

Pastor C. W. Powell. Trinity Covenant RCUS, Colorado Springs. CO.

Last week I spoke on the Righteousness of the Day; that God will bring to light the things of darkness. His elect will be vindicated before all intelligent creatures. My text was verse 4-6: “He shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.” Primarily this applies to the Lord Jesus Who is wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption, but those who love the Lord Jesus will share in His vindication and will not be ashamed. It will not be in vain to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, for those who do are justified in all things, as we read in Ac 13:39 “And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.”

Today we will look at verses 9-24 to see that there are three major fundamental contrasts between the way of the ungodly and the way of faith. For unbelief IS the way of the ungodly, and faith IS the way of the godly. In fact, you might say that these verses are an unpacking of Psalm 1 that concludes: “God knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.”

But let us look at the verses themselves. We will see three things in which the way of faith far exceeds the way of the ungodly. I. There is no FUTILITY in the way of the Godly vs.9-11. II. There is no FOLLY in the way of the Godly. III. There is no Famine in the way of the Godly.

- I. There is no FUTILITY in the way of the Godly; the Futility is in the way of the ungodly. Vs. 9-11 “9 For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. 10 For yet a little while, and the wicked *shall not be*: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it *shall not be*. 11 But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.” Psalm 37:9-11
- A. Consider their futures.
1. 7 For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: 8 But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned. (Hebrews 6:7,8)
 2. This is true both of time and eternity:
 - a. Time: The ungodly are like those who build on the sand. They labor already in the fire, for they can do nothing that is permanent. They lay up for themselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust corrupts and where thieves break through and steal. The righteous build on solid rock and are blessed from generation to generation.
 - b. Eternity: The ungodly are like the chaff which the wind drives away. They are empty men, doing empty works because of empty faith, whose end is the bottomless pit, where the flames of God’s wrath underscore the futility of their lives. Instead, the righteous inherit the kingdom prepared from eternity for those who love God and keep His commandments.
- B. “Yet a little while” In a little while, it will come.
1. It is just a little while until the hour of death or the coming of the Lord.
 - a. Ps 62:5 My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him.
 - b. Pr 10:28 The hope of the righteous shall be gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish.
 - c. Pr 11:7 When a wicked man dieth, his expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust men perisheth.
 - d. Pr 11:23 The desire of the righteous is only good: but the expectation of the wicked is wrath.
 - e. Pr 23:18 For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off.
 2. Expectation of the ungodly: the rich man’s expectation and the reality are so different. “This day thy soul shall be required....” But what about my barns and my goods? Jesus said, “Labor not for the meat that perishes...”
 3. Expectations of the godly: to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Lazarus; Stephen; Moses and Elijah: God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.
4. How futile it is to live without hope! Canaan was Israel’s inheritance; ours is in heaven. Jesus will take us to where He is right now; either by death or by His coming. At the end of all things will be the resurrection of the dead and we will all stand before the Lord Jesus: the godly on his right hand; the ungodly on his left. [Matt. 25] The righteous will go away to life everlasting; the ungodly to unquenchable fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.
- In a little while: your eyes will close in death; and the second your soul leaves your body it will return to the Lord who gave it, as Scripture says, and at that instant you—you—you with either be in hell or with the Lord; either in a place of punishment and terror, or in a place of comfort and rest. There is no middle ground. The

Lord Jesus Himself put it this way: 28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. John 5. A resurrection of life and hope for the godly; A futile and vain resurrection of damnation for the ungodly.

II. There is no FOLLY in the way of the Godly; the Folly is in the way of the ungodly: Vs. 12-17. 12 The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth. 13 The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming. 14 The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, *and* to slay such as be of upright conversation. 15 Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken. 16 A little that a righteous man hath *is* better than the riches of many wicked. 17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD upholdeth the righteous.

A. Consider the Plans of the Ungodly: He has his own plans. He has it figured out. He plots and schemes.

1. He plots against the righteous and seeks to impose his plan upon the world. His plans are directed to destroy the just, those of an upright way of life.
2. He does this because he is a fool: The fool has said in his heart, there is no God: Ps. 14 READ
3. His plans come to nothing, because he is a fool, corrupt in mind and his plans will come to nothing for they are founded upon dreams and vanity. His way is right in his own eyes, but it is the way of death, for life is in the purpose and plan of God. "Let the wicked forsake his ways and the unrighteous man his thoughts and let him turn unto the Lord."

B. Consider the end of the Ungodly, who labors to bring his plans to fruition: Isaiah 59:5ff. His plans are like the spider's web; a web of deceit, but also of failure.

