

## **The Lord Holds Your Hand**

**Sermon Text:** Psalm 37

**Study Texts:** Psalm 37

**Sermon Recap:** The main idea of this week's sermon is this: The LORD will not forsake His people, but the wicked will be cut off. Take time before your growth group to review the key points you noted from this week's sermon.

**Sermon Connection:** We find in Psalm 37 a great and divine promise: God will not forsake us, His people. Upon such a sure foundation, the Lord thus commands His people to live boldly and with a hope undiminished and unfailing. It is important for us to consider each of these commands and the implications they hold for our lives, individually and collectively as the Church. As we consider these many commands, we do so with the great assurance that the LORD will not forsake His people.

### **Lesson Plan**

**Lesson Goal:** To see the commands to live faithfully before the Lord rest upon His steadfast promise to never forsake His people.

**Lesson Point:** Obedient and faithful living before the Lord

**The Context:** The Psalms are a tremendous and beautiful portion of the Bible, and particularly of Hebrew poetry. While there are larger portions of Psalms to be taken together, most Psalms are individual, and are meant to be taken as one complete unit. In Psalm 37, we find the Psalmist contrasting the godly and the wicked. The form is similar to Proverbs where wickedness is contrasted against the command for righteous living. Therefore, as we come to this text, we want to consider each command (imperative phrase) and how it calls us to righteous living before the Lord *on the basis of* God's goodness toward His people.

### **Obedient and Faithful Living Before the Lord.**

This Psalm is full of commands. Take time to consider what each command means and how the gospel shapes and informs each one.

- Fret not yourself because of evildoers (v. 1):
- Trust in the Lord, and do good (v. 3):
- Dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness (v. 3):
- Delight yourself in the Lord (v. 4):
- Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him...(v. 5):
- Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him (v. 7a):
- Fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way...Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil (vv. 7b-8):
- Better is the little that the righteous has than the abundance of many wicked (v. 16):
- The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he delights in His way (v. 23):
- Turn away from evil and do good (v. 27):
- Wait for the Lord and keep His way (v. 34):

### **The Big Picture - Walking in Faith because God is Faithful**

As stated earlier, the main idea of this week's sermon is: The LORD will not forsake His people, but the wicked will be cut off. This is a tremendous promise for the people of God. God will never leave, nor will He ever forsake us (Deut. 31:6; Mt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5). Therefore, because of God's enduring presence with and His promises to His people, the Church can live with great faith while she waits upon the Lord.

The time for the Lord's return has not yet come. But we know that He has promised that He is coming, and that He will not leave us. And because of these things, we are called, commanded, and empowered to live faithfully before His face day-by-day. Psalm 37 clearly and helpfully outlines the differences between God's faithful and the wicked of the earth. As we have considered each of these commands in turn, we come away with a singular truth: We walk in faith because God is faithful.

### **Application Questions**

- Knowing that faith largely shows itself in obedience, how am I walking in faith before the Lord?
- How am I leading my family to walk in faith before the Lord?
- How is my life different from the wicked of the world?
  - What, if anything, would a non-Christian think is 'weird' or 'wasteful' in my life? Such as going to church, praying, mission, etc.
- How is our growth group walking in faith before the Lord?
- How can we call others to walk in faith before the Lord from this text?