

## Introduction

Purpose: to have a meaningful relationship with God our Savior this Lenten season

and

Goal: to have a closer walk with God by memorizing a scripture passage.

For this reason I choose Ps 37 which has exactly 40 verses, that means one verse a day to memorize and meditate, that fulfills the purpose and goal for the day.

### *Day 1 & 2*

Today we will have two verses to memorize.

1. *Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong:*
2. *for like grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.*

Very simple just pray and get involved.

### *Day 3*

*Vs 3. Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.*

Trusting the Lord totally in the first place and not when something fails. We try all means and our final destiny will be God in contrary it should be vice versa, but if we put God first there will be no necessity of another means. And also the Psalmist says even when you do good trust in the Lord, because even in doing good sometimes it backfires. People look at us suspiciously when we do good.

By trusting and doing good we will dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. It is not green pasture but safe (Ps 23:2 God had already tested that green pasture which is safe). The other side of the bank is always green so goes a saying, but it might not be safe, God wants us to be safe. Trust! Do good!! Be safe!!! Let's have this motto for the day.

### *Day 4*

*Vs 4: Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

What is Delight? The children's dictionary says: Great pleasure or satisfaction. Something that gives great pleasure. Now when you connect yourself with God do you have that great pleasure? Spend some quite moments with the Lord sincerely and see how great a joy or satisfaction it is. I have not regreted in my life of being with the Lord while I had lost some important things to do, because being with the Lord offers greater satisfaction and joy that is the first priority. While Paul Yongi Cho, the great Korean man of God, was praying he got a call from the prime minister of Korea. His secretary interrupted him. Yongi got angry and said I am with the Lord ask the prime minister to call me later. Such is the joy that you get when you are with the Lord. The other part of the verse is self explanatory, but if you think you can add something go ahead.

### *Day 5*

*Vs 5: Commit your way to the LORD;  
trust in him and he will do this.*

Hope you memorized another verse yesterday. Well it is not all about memorizing but more about reflection and incorporating the words of life into our being. Day 4 had a word – Delight – pleasure to know the Lord and now it is commitment to the Lord. Now commitment is promising, choosing and self-giving, which is based upon trust, dedication and hope and over-arched by moral obligation, circumstance and sacrifice. If some one promises you something you would trust that person to fulfill that promise and it is the moral obligation of that person to keep his/her promise. So also our relationship with the Lord, when we commit, we trust Him totally and hope that He will do it and that is exactly what the verse it telling about. Try connecting the other phrases mentioned if you have time.

### *Day 6*

*He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.*

Today's verse is connected to the words commitment and trust of the previous verse. In other words it is just the added blessings. However, these blessings are targeted towards our own righteousness and justice. This Lenten season (& always) let us focus our thoughts, deeds, actions, words, motives, etc., etc., towards that is righteous and just. Well, I am not talking in the terms of salvation, which is the grace and gift of God, but our role in being the child of God our Father is very important. As we memorize this verse let us also thrive towards reaching that destination. Remember I haven't talked about the blessings

### *Day 7*

*Vs 7 Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.*

Earlier we saw words like, TRUST, DELIGHT, COMMIT, but now BE STILL, WAIT PATIENTLY. When we compare the former words with these latter words there seems to be a string that we have to follow. Being still is something for us to follow, or for that matter to "wait patiently". So the Psalmist takes us step by step to that point of our lives where we need to totally surrender to the LORD. Lenten season is all about that. There is no great deal in fasting (but if you do so, you will be blessed indeed), our muslim friends do better than us, it is not in our attire, our sabrimala people do better than us or anything else. But to be still. It is hard but if we trust, delight and commit it will be easier to be still before the Lord and let Him act.

### *Day 8*

*Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret--it leads only to evil.*

Simple verses dear brothers and sisters that we have to abide by as Christians. Jesus was angry too so can we be? We can if it is a 'just' cause. What is

'just' cause? Think over. When we get angry or fret, apart from metabolic changes in our body system, we tend to move towards evil. Bible teaches us not to do that, we can refrain- can we? YES !