C. Consider all of this and compare it with the plan of the godly:

1. The Lord upholdeth the righteous. The secret of the Lord is with the righteous because of the covenant of their God.
2. Their root goes down deep, like a tree planted by the rivers of water. He does not follow his own plans, because God directs their way.
3. Shall a man contend with God: God laughs at him and turns the arrows of the ungodly against themselves; the sword enters into their own hearts. Their arms shall be broken.
4. Psalm 32:6-11. The godly can without fear TRUST IN THE LORD. They don't walk in their own way.
5. They walk in the providence of God; not their own plan that they have devised, but the plan that God has devised for them. They are not their own, they are bought with a price. Man cannot impose his plan upon God. Hence, their life—the most humble and lowly of the righteous, even though he be a beggar, like Lazarus laid at the rich man's door—is for the glory of God and will achieve what it has been design for by the Heavenly Father. Those despised by men, every child of God is precious to God.
6. The resources of the godly, therefore, are infinitely more valuable than the greatest resources of the ungodly. David had only a sling. Moses a rod. Gideon only 400. Jesus didn't have a place to lay his head. The lad had only five loaves and two fish. But how great were these things in the hands of the Lord! The little that the righteous hath....

III. There is no FAMINE in the way of the Godly: The true Famine is in the ways of the Ungodly: 8 The LORD knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be forever. "19 They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied. 20 But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD *shall be* as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away. 21 The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth. 22 For *such as be* blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and *they that be* cursed of him shall be cut off. 23 The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way." (Ps 37:19-23)

A. God knoweth: This is predestination. The future cannot be changed because God knows it and He cannot change. If the future could change, then the knowledge of God from eternity would have to change, and if God's knowledge changes, then his wisdom changes, and the very nature of God changes. The wicked in their rage against the people of God rage against God Himself. They imagine a vain thing when they rage against God's people and the way of godliness.

B. The godly man is fully supplied by God in all his needs. His daily bread is secured, "Verily thou shalt be fed." His soul delights in the fatness of God's provisions, because his inheritance is secured. Though he may have little of this world's goods, yet it is sufficient to enable him to finish the work God has given him to do, and then he will be taken to glory to the immense riches of glory and reward forever and ever. He eats of the fat his inheritance.

- C. The wicked man knows nothing but famine. He does not eat; he is eaten. He is the fat of the land and is consumed by the fires of God even in this life. Their life is like a smoke and vapor that appears for a little time and then goes away in the wrath of God. They know nothing but perpetual famine, for they are occupied in those things which cannot satisfy.
- D. So the wicked borrows and doesn't pay.
1. He borrows from God and the godly. He hides his talent and complains against God. He takes God's corn and wine and offers it to Baal.
 2. His plans and schemes are based upon the provisions of God, for without God he could not so much as move; The devil, the master of the ungodly, is the greatest thief all, for he would seek to climb up to heaven and seize the very throne of God for his own.
 3. The ungodly are the same way: they would rob God of his glory, and they would rob the people of God of their inheritance and seize the earth for themselves.
- E. But God also knows the way of the ungodly that they shall perish forever. But He is merciful and kind and continues to send his rain and his goodness is everywhere in the world, but the wicked gnash in rage against Him and hate and persecute His people. He does not give God his fruit in due season.
- F. The righteous know the riches and feast of the blessing of God as we read in Isaiah 55:
- "¹ ¶ Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Wherefore do ye spend money for *that which is* not bread? and your labour for *that which* satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye *that which is* good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness." (Isa 55:1-2 AV)
- G. The blessing of the Lord in this life consists chief of this: "The steps of a good man are ordered of the Lord" God knows the way of the righteous and blessings rest upon him, for the righteousness of the righteous is of God and God delights in it. Isa 54:17 "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD." Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect; it is God that justifies.

Conclusion and Application: "²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose. ²⁹ ¶ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. ³¹ ¶ What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us? ³² He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth. ³⁴ Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." (Ro 8:28-34)

- A. God has nothing but eternal good designed for His people
- B. Everything that takes place on this earth is designed for the eternal good and feast of the Lord in glory.
- C. What God has blessed is blessed: as Balaam and Balak discovered in Numbers 22
- D. The blessing is in Christ alone: hence, faith lays hold on Christ, and the walk of the godly is a walk of faith. Do not allow fretfulness and wrath turn you aside from these great truths.
- E. Show mercy and truth in all you do, for this is righteousness.
- F. Seek first the kingdom of God: things of the Spirit and the promise of God's glory in the future, for this is the way of Meaning, Wisdom, and Feast. The wicked lives for the present and finds futility, folly, and famine.
- G. Pray always for these things, for God gives his blessings to His people when they earnestly cry out to Him for them. Your Heavenly Father will give good things to them that ask, who seek, who knock.

Amen and Amen; God bless you.