

# Three Laws of Christian Living

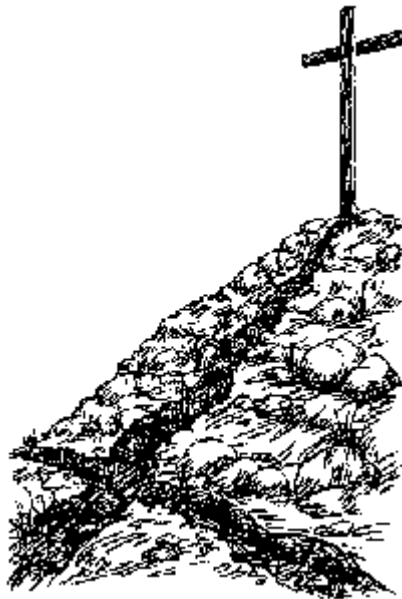
Psalm 37:4-11

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Psalms 37:4-11 (KJV) "**Delight<sup>1</sup> thyself also<sup>2</sup> in the LORD; and He shall give<sup>4</sup> thee the desires of thine heart. {5} Commit<sup>3</sup> thy way<sup>3</sup> unto the LORD; trust<sup>5</sup> also in him; and he shall bring it to pass<sup>6</sup>. {6} And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. {7} Rest<sup>7</sup> in the LORD, and wait patiently<sup>8</sup> for him: fret<sup>9</sup> not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. {8} Cease<sup>10</sup> from anger, and forsake<sup>11</sup> wrath: fret<sup>12</sup> not thyself in any wise to do evil. {9} For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait<sup>13</sup> 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."**

<sup>1</sup> 'anag {pronounced aw-nag'}, Hithpael Imperative, to be happy about, take exquisite delight in

<sup>2</sup> ALSO not found in other versions. Current placement leads us to believe that we should "delight ourselves in the Lord ALSO", whereas the word is connective: live in the land AND delight yourself in God. Better translation as in *Hebrew Names Version (Psalms 37:4 HNV)*  
"Also delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart."

<sup>3</sup> galal {pronounced gaw-lal'}, Qal Imperative, to roll a burden over onto something or someone + derek {pronounced deh'-rek}, way of life

<sup>4</sup> nathan {pronounced naw-than'}, Qal Imperfect, to give, bestow, grant, permit, ascribe, employ, devote, consecrate, dedicate, pay wages, sell, exchange, lend, commit, entrust, give over, deliver up, yield produce, occasion, produce, requite to, report, mention, utter, stretch out, extend. NOTE: Compare to 2 Samuel 12:1 and NATHAN the Prophet.

<sup>5</sup> batach {pronounced baw-takh'}, Qal Imperative = have confidence in

<sup>6</sup> ‘asah {pronounced aw-saw’}, Qal Imperfect = produce., manufacture. To make something out of something, as in the manufacture of Adam, where *exact same* construction exists: {Genesis 1:26 (KJV) "And God said, Let us make<sup>6</sup> man in our image... "

<sup>7</sup> damam {pronounced daw-man’}, Qal Imperative, be silent, wait, meditate. Same construction as in: Psalms 62:5 (KJV) "My soul, wait<sup>7</sup> thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him."

<sup>8</sup> chiyl {pronounced kheel}, Hithpolel Imperative, to wait longingly. Only here in Old Testament.

<sup>9</sup> charah {pronounced khaw-raw’} Hithpael Imperfect, to heat oneself in vexation

<sup>10</sup> raphah {pronounced raw-faw’}, Hiphil Imperative, abandon, let go, let alone

<sup>11</sup> ‘azab {pronounced aw-zab’}, Qal Imperative, abandon, neglect, set free

<sup>12</sup> charah {pronounced khaw-raw’}, Hithpael Imperfect, to heat oneself in vexation

<sup>13</sup> qavah {pronounced kaw-vaw’}, Qal Active Participle, wait for, hope for, expecting

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## Our First Duty: Delight In God

What is the first duty that God expects of a *person*? Is it to live a sinless life? No, God does want us to live our lives in holiness, for the Scripture says:

**1 Peter 1:15-16 (KJV) "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; {16} Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."**

So the believer should seek holiness – separation from the sins of the world around him. But is this our first duty? No. Well, what is the first duty of man to God? Is it not to *delight in Him*, to rejoice in *all that He has given us*? King David, the God inspired writer of the

Psalms, tells those who belong to God to:

**Psalms 37:4 "Delight<sup>1</sup> thyself ~~also~~<sup>2</sup> in the LORD; and He shall give<sup>4</sup> thee the desires of thine heart..."**

The King James, normally a great translation, places a word in the wrong part of the sentence. As I read the

1. What is the Christian's *first duty* to God? (1 Peter 1:15-16; Psalm 37:4)

2. When David \_\_\_\_\_ himself in God then God \_\_\_\_\_ or "nathan<sub>ed</sub>" him in return.

3. When God sent the Prophet \_\_\_\_\_ to David He emphasized a pattern for that godly king to follow. What was that pattern?

Holy Text it appears that David is telling us to “Delight ourselves *also* in YHWH”, as if delight in God is something that is to be *added* to the Christian life. Yet this is not so. If you are in God by faith in Christ, then *delight in YHWH* is to be your number one priority. I want you to think about the God inspired writer of this text, King David. David, the little shepherd boy, learned that **delighting himself in his relationship to God** was the secret to his success. When David *delighted* himself in the relationship he had with God, then God NATHANed (that's the Hebrew word for “give”) David – God GAVE  
4

David blessing. This was the pattern for the *entire kingly reign of David*: David delighted in his relationship with God, God blessed David beyond all other kings. David surrounded himself with God, loved God, put God first, devoted himself to God, promoted God, thought of God, DELIGHTED in God and all that He is. Other kings had prophets called Daniel and Isaiah and Jeremiah and Obadiah and Nehemiah. But David so delighted in God that God even gave King David a PROPHET called NATHAN, “the one who gives”, and I do not believe that this is a coincidence. When your life is invested in delight in God, then God will bless you. David was proof positive of this truth.

David delighted himself in God, God NATHANed David. When David sat down and realized that he had a wonderful palace, but God had no Temple:

**2 Samuel 7:2 (KJV) "That the king said unto Nathan (BLESSING) the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains."**

David wanted to build God a Temple. His concern was not for *more for himself*, but *more for God*. God's response to David was that he *not* build a Temple or a house for God. This would be Solomon's duty, to build the Temple of God. But God told David through the Prophet Nathan (BLESSING):

**2 Samuel 7:11 (NASB) "... The LORD also declares to you that the LORD will make a house for you."**

Did you catch that? David said, “YHWH [the most

exalted name of God], let me make a house for You”, but God said, “No David, I'll make a house for you”. David delighted himself in YHWH, and YHWH blessed (or

4. Because David put God first, instead of making a house for God our Lord made a "house" of David. What does this mean? (2 Samuel 7:2; 7:11; Matthew 1:17)

5. What does it mean to "delight" yourself in God?

NATHANed) David. Jesus Christ, very God of very God, God in the flesh, King of Kings and Lord of Lords would come from the line of David. We are told that *twenty eight generations* would pass from David to Jesus (**Matthew 1:17**). God would truly make a house out of David. Judah, David's tribe, would become the tribe through which Jesus would rule Israel during the millennial reign of Christ on the earth.

The first duty of the believer is to *delight himself in YHWH*, to direct all of our energy toward glorifying and exalting our Creator.

### **1b. When David Failed To Delight In God, See The Result**

The more that David delighted in God, the greater God blessed him. All of Israel's enemies were subdued. Israel became a nation to be feared rather than to be fed on. As long as David delighted in God, God NATHANed

David. Sadly, though, David was human. During a time when he should have been out delighting himself in God, David remained at home and cast his eyes on another man's wife. David looked at and longed for Bathsheba. Instead of delighting in God, David delighted in Bathsheba. Instead of loving God with all his heart, David placed his heart in Bathsheba.