By prayer, by recollecting our memory verses, by diverting, by counting 1-10 in the reverse order, or sing your favorite song, etc., keep away from anger. If you smile it activates just 5 muscles in your face, but if you frown it takes more than 70 I believe. Say a small prayer for all of us

### ***Day 9***

*For evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in Lord will inherit the land.*

The word of God says that those who lift the sword die by the sword, so also evil men do not have grounds to live a normal life. Let's not be judgmental who is evil and who is not, but the later part of the verse is very important to us who hope in the Lord. "Inherit the land" is an important theme. Land is very important to build a house, for cultivation, and for whatever you can think of. So when we put our hope along with trust, delight, commitment, being still, waiting patiently, refraining from anger, and not fretting we get a strong ground in our Lord Jesus Christ. Are we willing to do that today?

### ***Day 10***

*A little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found.*

There is a beautiful hymn, "When we walk with the Lord in the light of His word....Trust and obey...." As I read this verse this song popped into my mind because I see the correlation with the two. A little while, the time is not limited and we do not know how long or short is that little while, but when we walk with the Lord we can face the wicked who will be no more because s/he has no ground. When we trust and obey the Lord and armed to attack the wicked you will find them no more. Such is the blessing of the Lord.

### ***Day 11***

*But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace.*

When we humble ourselves in the presence of the lord he is always willing to set us a ground, a foundation for us to hold to, which is non other than our Lord Jesus Christ. He is a safe and a secure place. For Christ Himself said (Mat 5:5) ..." Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth..." (Beatitudes). It is not only inherited, but inheritance with "enjoying great peace". Read it again "Enjoying Great Peace". The peace a world cannot give.

### ***Day 12***

*The wicked plot against the righteous and gnash their teeth at them;*

Well the sentence continues into the next verse, but let's stick on to what we have for the day. One of the primary goals of the wicked is to do something against the righteous. Righteous here does not mean a person who is perfect in all his/her ways, but one who trust the Lord - A Christian. I have heard people say that they were troubled in their work places just because s/he was a

Christian, no other reason. Passing comments or giggling, or doing something that bothers us. So as we have read (and memorized) the earlier verses we should be able to with stand them right away: are we able to?

### ***Day 13***

*But the Lord laughs at the wicked for He knows their day is coming.*

The Lord's laugh is an interesting expression to note. In the time of lent we tend to be pious and in fact may people observe silence thro the 40 days too. We got to be joyous in the Lord, it is very important. You can sit back and think and have a little laugh about any incident that you came across when people try to be arrogant. Once when we were driving and I was angry at Anitha, then there was this man behind us who was speeding and driving rashly, he over took us bumped on the curb and drove over the median and took off. His act made us laugh and my anger was gone too. Vs.8 says refrain from anger and turn from wrath it only leads to evil. Let's try to humble ourselves and not laugh at others, but laugh at the acts of the wicked and know their end is coming.

### ***Day 14***

*The wicked draw the sword and bend the bow to bring down the poor and the needy, to slay those whose ways are upright.*

This is a wonderful lesson for us today, don't you think so? Well we are in a society were there is no swords or bows to bend only pistols or guns, which is actually more dangerous so what is the point? The later part of the verse is where we stand. It is not that we are righteous but being upright in the sight of the Lord. [For Ex., it is tax paying time, if we try not to disclose, we might in turn not be able to support the homeless who are taken care by the government. There are other things we would not for when we know where the tax money is being spent, but we have to be upright for that is what the bible is teaching]. Lets' not withhold what or where we can to help a needy person.

### ***Day 15***

*But their swords will pierce their own hearts, and their bows will be broken.*

Jesus Christ our savior and Lord God gave us the 'golden rule' . . . do unto others as you would have them do unto you . . . it is so true that we have standards that we follow to do. We expect the best but sometimes we do not want to give the best, don't we? So also when we look at our dear friends or relatives climbing the ladder of success what is our thought process, this thought process will boomerang. Let us look to our creator God asking Him for firm faith, so that we could relate rightly with our neighbors.

