

DELIGHT IN THE LORD
Follow Christ
Banská Štiavnica, 31st January 2021

אֶל־תִּתְחַר בְּמַרְעִים אֶל־תִּקְנָא בְּעֹשֵׂי עוֹלָה
 2 כִּי כְהָצִיר מִתְרָה יִמְלוּ וְכִי־רָק דָּשָׂא יִבּוֹלוּ
 3 בָּטַח בִּיהוָה וַעֲשֵׂה־טוֹב שְׂכַר־אֲרִץ וְרַעַה אַמּוֹנָה
 4 וְהִתְעַנֵּנִי עַל־יְהוָה וַיִּתֶּן־לִּי מִשְׁאֵלֶת לִבִּי
 5 גּוֹל עַל־יְהוָה הִרְפֵּךְ וּבָטַח עָלָיו וְהוּא יַעֲשֶׂה
 6 וְהוֹצִיא כְּאוֹר צְדָקָךְ וּמִשְׁפָּטְךָ כַּצִּהָרִים
 7 דוֹם לִיהוָה וְהִתְחַלְלֵל לוֹ אֶל־תִּתְחַר
 8 בְּמַצְלִיחַ דְּרָכּוֹ בְּאִישׁ עֹשֶׂה מְזֻמוֹת
 הִרְףָּ מֵאַף וְעֹזֵב חֲמָה אֶל־תִּתְחַר אֶד־לְהַרְעֵ

Psalm 37:1-8 Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers! ² For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb. ³ Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. ⁴ Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. ⁶ He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. ⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! ⁸ Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.

OUTLINE

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0. INTRODUCTION

0.1. THE CONTEXT

- this is one of those verses that are often quoted by themselves (Like John 3:16)
- the prosperity of the wicked → Psalm 73, Habakkuk

[DIODORÉ OF TARSUS] Being human, we are all irked by the prosperity of the affluent, especially when they are dishonest...

0.2. THE DESIRES OF THE HEART

- abuse?; cheating?...
- the delight in Yahweh makes you safe against idolatry → you may have your heart desires...

0.3. THE GOD OF THE COVENANT

- the LORD → Jesus, the NEW COVENANT

0.4. "DELIGHT"

0.4.1. THE WORD

- נִנְּךְ be soft, delicate, dainty, *make soft, pliable, live or spend in enjoyment*;
- **Hithp. 1.** *be of dainty habit*; **2.** *take exquisite delight*, [Psalm 37:11 But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace]; **3.** c. לַעֲ, in bad sense, *make merry over, make sport of*, (Is 57:)

0.4.2. THE COMMAND

- [WEISER] ...in his reflections turns away from men to the contemplation of God;
- [DIODORE] Likewise "Delight" means, He will also cause you to enjoy the greatest delight and will bring to fruition all your desires.
- → *concentrate* – mind your own things; do not compare incomparables...

1. ENJOY PROVIDENCE

[MANTON *Psalm 119*] The whole world is a theatre of mercy.

- Do we think ourselves *wiser* than God?

1.1. CREATION

- Basil the Great *Hexaemeron*: ἐποίησεν ὡς ἀγαθὸς τὸ χρήσιμον, ὡς σοφὸς, τὸ κάλλιστον, ὡς δυνατὸς, τὸ μέγιστον. (sed uti bonus fecit quod utile est; uti sapiens, quod pulcherrimum est; uti potens, quod maximum est.) [*Homilia I in Hexaemeron*, Patrologiae cursus completus, p. 18-19]

1.2. SALVATION / THE KINGDOM

- **Mt 13:45-46** "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶ who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.
- regeneration

1.3. LIFE

- **Jude 1:16** These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires (Οὗτοί εἰσι γογγυσταὶ μεμψίμοιροι κατὰ τὰς ἐπιθυμίας ἑαυτῶν πορευόμενοι);
- **Psalm 16:6** The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places (הַבְּלִיִּם נִפְּלוּ לִי בְּנְעִמִים); indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance

1.4. WORK/SERVICE

- **John 4:32-34** But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³ So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?" ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.
- **Mt 13:44** "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field

2. ENJOY THE WORD

2.1. AUTHORITY

- critique of lies (from advertising to scientific theories)

2.2. KNOWLEDGE

- read and study

2.3. MEDITATION

- **Psalm 1:2** ...his delight (הִפְצִי) is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night...

2.4. GLORY

- **2Cor 3:18** And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

3. ENJOY COMMUNION

- “God is love” (1John)
- [John OWEN] ...the love of the Father is the only rest of the soul.

3.1. ADMIRE GOD

[MANTON *Psalm 119*] Admire the name of his being. Creatures in their highest glory may be described, an account may be given of them; but his nature is Wonderful, can be admired, but not told.

Admire his wisdom (**Psalm 104:24** O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all) Admire his love (**Psalm 36:7** How precious is your steadfast love) ...goodness, (**Psalm 31:19** Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you). The name of his power: (**Psalm 145:3** Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable), The object is too big for the faculty: it is a contempt of God when we think of him and do not admire him.

3.2. COMMUNE WITH THE FATHER

- [The Father and the Son] **1 John 1:3-4** ...that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.
- Heb 10 → church community

3.2.1. ABIDING IN JESUS

- **John 15:11** These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. (Ταῦτα λελάληκα ὑμῖν ἵνα ἡ χαρὰ ἣ ἐμὴ ἐν ὑμῖν ᾗ καὶ ἡ χαρὰ ὑμῶν πληρωθῆ)
- **Dt 28:47-48** Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, because of the abundance of all things, ⁴⁸ therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything

3.2.2. PRAYER

- Mt 6 → secret
- **Psalm 16:2** You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you (אֲתָהּ טוֹבָתִי בְּלִעְלֵידִךְ)
- **Psalm 16:5** The LORD is my chosen portion (יְהוָה חֵן־חֵלְקִי) and my cup; you hold my lot
- **Psalm 73:25** Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you
(מִי־לִי בַשָּׁמַיִם וְעַמְּךָ לֹא־חִפְצֹתִי בָאָרֶץ)

4. TO REMEMBER

- The Christian answer to the provocations of the worldly success is delight in the Lord.
- We can and we should see God’s hand in all areas of life, knowledge and history.
- The highest and deepest joy is the direct communion with the Father (Abba!) through the Son in the Holy Spirit.