

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 ▫ Read Psalm 112

Questions from the Scripture text: What does v1a command? What is the condition of the man who does what in v1b? In what does he delight (v1c)? How much? What will his offspring be (v2a)? Where? What does v2b say about them as a whole? What are in the house of the YHWH-fearing man (v3a)? But what possession of his stands forever (v3b, cf. v9c)? What do the upright have, in what condition (v4a)? What three qualities characterize the upright (v4b)? What does the good man do (v5a) with the wealth from v3a? What upholds his interactions (v5b)? What will not happen to him (v6a)? What will be done, to whom, for how long (v6b)? What will the righteous not do (v7a)? What is the condition of his heart (v7b)? How? Until when (v8)? What has the righteous done (v9a–b)? As an example of what (v9c, cf. v3b)? With what result (v9d)? Who else see this (v10a)? With what response? What happens to the wicked (v10b)? And what else of his (v10c)?

What is a godly man like? Psalm 112 prepares us for the opening portion of public worship on the Lord's Day. In these ten verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **a godly man is ultimately like his God.**

God and the godly. This is the second in a pair of acrostic Psalms. Ps 111 gave us the A to Z (aleph to tav) of God; now, Ps 112 gives us the A to Z of the godly man. There is intentional overlap here. God's righteousness endures forever (111:3b), and so the righteousness of the man who fears the Lord endures forever (112:3b, 9c), because God is his righteousness! Thus, God is praised (111:10c), and the godly are honored (112:9d).

Pleasure, not burden. For the godly, godliness is a delight, because God is a delight. The same word for pleasure in studying His works (111:2b) is now used of the delight in His commandments (v1c). "Greatly" shows an even greater delight in the commandments! As the Spirit says, "This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not burdensome" (1Jn 5:3).

Relations, riches, righteousness, and remembrance. "Relations" here refers to descendants and generation in v2. The godly man is blessed in his family (cf. 128:3) through generations (cf. 128:6).

Riches may come in a temporary way to the wicked, but they come in a truly rich way to that happy/blessed man who fears YHWH. They are in his *house(hold)* in v3a; they are enjoyed and employed to God's glory in the covenantal context of his family. These riches also benefit all around him, due to his godliness (v5, 9).

Righteousness is not only a manner of conduct but a conduit of blessing—blessing to himself as light in dark times (v4a), and blessing to others who enjoy the godly man's kindness and compassion (v4b). The description in v4b is so similar to 111:4b that we must conclude that this is the life and character of YHWH being worked out in the one who fears Him.

Remembrance. God's wonderful works are done to be remembered (111:4a), and God is ever remembering His covenant (111:5b). Man is so fleeting! But a godly man is remembered by the Lord. Truly, though the whole cosmos be against him, he cannot be shaken (v6a, cf. 46:5). The godly are steadfast and unafraid because they remember that they are remembered (v7–8, cf. 46:1–2).

On the outside looking in. v10 is sobering. The wicked are not the point of this Psalm, or indeed of history or reality. Just as the godly looks upon his enemies (v8c), the wicked appear at the end of the Psalm (almost as a footnote), seeing the honor of the righteous (v10a). They who hate God and suffer continual destruction from His presence and glory (cf. 2Th 1:8–9) shall suffer, as part of that torment, the continual awareness that the godly (whom they also hate) are blessed.

The ever blessed God glorifies His goodness by redeeming for Himself those whom He makes to be godly and ever-blessed! Indeed, as the Psalm begins by commanding, "praise YHWH"! Hallelujah!

How ought you feel about God and His commandments? How are you enjoying His own priority upon generations? How are you a blessing to those around you? In what circumstances might you be shaken or fear? What hope of steadfastness does this Psalm give you instead?

Sample prayer: We praise You, YHWH, who make Your people happy and blessed in You. Your works are a delight to us, and Your commandments are a great delight to us. Grant unto us to be Your wealthy household, who are righteous with Your own righteousness. Be compassionate to us, and make us compassionate with others. Gather us to Yourself that we might remember how You are always remembering us. Give us that courage and confidence in You that will endure forever, even as we praise You forever, we ask through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP112 "O Praise the LORD" or TPH112 "O Praise the LORD! The Man Is Blest"

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Psalm 112. These are God's words. Praise. Yahweh blessed is the man who fears Yahweh who Delights greatly in his Commandments. His descendants will be Mighty on the earth. The generation of the upright will be blessed wealth and riches will be in his house and his righteousness endures forever. Onto the upright, there are Rises light in the darkness.

He is gracious and full of compassion. And righteous. A good man deals, graciously and lends. He will guide his affairs with discretion. Surely he will never be shaken. The righteous will be an everlasting remembrance. He will not be afraid of evil Tidings. His heart is steadfast trusting in Yahweh.

