

Psalm 112 - Eternal Prosperity

Ps 112:1-10 Praise ye the LORD.
Blessed *is* the man *that* feareth the LORD, *that* delighteth greatly in his commandments.

2His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

3Wealth and riches *shall be* in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever.

4Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: *he is* gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

5A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion.

6Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.

7He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD.

8His heart *is* established, he shall not be afraid, until he see *his desire* upon his enemies.

9He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.

10The wicked shall see *it*, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away: the desire of the wicked shall perish.

1. Money, money, money.

When I first looked at this passage my first thought was that it was going to be difficult to preach because the thing I think most people would immediately notice is in vs. 3, "Wealth and riches *shall be* in his house." *Money, money, money!* We must be careful when we read "wealth and riches" because a lot of people will look at that and say, "But I'm not rich." Or worse, "Am I not righteous because I am not rich?" Or even worse, "Are you saying that rich people are righteous and poor people are not?" This passage is not a guarantee that earthly riches will follow righteousness. In fact there are a lot of Scriptures that *are* critical of earthly riches.

Jas 5:1-6 Go to now, *ye* rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon *you*.

2Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten.

3Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

4Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord

of sabaoth.

5Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.

6Ye have condemned *and* killed the just; *and* he doth not resist you.

There are plenty of times to preach and teach about riches which falls under the category of stewardship, which is the responsible use of riches and God's blessings. A bit of this will be covered later on, but let me simply point out that you don't just have to resign yourself to being poor. It's fine to make money, just don't make it your number one priority.

Eccl 2:24 *There is* nothing better for a man, *than* that he should eat and drink, and *that* he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it *was* from the hand of God.

Enjoying wealth and riches is only a very tiny part of this Psalm. *Responsible* use of wealth and riches has more of a part, but I think this would *still* be missing the most significant message of the Psalm. It mentions wealth and riches, but only our *lust* causes us to focus on that portion and gives it undue significance. Material wealth is *relative*.

How much would it have cost Solomon in all his glory to ramp up production to produce the computer you carry around in your pocket? The church's first computer was not even a toy compared to what we use now.

In the 1970s, an IBM data storage device for example, weighed a ton and measured 16 square feet but it only had 5MB of memory. 800 of them would cover Bayonne and weigh about as much as 8 space shuttles; but *now* you can carry around a flash drive in your pocket that has more power. And, you would still have have enough room left over for your keys, a banana, your cell phone, and a screwdriver. Also, the IBM device would cost you about \$23 million¹ *per month* to operate, but the flash drive would cost you about \$7.00 on Ebay, shipping not included. Material wealth is *relative*! Comparatively speaking we actually *are* wealthy.

Solomon was extremely rich, but did he have a flush toilet? Could he turn on a spigot and get hot water? Could he flip on a switch to find his glasses in the middle of the night? As recent as my grandfather's day electricity was so new that the President and his wife refused to touch a light switch for fear of getting shocked. What is rich in our day would be priceless in Solomon's day.

2. True prosperity.

¹In 2020 dollars

Material wealth is *relative*. Don't focus on *material* wealth and riches in this Psalm. Ostentatious opulence, or being a rich show-off, is not a good measure of being rich. The greater part of the Psalm emphasizes honor and our relationship to God.

Psa 112:1 Praise ye the LORD.
Blessed *is* the man *that* feareth the LORD, *that* delighteth greatly in his commandments.

The foundation of true prosperity starts with fearing the LORD, but it doesn't end there. Most people who are honest with themselves find the idea of standing in front of God and having to give an account of their lives find that idea fearful. It doesn't cure them of their Oppositional Defiance Disorder, or ODD, for short. I mentioned recently how Family Psychologist John Rosemund suggested that you can begin to cure it with Vitamin N – Vitamin NO. He wrote the book, *Parenting by The Book: Biblical Wisdom for Raising Your Child*.

The last half of the verse completes the idea, blessed is the man that "delighteth greatly in his commandments." This only happens when someone becomes born again.

2Cor 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: **old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**

His nature is new, his desires are new, his ability to love God is new, and his delight in God is new. If someone doesn't have that delight in God, then they should question if they even *belong* to God.

The Psalm goes on to describe *true* wealth:

- Vs. 2, they are *upright*
- Vs. 3, their *righteousness* endureth ***forever!***
- Vs. 4, they have light and are full of righteousness
- Vs. 5, they are wise with discretion
- Vs. 6, they shall not be moved ***forever***
- Vs. 6, they shall be in ***everlasting*** remembrance

People are so consumed with worldly wealth which will rot and fade away.

Matt 6:19-21 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

20But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do

not break through nor steal:

21For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

John 6:27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, **but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life**, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

Even if riches were to be sought after, don't look for the worldly ones. We have far greater heavenly riches ahead of us.

1Pet 1:3-4 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

Rom 8:16-18 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

17And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

18For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Eph 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

We don't even have to wait till we get to heaven to enjoy the true riches.

