

FBC Peachtree City

December 27, 2015

Sacred Security

(Psalm 37:1-7)

INTRODUCTION

As our family grew, we made many trips north during the holidays. As we would return south through the mountains crossing into North Carolina, a steep downhill section of highway seemed to mark the end of the holidays and a turning of my mind to “*what’s next*”. We are not traveling this holiday season, but I have been wondering what the next year will hold. *How about you?* (If not today, soon.)

In 2015, we have experienced significant events and changes in our culture, here and abroad. In 2016, we will hold a presidential **election** that has the potential to impact not only our nation, but the entire world for generations.

In 2016, we can get more done...it is a ‘**Leap Year**’. Some will experience significant life-transitions...like a job change, a graduation or a wedding. Others will experience difficulty, illness or the unexpected death of someone near to you.

Based on your unique life-stage, you will approach the next year with certain perspectives or concerns. You may or may not be concerned about the economy, immigration, terrorism, religious liberty, or social security. But no matter your concern, there is still no greater peace and joy, no more secure place to be than in the center of the will of our loving, Sovereign God. That is **Sacred Security!**

As we face the joys and difficulties to come, I believe the Truth of God’s Word can (*should*) help shape our perspective. And I believe that God wants to bring about significant life-transformation in us today, even before we see New Years.

For much of his journey to becoming the King of Israel, David experienced the impact of being resented and even hunted. If there is a good reason to *fret*, being hunted would be counted as one of them. David, the Psalmist, (inspired by the Holy Spirit), wrote some incredible words of encouragement out of his journey of uncertainty, as he personally experienced this **SACRED SECURITY**. Let’s read.

READ TEXT: PSALM 37:1-7

- 1** Do not fret because of evildoers, Be not envious toward wrongdoers.
- 2** For they will wither quickly like the grass and fade like the green herb.
- 3** Trust in the LORD and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate 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 also in Him, and He will do it.
- 6** He will bring forth your righteousness as the light and your judgment as the noonday.
- 7** Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who carries out wicked schemes.

How can we experience and enjoy this Sacred Security?

UNDERSTANDING:

(1) Trust in God's Sovereignty. (v. 1-3)

Sometimes, we not only **fret** about what might happen to us, but we can also become resentful because it seems the 'bad guys' are winning or even blessed. **Envy** is worrying about what someone else has and why God has *not* given that something to you. This type of thinking can lead to all kinds of messed up stuff.

"Worry gives you something to do, but won't get you anywhere." (Havner)

David says that he learned how to allow his worry to transition into faith in His God who, not only has everything under His Sovereign control...but keeps score. He reminds us that God is Righteous. Good wins. Evil loses. Judgment is coming.

"And the Devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever." (Revelation 20:10)

(Ex: Carson / SDA / Annihilationism)

"And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:15)

In verse 3, we see that **trust** is the opposite of worry. And as David exhorts us, real faith always turns into good, positive action. (James 2) How can we do 'good' when it seems like 'evil' is all around us? **Faith does not ignore the current circumstances, but it also recognizes the Sovereign promises of the future and acts upon that Truth.** That is what he means by "cultivating faithfulness".

Faith that cultivates faithfulness is never passive; but the exchange of worry for faith is nearly always taken in steps. (Response)

(2) Align with God's Heart and Plan. (v. 4-5)

David then gives us two practical steps for experiencing and enjoying sacred security. First - **Delighting** in the Lord means to find our total satisfaction in Him. By delighting in Him, we are aligning our heart with His and He becomes (*not just a primary source*), but the sole source of our joy. Our desires become His desires. **Our heart aligns with His...and He acts.** (Ex: 1999 Ukraine / Trust and Obey)

"Men who delight in God desire or ask for nothing but what will please God; hence it is safe to give them carte blanche." (Charles Spurgeon)

Second - **Committing** our way to Him means literally to roll all of our affairs and business onto Him. Thus, we align our lives with His plan. We find His plan by knowing His Word, which transforms and renews our thinking. (Rom. 12:2) And being obedient to His Word, **our lives align with His plan...and He acts.**

"We really only believe what we are willing to do or act upon.

What frustrates many is an expectation of God's blessing without alignment with His heart and plan. The problem: **That would go against God's character.** Committing our lives to His plan requires **FAITH** that God desires and is able to work His out plan for our best. (Rom. 8:28) God allows us to decide if we will follow His plan, which, in turn, reveals our faith in Him. (Ex. Moses-Heb. 11:24)

In what areas of your life do you need alignment with God's heart and plan?
(Family & friends, school & career, finances & giving, relationships & sex)

(3) Rest in God's Mercy and Justice. (v. 6-7)

Resting in His mercy and justice is both "**a privilege and a duty**" (Spurgeon). God's **plan** is rarely the most **popular** because it is *Righteous* and *Holy* like He is...and the culture (in general) goes the opposite direction. His plan and His **timing** are rarely **convenient** for us...but they are always perfect. God's **process** often does not seem **logical**...but we do not have His eternal perspective. His **progress** is sometimes **frustrating** when we are following Him, but we must remember that His mercy was and is patient with us...as He is also with others.

Trust in Him...Align with Him...Rest in Him.

APPLICATION

- **Culture floods us with reasons not to align. But remember all lies come from the pit of Hell...and Satan never has your best at heart.** (John 10:10)
(Ex: Listen for unbiblical thinking and replace with biblical Truth.)
- **Culture will never fully understand that when followers of Christ align with God's heart and plan...they too experience the benefits.** (Prov. 11:10)
(Ex: Godly Leaders) Listen to what they say...and watch how they live.
- **Culture will flood us with things to worry about...but remember we are not in this for the long haul...we are in this for eternity...and our God wins!**
(Ex: "In Christ Alone")

'No fear in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me.

From life's first cry to final death, Jesus commands my destiny.

No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand,

'Til He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I live.'

Are you experiencing Sacred Security? It starts by becoming a follower of Christ and allowing Sovereign God to put His signature on your life.

RESPONSE

Trust in God's Sovereignty...Align with His heart and plan...and Rest in Him.

Everyone has a 'SECURITY' card. Whose signature is on your card?