His heart is established. He will not be afraid until he sees his desire upon his enemies. He has dispersed abroad. He is given to the poor, his righteousness endures forever. His horn will be exalted with honor. The wicked will see it and be grieved, he will gnash his teeth and melt away.

The desire of the wicked. Shall Parish. And then they'll send us this reading of gods inspired and An errant word. This is a Psalm about The Godly Man. It has much in common. Uh, for example. Psalm 128, the man eating from the fruit of his labor and the riches that are here and God's blessing upon his descendants.

Here and in Psalm 128 that his wife being a fruitful Vine and his children shooting up, like all of plants. And then at the end of that Psalm, Seeing his children's children. And, Uh, the blessing that comes out of Zion, So this is a Psalm about The Godly Man.

Uh, but the Lord gives it to us in connection with Psalm 11, which is a Psalm about The Godly man's God. Uh, and not only does the theme pair up, but he starts it the same way. Each one starts with praise Yahweh. And then they're both in the same format, they're acrostics in the Hebrew with each line of the psalm beginning with the next consecutive letter.

Of the Hebrew, alphabet from Olive tativ. And so, we are to see how Uh, not just what the godly man is like, But that The Godly Man's character flows, out of Uh, the life of his God in him and to him. Uh, which is to say that The Godly man is a god of Grace Uh, Grace that gives us blessing.

That is opposite. What we deserve by Grace, we have been saved through faith. And that not of ourselves. It is the gift of God. And Grace that is God's strength for us and in. That is the opposite of our weakness. My grace is sufficient for you for my strength is made perfect.

In weakness. And so, The reason then that we have as something of a refrain twice in the psalm first in verse 3, and then again in Verse 10, his righteousness endures forever. The reason his righteousness endures forever is because God, Is his righteousness. And so God is the righteousness of The Godly Man.

And since God has identified himself with and gives of his character to The Godly Man, The the praise of Yahweh, the fact that his God, our God is praised forever means that When God glorifies himself in displaying. Uh us as those whom he has redeemed as displaying us as completely opposite.

What we were in ourselves Uh, that we will be honored. But we will be honored unto Unto the glory of God. And so you have, at the end of verse 9, his his horn will be exalted with honor. And then, of course, The Dana Moore, the footnote at the end in verse 10, the wicked you are wicked because they what they ate God.

And so, of course, the wicked hate to see The Godly. Because The Godly, first of all, Uh, trust in the Lord belong, to the Lord identified with the Lord, love the Lord and have character like the Lord. And second of all, When the Lord has finished, all of his work in history, Those whom he has redeemed for himself, will be honored unto the praise of God, and so they who hate God and who hate his praise will also hate the honor of Of the righteous.

Well then what are The Godly like whom God is redeeming unto himself. Unto this end. And in this way, First of all, They find obedience not to be a burden but to be A pleasure. They find obedience to be not a burden but a pleasure. Blessed is the man who fears Yahweh, who Delights greatly In his Commandments.

This is the same word that is translated to lights. Here was translated to pleasure. In verse 2 of the previous Psalm. When it said in the psalm about God, now, The Works of Yahweh are great, studied by all who have pleasure in them? And so The Godly Man. Not only Delights to see what God himself does.

The Godly Man Delights to do. Well, God says we should do. And so whether it's God doing what he pleases or we doing what God pleases, We Delight. We are pleased with what God is pleased. Or we are pleased with what pleases God? Uh so he delighted his works and then when we come to do, what he has told us to do, we Delight in doing those works as well as first John 5 also says.

Now, if we love God, we do his Commandments and they are not burdensome. They are a pleasure to us and so that's something to To watch for in your heart and your life. If you're doing what God says, and you don't find it a pleasure, if you don't find it a delight then.

You ask him to help you and to deliver you more from, from your sinfulness. So that you will offer not a legal obedience, but an Evangelical obedience, not an obedience that is Under the law as a burden. But an obedience that has been liberated. Uh, by Christ. As a delight.

Next thing that we see here, and this is really the center section of the psalm Uh, are all of The blessings of this life that indicate that we have. Uh, blessing forever. Now, there are Wicked. Who have many descendants and Who seemed to have. Some Earthly power, but of course, Um, They are tyrannical.

And godliness is not reproduced. In their descendants and there are wicked, who are rich? We are going to come Uh, In the Book of James, this week, to many of the dangers of riches. In this world, in James 5, 1-6 Um, but Both the family relations of The Godly.

And then the way that The Godly uses their riches, Uh, both how he relates to his family and how he uses his riches show, rather righteousness. And the one who who then has this righteousness, knows. That the Lord will make remembrance of him. Uh, for the glory of God, there are many Godly who have not been Um, remembered by Earthly history.

But they are remembered in glory. They are honored in glory. Uh, the Lord Jesus has taught us. About the first being last and the last being first. To free us from. Uh, thinking that The Godly who have been forgotten by this world, Are actually forgotten. No, they are remembered in heaven and that is the much better place.