It is not wrong to love a woman with all your heart. I delight in my wife, and you should delight in your wife and in your husband. If you have found a good wife, men, you have found a good thing:

**Proverbs 18:22 (KJV) "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD."**

There was only one problem with David's romance with Bathsheba: she belonged to another man. Actually, there

6. When did blessing become cursing in David's life? (Proverbs 18:22; 2 Samuel 12:9; Psalms 51:1-4)

was two problems: she belonged to another man, and God never gave her to David. She was not a gift from God to David. **David delighted in someone he should have never delighted in, and in so doing brought disaster in his life.** In one of the most poignant passages of Scripture Nathan ("Blessing") the Prophet came to David and condemned him for stealing Uriah's wife before murdering the poor man. **In 2 Samuel 12:1-14 blessing became cursing as Nathan (whose name means *blessing*)**

**pronounced God's judgment on David.** His twin sins of adultery and murder were *grievous offenses* to God. If you delight in God, you will not *despise His commandments*. God said:

**2 Samuel 12:9 (KJV) "Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? ..."**

There are many who wink at sin, thinking that God has little regard for what we do. Yet **God expects those who love Him to do as He says. We delight in God, and in so delighting we do as He commands.** David's failure brought a curse on his life, and cost him the child that he would have bore with Bathsheba.

When we delight ourselves in God, God "nathans" us, blesses us, gives us the desires of our hearts. When we delight ourselves in sin, God punishes us. Yet if we repent, God will bring us back to a place of NATHAN, a place of blessing once more. David would later write in another Psalm:

**Psalms 51:1-4 (KJV) ".. Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. {2} Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. {3} For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. {4} Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou**

judgest."

When we delight in God, God delights in blessing us. This is our first duty: to delight in God, to worship Him.

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## The Second Duty of The Believer: Let God Be God

**Psalms 37:5 Commit<sup>3</sup> thy way<sup>3</sup> unto the LORD; trust<sup>5</sup> also in him; and he shall bring it to pass<sup>6</sup>.**

I find myself often falling into the trap of many Christians – that of trying to wrest the power of God from God. What do I mean by that? What I mean is I do

7. What is the second duty of the believer? (Psalms 37:5) How can I do this thing?

8. Do you often listen to the voice of Abishai or to the voice of Joab? Which voice should you listen to? (1 Samuel 26:8-9)

as so many others do. When things do not go as I plan; when life fails to pan out the way I want it to; when it seems as if all the unfairness of the world comes my way ... then I desperately begin to seek ways to alleviate my problem.

If you have taken the first step, that of *delighting* yourself in God, then the next step we must take together is to let God be God. The Psalmist uses very interesting

words here to describe a believer's perfect walk. When the road, the way, becomes too heavy, then *roll the burden of the way* onto God. That's what the word the King James translates "commit" means in the Hebrew. Roll it over onto God. Surrender your whole life to Him. The struggle of life can rob us of our delight in God. Turn the struggle over to Jesus. As the old song says:

**Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus  
Look Full In His Wonderful Face  
And The Things Of Earth Will Grow Strangely Dim  
In the Light of His Glory and Grace!**

Roll the burden over onto King Jesus. How many times must we be reminded of that? Look at how David rolled his burdens over onto the Lord. When David was first anointed King over Israel and word got out to Saul, the man *forgot* that it was God who placed David where he was. He began to chase David, seeking his life. This was not the first time, but this was the most severe time Saul sought to kill David. A literal civil war erupted in Israel, and it threatened to destroy that whole nation.

Late one night David and one of his mighty warriors, Abishai, discovered Saul and his army asleep in a cave. Abishai saw this as a golden opportunity. He said:

**1 Samuel 26:8 (KJV) "... God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him the second time."**

How many times have I stood in the place of Abishai?  
How many times has one who should have been my friend and godly adviser stood as Abishai to me, and said, "Let me go and take vengeance for you, David. I'll strike but once, and he'll be gone". This is the way of Abishai, but not the way of David, nor should it be the way of *any* who claim the name of Jesus. Abishai says, "Strike, God surely led him to where you could kill him. Don't miss this opportunity! Strike while the iron's hot. It's time to pay back the dog for what he did to us!"

