act (and speak) like He does* (1 Peter 1:15-16). Which is why he goes on to say...

*11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;*

*12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

1 Peter 2:11-12

Our good works in life should glorify God, as Jesus also said in Mth 5:16. And our conversations are part of 'good works'. After all, it's our good conversations that help others come to Jesus Christ, even our own family members, as Peter also points out in 1 Peter 3:1-2. Simply put, if we've truly put on the 'new man' (which is created in the image of Jesus Christ) then we should speak in the same manner as our good Shepherded, Jesus Christ (John 10). As Paul tells us...

*21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:*

*22 That ye **put off concerning the former conversation the old man,** which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;*

*23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;*

*24 And that ye **put on the new man,** which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

*25 Wherefore **putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour:** for we are members one of another.*

Eph 4:21-25

The 'old man' (our carnal mind) speaks about things that are carnal (fleshly minded) while the 'new man' speaks about things that are truly important, such as doing what's right and obtaining eternal life. When we truly study (and absorb) God's Word (wholeheartedly) *our entire mindset changes*. We no longer covet and lust after things of this world, but seek to understand truth and want to share that with others. And while this doesn't mean you have to literally go around all the time quoting from the Bible – or stand on the street corner handing out tracts – it does mean that everything about you must change. From your thought process (mind) to your desires, intentions, motivations (heart) and your words and deeds - you have *a total transformation of who you are*, from the 'inside out'. And *that* shines the truth (the Light) so brightly to others that they cannot help but notice. As we learned back in the 14<sup>th</sup> verse of this Psalms 37, this is why the wicked draw out their sword (lies) against the righteous; because they speak 'upright' conversations, which draw people's minds to the truth, instead of lies. So, some people will be drawn to the Light and others will hate it – but it does not matter. Our job is to shine God's Light (the Light of the truth, Jesus Christ) to all, so that 'whomsoever' wants to return to our Heavenly Father has the chance to do so, while there's still time to make a good repentance, in this life.

*Psalm 37*

*31 The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.*

Now we're given another character trait for the righteous. God's Laws will be in their heart. But, before we go into that point, notice how this verse uses another 'title' for *Yehovah* (YHVH), which is, in the Hebrew: *'Elohiym* (#430). And while it can be used to refer to false gods (or even rulers of the people), in the context of this verse, it means *the supreme God*. Appendix 4, in the *Companion Bible*, also tells us that this 'title' for *Yehovah* is used to point out the fact that *Yehovah* (YHVH) alone is our Creator *and* we are His creation. So, it indicates His relation to mankind as His creatures, in contrast with *Yehovah* (YHVH), which indicates His covenant relationship with those who choose to covenant with Him. And this brings us around to the point in this verse, that tells us the Law of God is in the heart of the righteous. What does our Creator help us 'create' within our own soul? A 'new man', which is created in the image of God after **His righteousness and true holiness** (Eph 4:24). And it is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him (Col 3:10). The word 'renewed' here means *to renovate* (#341). And this 'renovation' (renewal) of our heart, and mind, is done as we 'write' (could even say 'program') God's Word into our heart (desires, emotions, intentions, motivations) and mind (thought process), through consistent, diligent and sincere study of His Word - *and* meditating on it throughout the day, so we can *truly* digest, and absorb, it into the way we think, what we desire and thus, how we speak, act and what we do. In Jer 31:33-34 God said that the 'new' Covenant He would make with Israel would be *only* with those would write His Laws in their 'inward parts' (mind) and in their (heart). Galatians 3 lets us know this offer is now for anyone of *any* race who accepts Jesus Christ, and truly follows Him. And the *reason* this 'new covenant' depends on whether or not we have His Laws in our heart is because - to truly live forever, we must not only know *how* to do what is right (because it's our mind; thought process), but must also *want* to do it (because it's our their heart, where our desires and emotions are).

You see, it has *always* been God's desire that we do what is right; but we must not only *want* to do what's right, we must also *know how*. And that's why He said His Word must be 'in our heart' and in our 'mind', in order to be in a Covenantal relationship with Him (i.e so we can live forever with Him). And, after Jesus Christ died for our sins, rose from the dead and then ascended into heaven (to intercede on our behalf, Rom 8), He then sent His Holy Spirit into the hearts of those who truly believe *and* obey Him (Acts 2:33, 5:32) *for the express purpose of helping us 'write' God's Laws in our heart and mind*. And *that's* why we must accept Jesus Christ; because if we reject Jesus Christ then we cannot receive the Holy Spirit who helps us to understand all of God's Word. Because (to reiterate) it is the Holy Spirit who helps us to 'write' God's Word in our heart and mind so we can *obey it wholeheartedly*. Further, those who reject Jesus truly are rejecting God's Word; because Jesus did not make up His own doctrine (John 12:48). As He told the crooked religious Jews in His day, their rejecting Him was really rejecting God, because the Scriptures testify of Him. Yet, they still rejected Him. Thus, they also reject God (YHVH) Himself. And that's why they cannot have eternal life; because life eternal *only* comes from our Heavenly Father who is our Creator (John 5:39-47). Paul explains this very

