

COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

Study Guide

Having Peace in an Evil World

Mike Cooper
September 8, 2025

Major Points

- 1 Do not be agitated by evildoers or envy those who prosper in wickedness — they are temporary and will perish like withering grass.**
Psalm 37:1-2
- 2 True peace comes from trusting in the Lord and actively walking in obedience — faith without faithful living is cheap and hollow.**
Psalm 37:3
- 3 Delighting in the Lord means desiring God Himself above material blessings — and when He is our desire, He gives us Himself.**
Psalm 37:4
- 4 We must commit our lives fully to God's purposes and wait silently before Him rather than demanding He serve our agenda.**
Psalm 37:5-7
- 5 Human anger does not accomplish God's righteousness — our inheritance is not earthly prosperity but eternal life in God's presence.**
James 1:19-20

Key Quotes

- “What else would heal your grief if it's not the love of Jesus Christ?”*
at 21:14
- “We don't want to know Him. We do, but we don't. It's that old adage of, I want to know you, Lord, but I don't want to spend any time with you.”*
at 37:42
- “You have peace in an evil world when you walk in God's ways, where God calls you to walk, when he calls you to walk, because you're building a relationship of dependence, you're building a relationship of trust, you're building a relationship of faith.”*
at 26:21
- “He wants to give Himself to us. If our hearts desire is Him, and He's going to give us the desires of our hearts, He's going to give us Him.”*
at 30:25
- “Take your eyes off yourself. You're not going to be sufficient for yourself. Spouse isn't going to be sufficient for you. Your children won't be sufficient for you.”*
at 46:11

Discussion Questions

1. When you see people who ignore God seemingly prospering, how does that affect your faith and your attitude? What does Psalm 37:1-2 say about the long-term trajectory of the wicked?
.....
.....
2. The speaker said that trusting in the Lord is 'cheap' for most people because they say they trust God but don't walk in obedience. What does authentic trust in God look like in your daily life?
.....
.....
3. What is the difference between delighting in the Lord for what He can give you versus delighting in the Lord for who He is? How does that distinction change the way you pray?
.....
.....
4. The Zambian orphans asked about anger and long-suffering. How does their perspective challenge the things American Christians typically complain about? What can we learn from their honesty?
.....
.....
5. What does it practically look like to 'be silent before the Lord and wait expectantly for Him' in a culture that values instant gratification and constant noise?
.....
.....

Word Studies

charah

Hebrew

To burn, be kindled, be hot, be angry; used in Psalm 37:1 translated 'be agitated' or 'fret.' Conveys the idea of becoming heated or inflamed with anger or envy.

Usage: 90 times in OT

batach

Hebrew

To trust, to have confidence, to be secure; carries the sense of lying helpless, facedown, relying completely on another. Used in Psalm 37:3 for trust in the Lord.

Usage: 120 times in OT

galal

Hebrew

To roll, roll away, commit; in Psalm 37:5 translated 'commit your way.' The imagery is of rolling a heavy burden off oneself and onto the Lord.

Usage: 18 times in OT

Cross References

Philippians 4:6-7

Directly parallels the sermon's central theme: instead of anxiety, bring requests to God with thanksgiving and receive His peace that surpasses understanding.

Matthew 6:19-21

Jesus warns against storing up earthly treasures that perish, echoing the sermon's point that worldly prosperity is temporary and cannot bring lasting peace.

Romans 12:1-2

Quoted in the sermon — presenting our bodies as living sacrifices is the reasonable response to God's mercy, not an extraordinary demand.

Hebrews 11:13-16

The heroes of faith confessed they were strangers on earth, longing for a heavenly country — supporting the sermon's point that this world is not our home.

Isaiah 26:3

God keeps in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast because they trust in Him — a direct Old Testament parallel to the sermon's thesis.

Further Reading

- **Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts**

by Jerry Bridges

- **The Pursuit of God**

by A.W. Tozer

- **When God Doesn't Make Sense**

by James Dobson

Scripture References

REFERENCE	TYPE	TIME	CONTEXT
Psalms 37:1-11	Read Aloud	8:10	
Luke 9:23	Referenced	14:10	
Romans 12:1	Read Aloud	15:00	
Hebrews 10:25	Referenced	23:00	
Malachi 3:10	Referenced	24:40	
James 1:19-20	Read Aloud	39:10	
John 14:27	Referenced	35:00	
John 16:33	Referenced	35:20	
Philippians 4:6-7	Read Aloud	46:40	
1 Peter 3:18	Read Aloud	47:40	