Now look how David responded. He said:

**1 Samuel 26:9 (KJV) "... Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless?"**

God anointed Saul, God would take care of Saul. Let God be God. Listen Beloved, when the way becomes

9. If I believe that God is ALMIGHTY, then how will I handle my enemies? (Psalms 91:1-7; 37:9)

10. What has God promised me about evildoers and those who wish to harm me? (Pssalm 37:9)

11. What did David lose when he refused to listen to Joab? (1 Chronicles 21:1-4; Numbers 1:19)

hard – and it will – roll the way over onto Jesus. When

the attacks come – and they will, for you rarely go through life without stomping on someone's toes – roll the way over onto Jesus. God is in control of all things. Do you believe this, or do you believe a petty god who stands powerless against the Sauls of this life? David believed in the God whose name began with the large "G". David believed in the God who is ALMIGHTY, all powerful, able to sweep away all that stand in His way. David was able to confidently tell the Abishai's:

**Psalms 91:1-7 (KJV) "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. {2} I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. {3} Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. {4} He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. {5} Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; {6} Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. {7} A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee."**

How much better our lives would be if we allowed God to be God! How much stronger would our Christian walks be? How many more conversions would we see to Christ if we lived as if we believed what we said. David refused to smite Saul, and refused to allow any other to smite Saul for him. Saul would soon die, and if **1 Samuel 31:4** we see that he died by his own hand, falling on his 12

sword. This is the fate of those who continue to stand against God, an ignoble death, a lonely death, and afterwards the Judgment. But David was not to be blamed in Saul's death. As David said in our focal verse:

**Psalms 37:9 (KJV) " ..or evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait<sup>13</sup> 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."**

How true those words were, and what a great comfort to me, my Lord and Savior! To know that thou wouldst cut all off who would harm me. Who am I? I am yours!

## **2b. When David Failed To Let God Be God, See The Result**

**1 Chronicles 21:1-4 (KJV) "And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel. {2} And David said to Joab and to the rulers of the people, Go, number Israel from Beersheba even to Dan; and bring the number of them to me, that I may know it. {3} And Joab answered, The LORD make his people an hundred times so many more as they be: but, my lord the king, are they not all my lord's servants? why then doth my lord require this thing? why will he be a cause of trespass to Israel? {4} Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab. Wherefore Joab departed, and went throughout all Israel, and came to Jerusalem."**

Just as David was blessed when he *rolled his way* over

onto God, he was cursed when he started to become puffed up in himself. After a series of mighty, God ordained victories David became puffed up. He ordered Joab to number or *count* the number of his armies. David, in essence, wanted *bragging rights* on the victories he enjoyed.

Numbering the armies was not in itself a sin. In fact, Moses numbered Israel at God's command:

**Numbers 1:19 (KJV) "As the LORD commanded Moses, so he numbered them in the wilderness of Sinai."**

The sin was what was in David's heart as he ordered the numbering. **David got where he was because of God. Now he numbered the armies of Israel outside of God's expressed permission,** and brought punishment on himself.

When we **fail to allow God to be God, we rob ourselves of victory.** If you are Christians, every joy, every blessing, everything you have in this life, even to your grandchildren and great-grandchildren are blessings of God. Praise God for the Joabs who stand next to us and warn us about numbering, lest we bring judgment on ourselves. Praise God for the Joabs, and may God drive the Abishai's away lest I fall to their lure! We must delight ourselves in God, rolling our burdens over onto Him. We must let God be God, and recognize the power be not in me, but it be in Him!