clearly, in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> chapters in the book of Hebrews also; which you can study, in depth, via this link: [[https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks\\_Hebrews/25](https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Hebrews/25)].

And further, in Jer 31:33 - after the Lord tells us His new covenant will be to write His Laws in our heart and mind (inward parts) - He then states that, after that happens, He'll be our God and we shall be His people. Thus, this one verse in Jer 31:33 explains what it really means for the Lord (YHVH) to be our God and for us to be His people, as it's also written in Zech 8:8, Ezek 11:17-21, Ezek 34:23-25, Ezek 37:22-28 and Rev 21:3. Simply put, to be one of God's children - and for Him to be our God - means *we are united with Him, spiritually*. We have His Words in our heart and mind and thus, we have the same morals, desires and goals. And we therefore do what's right because we *want* to do good and depart from evil. Which is why, in 2 Cor 6:14-18, Paul points out that we must separate ourselves from evil if we want to truly be a child of the Living God, spiritually 'begotten' by the Holy Spirit (John 1:12-13, 1 Peter 1:3-5, 1 John 5:17-20, James 1:18, Rom 8:8-17, 24-29). So, the power of the Holy Spirit that raised Jesus Christ from the dead *also raises our soul from death* (lies and deception and sin) to everlasting life (understanding and doing truth, helping us to become righteous) and that is how the Holy Spirit (given to us by the blood of Jesus Christ, Acts 2:33) 'begats' us, spiritually, into a 'new man', which created in God's Image of righteousness and true holiness (Eph 4:24) because we're renewed *in knowledge after the image of him [Jesus Christ] that created him* (Col 3:10).

And this is why 'none of our steps shall slide' when God's Law is in our heart (Ps 37:31). In other words, our Heavenly Father (via the Holy Spirit and Christ's intercession, Rom 8) won't let us accidentally go down the 'wrong path'. He'll help us to continue to do good, and depart from evil, so long as we keep 'writing' His Words in our heart, and mind, by faithfully studying His Word each day. As Isa 30:21 explains, the Holy Spirit helps us by 'speaking' to our heart (non-verbally) and helping us to see how to stay on the narrow path of God's Word. He'll stop us from turning to the 'right hand' or to the 'left' when we strive to stay on '*the path*' of Jesus Christ (Gods' Word). In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus Christ gave us some really good advice about keeping our heart and mind steadfastly on God's Word (the Rock, 1 Cor 10:4) instead of on the slippery ways of the world (Satan)....

*18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.*

*19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.*

*20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*

*21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that **doeth** the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

*22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

*23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: **depart from me, ye that work iniquity**.*

*24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, **and doeth them**, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house **upon a rock**:*

*25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; **and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock**.*

*26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and **doeth them not**, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house **upon the sand**:*

*27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*

Matt 7:18-27

Sand can be very slippery, especially when the waves are roaring upon it. So, it's not a good place to build a house. But that's exactly what many people do when they refuse to study God's Word. They rely on the traditions they have been taught (by parents, the Church or schools) to be their 'moral compass' in life. And thus, their morals easily change over the years, depending on the situation they are in, of course. But those who are deeply convicted by the Word of God remain firmly on the Rock, Jesus Christ. because their mind and heart (the 'new man') is founded upon *the truth*. And **truth doesn't change with time**, for *Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever* (Heb 13:8). And that's why it's well worth the effort to study, and obey, God's Word. That's also why, in Heb 2:1 Paul says that *we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip*. Studying God's Word each day helps us to remember (not forget) the 'instructions' and 'promises' with it. And we do forget them if we don't keep studying. So, it's well worth our effort to study His Word, every day, and keep striving, wholeheartedly, to obey it. As Paul says in 1 Cor 15:58, we should *be stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that **your labour is not in vain in the Lord***...

*22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye **love one another with a pure heart fervently**:*

*23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

*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 1:22-25

We'll pick this up in part 9...

AMEN.