To be remembered and to be Honored. So Uh, relations. Yeah, he his descendants are going to be Mighty. Uh, his generation those who are here generated by him, those who proceed from him. Um, we'll be blessed. Riches wealth and riches. Uh will be in his household now, wealth, and riches may be lost.

But what is in his house forever is his righteousness. Wealth and riches will be in his house and his righteousness endures forever. What does he do with his wealth? Well, verse 5 and verse 9 A good man deals, graciously and lends. Which again, sometimes you'll hear People lift one verse.

Uh, to say borrowing is always sinful. Well, if borrowing is always sinful this upright ideal, upright, man of Psalm, 112 would not be lending. Uh, A good man deals, graciously and lends. And then verse 9, he has dispersed abroad. He has given to the poor. And so he uses his, uh, Riches in a way.

Uh, that shows his righteousness. You notice his righteousness, is A blessing. Onto the upright there, arises light in the darkness. In the midst of that, which troubles everyone else the upright is enjoying light, he's enjoying the light of the knowledge of God. He's enjoying the light of pleasing God.

If you have, A right relationship with God. And if you are living rightly, Then you have light, no matter the darkness. No one can take from you. Hope in God, no one can take from you the opportunity to respond rightly to God. You can do that in every situation and you have that light of the knowledge of God, the light The knowledge of his glory.

And so the the righteous man has light for himself. And the righteous man. Um, As. A blessing to others. Second half of verse 4 there in connection. He is gracious and full of compassion and righteous. So, righteousness is not a sour tasting mean-spirited, exact rigor. The way that those who have that legal.

Uh, obedience that burden obedience often treated. Righteousness is open-hearted towards God and open-handed towards others. He is gracious and full of compassion. Uh, he's a, he's a blessed, man. He is a man who's a blessing. Uh, to those around him because he's gracious and Uh, is compassionate. And finally remembrance, Uh, God, in verse 4 of the previous Psalm has made his wonderful Works to be remembered.

Uh, and Uh, now the Godly man

In verse 6, will never be shaken and will be in Everlasting remembrance. Well, one of the reasons is that The Godly man is one of God's wonderful Works. Isn't it a

wonderful work? That God would make a godly man out of a sinner. Praise God. And so if 11 4, He has made his wonderful Works to be remembered.

Then this Godly man, the righteous will be an everlasting remembrance. If you are Godly, you don't have to worry. Are you ought not trouble yourself about whether others will notice or others will see. We're going to have an entire sermon on that. Uh, next Lord's Day. At the beginning of Matthew chapter six.

But if you see yourself and whatever good works, you actually do. As God's wonderful work to make you the way you are. Well then surely God. Who does his wonderful Works to be praised for them will receive praise. For whatever godliness. He leads you in and grows you in and so watch out against your flesh.

That grumbles that you did these things and no one noticed Is God no one. Do we realize even what we're saying about him, when we feel those feelings in our hearts, I mean, just do like three or four chores by yourself and, and then Mom and Dad, don't even notice that it was done.

And you can feel the flesh rising up in your heart saying, nobody notices. Oh God has noticed And if it has been done in Christ by the grace of God, then isn't it, one of God's wonderful Works. Do you think he will let it be forgotten? Of course, not nothing.

Nothing done by grace in Christ for God. Is ever forgotten or lost and so what a wonderful thing is. Uh, The Godly Man Who is a work of his God and who ultimately will be honored. Unto the praise of his God. And what a wonderful thing it is to be then Uh, this Godly man who Delights in God's Commandments, who has light even in the darkness, and who in the midst of Darkness, for other people, they find him to be liked for them to because he's gracious and compassionate to them.

Only the Lord be pleased to glorify himself. By making us such people as he describes in Psalm 112 what a privilege. Uh, if by Grace, you become a Godly person and you get a companion Psalm in 112 to the psalm 111, which was entirely about God and his character.

The Lord give that to each of you. My dear family.

How we thank you, Father. That you have given. To Those whom you have chosen and loved in Christ and predestined, then to be holy. And to be before you in love, The privilege of being your wonderful works. Indeed, we praise You. Lord for Your wonderful works and the creation and there's so much to study and Marvel at and your wisdom and your goodness.

About how we thank you for your wonderful Works in Redemption. And we pray that you would make us such works and that you would show us our blessedness That we would never have grumbling Hearts or wish to be noticed by others. What would have this Delight? In. In your, in your Commandments in what you have done for us and in us, and through us So please Lord, give us that life.

We pray We ask for this day that your spirit would not let Uh, this lesson depart from our hearts or our minds quickly. But that we would live by faith in you, and Uh, rejoicing in you and Uh, and working hard and serving well. Now. Oh Lord bless us as we go. To the rest of our day.

And grant that we would do. So as those who are gladdened and strengthened by your spirit in Christ, in his name, we ask it. Amen.