### ***Day 16***

*Better the little the righteous have than the wealth of many wicked;*

Dear friends it is a fact of life that we tend to accumulate wealth. We have our own justification for the same. This verse emphasizes that by righteous gain if you have wealth it will be a blessing though we might have little, but on the contrary No (period). So can we have more and more wealth? Again the answer

is no, we need to help others as the Lord leads. There might be ways & short cuts to wealth, the continuation of the verse tomorrow gives us the answer. Let us be content with what we have, which was a major theme in our young couples' bible study yesterday too.

### ***Day 17***

*For the power of the wicked will be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous.*

The word of God says the in no way will the wicked will be able to prosper. In our human eyes we might think and even see the way they flourish but God's hand is upon us who walk in the ways of the of Lord. Remember in our Sunday School yesterday, Ez 7 that the hand of God, gracious hand, good hand was upon Ezra and he could handle every or any situation. Shouldn't we aspire that the hand of the Lord to uphold us?

### ***Day 18***

*The days of the blameless are known to the Lord, and their inheritance will endure forever.*

Who is a blameless? Those who are washed by the blood of the Lamb can only be blameless and be known by the Lord. If we have heard Bro.Selvakumar's message on the theme "...to be know by the Lord..." this verse is so meaningful. He is a God who not only knows us by name or engraved us in His palms but the days – the time factor, every moment is precious in His sight and we got be cautious too. For the battle belongs to the Lord, He is fighting for us. Don't be discouraged dear brothers and Sisters God knows us. God adds to say that our inheritance will last forever. !WoW!

### ***Day 19***

*In times of disaster they will not wither; in days of famine they will enjoy plenty.*

This reminds me of the great man of God Elisha (2Kgs 4), when he deals with the widow and the oil. It is not an ordinary person Elisha is dealing with, vs 1 says ". . .you know that he revered the Lord..." he, here is the widow's husband. The widow would have thought the end has come, but God had a purpose for her because of her husband who revered the Lord. So the Psalmist through out this Psalm, time and again is emphasizing this one thing, reverence to the Lord along with trust, delight, commit, to be still, to refrain from anger or wrath, etc., so that we can face the disaster, even though there is famine we will enjoy plenty- contentment.

### ***Day 20***

*But the wicked will perish: The Lord's enemies will be like the beauty of the fields, they will vanish – vanish like smoke.*

Today we are half way through, hoping to remember 20 verses. Isn't it amazing that not only we are able to tell the verses but we can also exercise them.

### ***Day 21***

*The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously;*

Borrowing verses giving, borrowing is aligned with the wicked and giving with the righteous. Righteous also have credits to pay who will repay, but the wicked do not repay. On the other hand giving is an important aspect of Christian living. "Give and it shall be given unto you . . ." "Freely you have received freely give". Let us emphasize on the art of giving, give love, give peace, give comforting words, give a smile, give a nod, give a helping hand, give a ride, give a something . . .

### ***Day 22***

*Those the Lord blesses will inherit the land, but those He curses will be cut off.*

The Lord's blessing is indeed a blessing that we should aspire for. Count your blessings name them one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord has done. The blessings of the Lord are everlasting and sure and above all that we are 'undeserved' to receive it. The verse also points to us that HE will also curse, now you and me got to sit back and think how hard it will be for a loving God to curse us and what are the reasons for Him to curse us.

But I want to say 'God Bless'

### ***Day 23***

*If the LORD delight's in a man's way, He makes his steps firm;*

Monday starts another hectic week ahead. But if we would do the things that are delightful to the Lord, the word of God says: He makes our steps FIRM. In other words if we can put our heart and soul into our work and do our duty, it is the Lord's delight. Determination and focus are two words that I would like to mention here that are important in reaching our goals. For which we need God's help and guidance. In other words, for our steps to be firm we got to depend on God.

### ***Day 24***

*though he stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.*

Actually there is no need for further exploration of the text, don't you think so? 'he' here refers to the man in whom the Lord delights'. The verse starts with an 'if' clause. Then the question arises what happens if the Lord does not have delight? Well that should not bother us because as we are familiar with the earlier verses and it makes us pretty confident on whom the Lord delights. Remember our earlier verses that confirm to what we must practice. We might/will stumble but DO NOT BE DISMAYED, we will not fall, for the LORD upholds with His hand. Strong right Hand of God.

