



CHRIST COMMUNITY
CHURCH
Changed Hearts. Changed Lives. Changed Community.

¹ Fret not yourself because of evildoers;
be not envious of wrongdoers!
² For they will soon fade like the grass
and wither like the green herb.
³ Trust in the Lord, and do good;
dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.
⁴ Delight yourself in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
⁵ Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.
⁶ He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,
and your justice as the noonday.
⁷ Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,
over the man who carries out evil devices!
⁸ Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath!
Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.
⁹ For the evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

Psalm 37:1-9

Dear Family at Christ Community,

In the light of the most recent events in our nation's capitol which are impacting all of us, I wanted to offer some ways we can apply what we've been learning over the last year to this and similar circumstances. These moments have the potential to be formative for God's glory if cultivated with Biblical truth in humility, and they also have the potential to be de-formative and de-humanizing if nourished in bitter jealousies and selfish ambitions in arrogance. May the Holy Spirit convict us of where we harbor arrogance, bitter jealousy, and selfish ambition so that we may help mortify them for Christ's glorious display of redeeming work in our lives. May the Holy Spirit then guide us in vivifying Christ to irresistibly draw others into His family.

Psalm 37: 1-9 proves helpful to us in all of this. We must first recognize that evildoers and wrongdoers are *not* defined by what we call evil and wrong. In humility, we have to acknowledge that *only* God declares what is evil and wrong according to His word which is often more far-reaching and penetrating than what we deem evil and wrong. While we need to call out what God calls evil, we also have to humbly admit that we were once evildoers and wrongdoers apart from Christ's gracious redemption. Further, we must recognize that there are times when we act sinfully, behaving as though we're still enemies of God, rather than the ambassadors of reconciliation that we are called to be. This humble platform allows us to hopefully turn our eyes from the things of the earth to where Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father where He intercedes for us knowing that He reigns and holds all things together.

God calls for us to not make the actions of evildoers and wrongdoers *the primary focus* of our time and energy. This will only lead to ungodly thoughts, responses, and deeds according to verse 8. Our focus should be fixed upon the Lord and His goodness so as to take delight in serving His kingdom according to His ways as opposed to ours. We don't have the liberty to choose to build the kingdom using the lawless tools of the

principalities and powers of darkness. Our hope in God's promise-keeping goodness must be clearly reflected in our words and deeds. It's in this hope that we find the strength to wait patiently, continue to worship, and serve our neighbors in word and deed. We know that this world is fallen and that we will suffer in our union with Christ. We also know that our momentary suffering will be overwhelmed by the glory to come in the New Heavens and New Earth when Jesus returns to make all things new.

In light of **Psalm 37:1-9** and many other passages we've learned from over the last year, I offer some practical applications for *all of us* to grow in Christ amidst the present turmoil:

1. **Repent** specifically of your arrogance toward God and others as well as the bitter jealousies and selfish ambitions that lurk in your heart to the detriment of the body of Christ. **Remember** you are forgiven in union with Christ so as to crucify any shame and guilt that may result. **Pursue** the vivification of the fruits of repentance and fruit of the Spirit so as to display His righteousness in which you are covered for the life of the world. The Holy Spirit serves as a powerful aid and guide here.
2. **Lament and grieve** the foolish and evil raging against God that has proved so costly to both the church universal and our nation. **Psalm 2** proves a helpful directory in this regard to continue to promote our practice of praying the Bible. **Remember** that we are those who grieve with eternal hope and power for reconciliation.
3. **Lean into** the most recent sermon on **James 3:13-18** and the ones coming up on wise humility, listening, and speaking. These sermons were planned over a year ago. **Recognize** God's providence to us to be hearing from His word on these topics at this time. You can also go back and review the sermon series on the fruit of the Holy Spirit as it also is relevant.
4. **Wrestle** with your opinions and frustrations from the firm foundation of union with Christ, God's sovereignty, and concerns for our church's witness in the community and unity with each other and surrounding churches. **Confess** in humility that you see these cultural events through a glass darkly, recognizing that we don't actually know what is going on according to God's mysterious sovereign will, but we trust it is good. **Rejoice** that we do know that He works out all things for the good of those who love Him even when we don't know the meaning of specific events. **Seek** wise counsel that will help you struggle well in the truth of the Scriptures if you are having a hard time here.
5. **Listen** to those in your spheres of influence who are hurting regardless of whether you agree with them or not. We should be able to lament with those affected by the Fall as we know what's eternally at stake. **Be slow and careful to speak or post** words fitly spoken in due season to edify and build up for the sake of the relationship to the glory of Christ. This may include conviction and challenge but should be done so with the opportunity for reconciliation as opposed to a chance for chaotic division or the need to declare we're right.
6. **Pray** for and carefully steward opportunities to welcome lost sinners, who are guilty of many foolish things that we disagree with, into our family. **Consider** what barriers you may be placing before them with your words and actions in all realms of life. What a tragedy it would be to have someone visit our church and never return because of an offense unnecessarily given in person or online.
7. **Join us** in worship and in prayer. In addition to our weekly worship offerings online and in person, Robby is putting together a time for us to gather together to pray over Zoom. We will have more information on this in a few days.

I am humbled to serve you all as shepherd and to have the opportunity to navigate these difficult circumstances with you in the hope of growing in Christ for His glory, our joy, and the life of the world. Please let me know if I can serve you in any way as you humbly process these things in Christ.

With Love In Christ,
Cameron