Eph 2:5-6 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

Eph 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the **riches of his glory**, to be strengthened with might by his **Spirit in the inner man**;

Eph 3:8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles **the unsearchable riches of Christ**;

Eph 2:7 That in the ages to come he might shew the **exceeding riches of his grace in his**

kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Col 1:27 To whom God would make known what *is* the **riches of the glory** of this mystery among the Gentiles; **which is Christ in you**, the hope of glory:

Col 2:2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto **all riches of the full assurance of understanding**, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

Rom 11:33 O the depth of **the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!** how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

Rom 2:4 ...despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

3. Grief of the wicked.

Now we come to vs. 10. 90% of the Psalm deals with the blessings of the righteous. In one verse, God sums up the opposite in the utter, complete failure and destruction of the wicked.

Ps 112:10 The wicked shall see *it*, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away: the desire of the wicked shall perish.

It is mostly contained in the word *grieved*. There are several ways I would like to touch on to describe this sense of *grief*.

In the first case, it speaks of the general *attitude* of the wicked. If the righteous find their delight in God, the wicked find their delight in self. The wicked are *self* centered. You might notice that this concept comes up *regularly* in sermons. That is because it is basic to all sin that follows. "I want *my* way instead of God's way. I want *my* sin-stained *self*-righteousness instead of God's righteousness. I want a God who obeys *me* instead of God whom I must obey. I want a god of *my* imagination instead of the Holy God of Glory." This sense of self leads to the second case.

In the second case, the wicked is grieved at the sight of your riches. Actually, the wicked don't stop there. They are grieved at the sight of *anyone's* riches. They gnash their teeth and complain about the very wealthy and assume it must be at the expense of the poor. Instead of living responsibly before God, they want what others seem to have. They are the opposite of Moses:

Heb 11:24-27 By faith Moses,

when he was come to years,
refused to be called the son of
Pharaoh's daughter;

25Choosing rather to suffer
affliction with the people of God,
than to enjoy the pleasures of sin
for a season;

**26Esteeming the reproach of
Christ greater riches** than the
treasures in Egypt: for he had
respect unto the recompence of
the reward.

27By faith he forsook Egypt, not
fearing the wrath of the king: for
he endured, as seeing him who is
invisible.

Moses anticipated the Messiah's
riches in eternity! Suffering for Christ
was of more value than all the riches of
Egypt.

Asaph, another Psalmist, almost
made the mistake of envying:

Ps 73:3-5 For I was envious at
the foolish, *when* I saw the
prosperity of the wicked.

4For *there are* no bands in their
death: but their strength *is* firm.

5They *are* not in trouble *as other*
men; neither are they plagued
like *other* men.

Ps 73:16-19 When I thought to
know this, it *was* too painful for
me;

17Until I went into the sanctuary
of God; ***then*** understood I their
end.

18Surely thou didst set them in
slippery places: thou castedst
them down into destruction.

19How are they *brought* into
desolation, as in a moment! they
are utterly consumed with terrors.

1John 2:15-17 Love not the
world, neither the things *that are*
in the world. If any man love the
world, the love of the Father is
not in him.

16For all that *is* in the world, the
lust of the flesh, and the lust of
the eyes, and the pride of life, is
not of the Father, but is of the
world.

17And the world passeth away,
and the lust thereof: but he that
doeth the will of God abideth for
ever.

Pro 14:30 A sound heart *is* the
life of the flesh: but envy the
rottenness of the bones.

1Cor 3:3 For ye are yet carnal:
for whereas *there is* among you
envying, and strife, and divisions,
are ye not carnal, and walk as
men?

Ecc 4:4 Again, I considered all
travail, and every right work, that
for this a man is envied of his

neighbour. This *is* also vanity and vexation of spirit.

Pro 6:34 For jealousy *is* the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.

Job 5:2 For wrath killeth the foolish man, and envy slayeth the silly one.

The third case of their grief is that they hate what the righteous have. If the wicked can't get what you have they cannot be at peace with you having anything. They hate their righteousness.

Rom 1:28-32 And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;
29Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,
30Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,
31Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:
32Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

The wicked will hate that you enjoy the fruit of your labors. They hate your Christian home and delight in any sin that takes you down a notch. They will stand behind you with pornography and call your name to get you to look. They will try to get to your kids. They will pick at anything and find fault where none exists. When they don't find anything to criticize they will make it up.

The fourth case of grief is revealed in the phrase "he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away: the desire of the wicked shall perish." The final grief will come when they stand before God and realize that their hatred has brought them into the fires of eternal hell. Jesus gave provided a view into hell in Luke:

Luke 16:19-25 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:
20And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,
21And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.
22And it came to pass, that the

beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

23And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

24And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

25But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

The rich man clawed and fought for everything he could get in this life, but words cannot describe the grief he felt in the fires of hell with the realization that there was no escape.

Matt 13:41-43 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

42And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

43Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Ps 112:1-10

1. Money, money, money. Jas 5:1-6, Eccl 2:24
2. True prosperity. Psa 112:1, 2Cor 5:17, Matt 6:19-21, John 6:27, 1Pet 1:3-4, Rom 8:16-18, Eph 1:18, 2:5-6, 3:16, 3:8, 2:7, Col 1:27, 2:2, Rom 11:33, 2:4
3. Grief of the wicked. Ps 112:10, Heb 11:24-27, Ps 73:3-5, 73:16-19, 1John 2:15-17, Pro 14:30, 1Cor 3:3, Ecc 4:4, Pro 6:34, Job 5:2, Rom 1:28-32, Luke 16:19-25, Matt 13:41-43