### ***Day 25***

*I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.*

The author of this Psalm is well stricken in years and in his experience affirms of how the righteous are not forsaken. As we have developed an intimate relationship with this Psalm we are assured of how the Lord leads the righteous and condemns the wicked. This assurance is affirmed by the Psalmist too that

he (Psalmist) in his personal experience has seen how the Lord upholds the righteous. The psalmist has seen about four generations. How are we experience the assurance of God in our lives and passing it on to our children?

### **Day 26**

*They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be blessed.*

Did you notice the contrast with the previous verse? It talks about the righteous ones, who will not be forsaken. But now we read about the characteristics of them. They are generous and lend freely, now let's gauge ourselves how we are when it comes to the matter of giving and lending. Well does that make us closer to be righteous? Yes or No Alright? We should fall into one of these categories. Anyway the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus has set it equal for us, but we have to our part. (Contrast part was the begging verses blessed children).

### **Day 27**

*Turn from evil and do good; then you will dwell in the land forever.*

It is very important on our part to "do good". Abstaining from doing good is also evil. We can sometimes be just like that doing nothing and feel comfortable about it, because we have done no harm. God's promises are yea and amen. Every time He gives a little task there will surely be a blessing attached to it. In other words God expects good people to dwell in the land, because He created it that way and wants it to be that way.

### **Day 28**

*For the Lord loves the just and will not forsake His faithful ones. They will be protected forever, but the offspring of the wicked will be cut off;*

This is a little long verse to memorize but let's keep on going. Love and faith are interlinked and also hope. This verse emphasizes on the protection. The God of protection. Fear not for I am with thee, is a verse that always strengthens me. Hope we commit ourselves to the mighty protection of our God.

### **Day 29**

*The righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it forever.*

God alone is righteous and we His children are covered by the mantle of His righteousness. Our righteousness is just filthy rags and cannot even protect our own body. Imagine when we cover our bodies with rags, it is not going to keep us from cold wind or dust, we will be ashamed to have such a covering, it is not going to serve the purpose at all. We got to be covered by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ the righteous mantle of protection, providence, guidance, sustenance, etc., so that we could dwell in the land forever. (Forever implies in the presence of God).

### **Day 30**

*The mouth of the righteous man utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks what is just.*

Mouth and tongue are complimenting wisdom and just. That's the way it should be. Many a times our mouths and tongues affirm so many other things that we know we should not. So God is righteous and we in His image should be righteous too. It is very important dear brothers and sisters how we relate to ourselves, our family, friends and co-workers. As we memorize this verse let us also practice to utter, murmur, think wisdom and just. Let it become part and parcel of our being.

### ***Day 31***

*The law of his God is in his heart; his feet do not slip.*

If we take a closer look at the shoes of a soccer player there are spikes in his shoes. The spikes not only gives him grip when he runs but also holds him firm to the ground when he kicks the ball, with all his force, with the other leg. If we observe the spikes it is so small compared to the size of the player and in reality we do not even see the spikes of his shoes because it is underneath and almost always buried in the ground. Likewise the law of God should be in our heart, deep down (Deut 6) for us not to slip when temptation arises, when doubts come, when sickness hits, when fears engulf, etc., let us with the help of God and the law in our hearts keep us strong and witness for HIM.

### ***Day 32***

*The wicked lie in wait for the righteous, seeking their very lives;*

These are simple but powerful words. We have seen how jealousy creeps in the lives of people and that will be reflected in their actions or words. People hate one another for no reason at all. Good friends become bitter enemies. These are the works of Satan working through wicked ones. They do not hesitate to play with lives of their own or others. Dear righteous people washed by the blood of Lamb let us work to reflect the Glory of God in our lives, for there is no one righteous but those washed by HIS blood.