### 3

## The Third Duty Of The Believer: Rest And Wait On God

**Psalms 37:7-8 (KJV) "Rest<sup>7</sup> in the LORD, and wait patiently<sup>8</sup> for him: fret<sup>9</sup> not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. {8} Cease<sup>10</sup> from anger, and forsake<sup>11</sup> wrath: fret<sup>12</sup> not thyself in any wise to do evil."**

Not too long ago I found a group of children imitating their parents. They sat on the floor and said "ommmm, ommmm" over and over again. I asked them what they were doing, and they said that's what they were taught. How sad! This type of *meditation* is patently against the Christian way of life. It is an import from Buddhism,

12. What is the *progression of emotion* that Satan uses to keep us from doing our third duty to God? (Psalms 37:7-8)

13. If I have lost the *joy of my salvation* what must I do to recover it? (Psalm 51:12)

14. Can I serve God as He intends if I have lost the joy of my salvation? (Psalm 51:13)

15. I must first be \_\_\_\_\_ if I want to find delight in God the Savior. (Isaiah 12:3)

Hinduism, cultism, and the New Age movement. In the next few weeks we will begin a series of studies called

"What Saith the Scripture?" that addresses the cultic, and explains why we should avoid it like the plague.

The Christian is called, not to chant some meaningless word, but to meditate on God Himself. The term David uses, "**rest in the Lord**", literally means "**meditate on Jehovah**". The Christian is to meditate on God and His Word, not on nonsense. The Christian is not to allow his train of thought to become "derailed", but should remain focused on a deeper relationship with God through Christ Jesus our Lord.

There are many ways that Satan tries to draw us away from our third duty to God. One of those ways is found in our focal text. King David wrote in verse 7:

**".. fret<sup>9</sup> not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass... "**

One of Satan's devices to destroy both believer and local Church is to lead us to worry. David wrote "**fret not**", or better, to dwell on something until it becomes magnified in your mind. This *dwelling on* is quite natural for us to do ... after all, we are human ... but is something that the Christian is to avoid. The verse shows us a progression. The person *dwells on* what the wicked man did, then your mind leads you to *anger*, then *wrath*, which is the harsher (and often acted out) form of anger.

Fretting on what the wicked has done is quite natural. Who among us hasn't been hurt by what another has said

**or done?** Who among us hasn't examined something that someone did to us (whether real or imagined) and allowed that to progress to anger, and even wrath? A human emotion, but so dangerous! So what should I do? David's solution was simple: cut the problem off at its source. Avoid fretting, refuse to allow that root of bitterness to spring up in the soil of your life. FOCUS on Jesus, **rest** (the Hebrew means *be silent and meditate on what He has done for you*) in the LORD YHVH. Focus on what God has accomplished for you in Jesus. Stand still and see the salvation of God. Let your heart be restored by remembering the day of your salvation. As David said:

**(Psalms 51:12 KJV) "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit."**

While I have no joy in my life, no delight in God - while I chase after the very thing forbidden to me - God cannot use me. But while I focus on Him and remember that wonderful day I met Jesus, then:

**(Psalms 51:13 KJV) "*Then* will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee."**

Salvation is more than a point in time ... it is a state of mind in Jesus. Meditate on that. Look at the point bthat you accepted Jesus Christ as Savior as the beginning of your walk with God, but not the end.

**(Isaiah 12:3 KJV) "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation."**

Salvation is a well in a dry desert, one that the believer

finds when his soul was nigh unto death. Salvation is a new lease on life, when you thought all was gone. Salvation is a breath of air drawn into starved lungs as your head bursts from the oceans surface. Salvation is a walk through the hard times of life and, looking behind, seeing two sets of footprints - mine and my Savior's - as I went through the harshest of times.

The Christian is to rest and wait on God in Christ. We are not to do as Israel did in the wilderness, and murmur against our Savior. For that reason an entire generation saw death in the desert when life was always in reach. God wishes more for your life He wishes you to have the desires of your hearts .... but you must put Him first in all things.

The beginning of the Christian walk is a supernatural experience - an experience that begins by faith in Christ Jesus - an experience of New Birth. If you know Jesus in your heart, you know the joy of being in the great family of God. If you do not know Jesus, if your life is mundane, "ohmmm" like, then the well of salvation awaits your decision. Will you accept Jesus as your Savior? Will you turn your life over to Him? May God give you the heart to do this, and to commit your way unto Him.

in the name of Jesus Christ,  
Brother David Buffaloe, Pastor  
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