

Patience in Distress  
Psalm 37:1-11

“Fret” – to burn with anger; to overheat due to rage

The “Problem” of Evil: There Is Nothing Abstract About It – Ps 37:1,12,14,32

- The origins of evil lie in an adversary, a satan – Is 14; Ezek 28
- Evil: a theory of success based upon self-determination – Gen 3:1-7; Is 14:13,14

The Mystery of Iniquity Has the Mystery of the Gospel As Its Solution – Ga 1:3-4; I Jo 3:8

- Jesus Christ comes and destroys the work of the devil – I Jo 3:8
- For any and all in Christ, Satan, evil, sin, death... do not get the final word – II Cor 2:14; Jo 16:33

We May Then Have a Re-set of the Mind/Heart – Ps 37:3-6

- We learn to take up the eternal perspective – Col 3:1-4
  - ...“rest in the Lord”: we “hush” our noisy, fretful complaints – Ps 37:7; 46:10
  - ...“wait patiently”: we listen for holy options – Ps 37:7-8
  - ...patience learns that the best is often last – Ps 37:11
- We return to God as the object of our faith – Ps 37:3-5
  - ...“commit”: we roll our “heart-burn” onto God – I Pet 5:7
  - ...“delight”: we rejoice in God as our Portion – Ps 17:14; Lam 3:24
  - ...“dwell”: we abide in Christ wherever we are – Jo 15:7-11
  - ...“trust”: we make sure that God alone is the sole object of our faith – Ps 37:3,5

We Bring the Goodness of God to Bear on a Fallen World – Ps 37:3, 27

- Learn to think Christianly – Ps 37:3; I Cor 2:16; II Cor 5:14
- Seek to overcome evil with good – Rom 12:21
  - ...in the place God plants us
  - ...as creative, restorative agents of His justice
  - ...it is our primary apologetic/witness – Acts 1:8
  - ...it is our public service of worship – Ro 12:1-2