### ***Day 33***

*but the Lord will not leave them in their power or let them be condemned when brought to trial.*

Friends we are in a world that is not compatible with the righteous but still powerful. We have to aware of the fact that there are good people without the Lord but are vulnerable to the power of the wicked. The big difference lies in the fact that the Lord is on our side so that the power of the wicked cannot come near us nor we will be condemned, because the Holy Spirit will intercede for us. Let's humble ourselves as we observe this Lenten season and thank God for His assurance.

### ***Day 34***

*Wait for the Lord and keep His way. He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you will see it.*

The way of the Lord is only one and there is no other route. Christ said “I am the **way**...” Sometimes in our human thoughts and eyes that way may seem to be hard, winding, narrow, long, rough, etc., but the verse starts with the word called ‘WAIT’. In verse 7 it says ‘wait patiently’. God’s exaltation is a whole realm in itself, if a person exalts you and me it will usually be the lip movements. Let’s wait and allow God to exalt us dear brothers and sisters.

### **Day 35**

*I have seen a wicked and ruthless man flourishing like a green tree in its native soil,*

Well this is an incomplete sentence as it continues into the next verse. By reading these words we can understand that wickedness, ruthlessness, crooked ways brings immediate gains. At this spring season we can see the trees flourishing so beautifully spreading out its branches, giving joy for observers and shade to those who pass under it. Native soil is very important for that particular breed of plant to flourish. Likewise if we see a wicked or a ruthless man flourish let us try not to be troubled by their ways of success, but concentrate on our truthfulness, sincerity and integrity of our lifestyle of being a Christian

### **Day 36**

*but he soon passed away and was no more; though I looked for him, he could not be found.*

We are aware that this verse is talking about the wicked and ruthless man. Time and again the Psalmist points out to the wicked and their disappearance. It is interesting to observe that the King (David) is so inclined to trust God rather than use his own power to destroy the wicked. He says that the wicked perish by their own wickedness; there is no need of any external force to curb them, because God cannot withstand such acts. Our goal is to pray for them and keep us away from such activities.

### **Day 37**

*Consider the blameless, observe the upright; there is a future for the man of peace.*

Consider & observe; a man has to do

Blameless & upright; a man has to be

Future; a man hopes for

Peace; a man has to have

To do needs concentration, to be needs commitment, to hope needs will power and to have (peace) we need God – the Prince of Peace.

### **Day 38**

*But all sinners will be destroyed; the future of the wicked will be cut off.*

God has no place for the sinners or the wicked because God is not so. God does not intend to tolerate them though HE is a gracious God. We are also sinners but by the grace of God through Jesus Christ, we are not destroyed. Remember the parable about the rich man who cut down the barns to store more grains and then Jesus talked about his future being cut off. We have to be aware of the fact that our future in God alone is sure and let's work towards that goal.

### *Day 39*

*The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord; He is their stronghold in time of trouble.*

The statement is factual not something to comprehend. (Salvation, righteous & Lord) what matters to us right away is that trouble is inevitable almost always. Many a times we would have thought oh if I could have done it just that way or this way or if I had not done it at all I would have been out of trouble. But our good Lord knows it and that is the very reason that he says, you righteous guy, gal, your in trouble but remember your in the STRONGHOLD. If I start writing about stronghold pages would not fit, so we are in the stronghold that is all in matters not the trouble.

### *Day Finale*

*The Lord helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.*

The righteous are the ones that this verse is talking about. Our Trust, Delight, Commitment, Being Still, Patient/waiting, refrain from anger and wrath, Hope, Generous and lending freely, having the law in our hearts are some of the things this chapter directs us to observe as righteous ones. On the other hand the Lord helps, delivers, delights, saves, loves, gives us the desires of our hearts, makes us shine, will inherit the land, enjoy great peace & plenty and not wither, though we stumble we will not fall, we will be firm, upholds us, he will not forsake, protects, gives peace and so on and on. The last verse culminates into this one great thought that we have to take refuge in Him because He is the stronghold. Taking refuge means total helplessness on our side and full dependence on God side. Let us through out our life lean on to Him alone and not on to any other.

