



New Year Message 4

DON'T CAVE! BUT CONQUER!

Psalms 37 and 73

Series Overview: This past year has been a test for humans in many ways. Yet every New Year brings hope. A page is turned. Goals are in place. The human spirit receives a sometimes too brief of a lift as resolutions dissipate. But believers in God know Who is in control and Who offers solutions for all earthly problems. It is now a time for **Inspiration!** Not only the divinely **inspired** Word of God, but **inspiration** from various sources that calm the soul and elevate our hearts to greatness! One definition of “inspiration” is the “action or power of moving the intellect or emotions.” In this series, we will consider a few of the great Psalms from King David that continue to move our mind and spirit to trust in our God. This “book” is a collection of poetry, or songs, that speak to a great variety of human experiences. It gives answers to many of life’s great questions. In these divine psalms, we find **Inspiration!**

Lesson Introduction: As long as humans have walked this earth, they have been caught up in the “Comparison” game. Satan first appealed to Eve’s mind that God might be withholding something from them. Cain didn’t like his brother getting approval over him. So, the story goes on and on, even to this very day! David and Asaph wrote of this struggle in two Psalms with very similar themes and summaries. They speak of the tension between those who follow God’s will and those who have no intention of doing so. What about the people who spit in God’s eyes yet seem to have wealth, influence, fame, power, and even health in abundance? If not careful, one can begin to doubt God’s ways and his fairness. One can easily yield to the temptation of envying the wicked. Let’s consider the healthy “Comparison” in these two Psalms to find the **Inspiration** to **not cave in**, but **to conquer** this world for eternal glory!

THE CLEAR PICTURE OF A VERY REAL _____ Psalm 73:1-16, 21-22

- It’s very difficult to watch worldly, even wicked, people prosper while our troubles are many.
- It can make one bitter, brokenhearted, even stupid and ignorant!

THE BIG PICTURE FOR THE _____ Psalm 73:17-20

- They will stumble and not ever get up again.
- They will disappear and be swept away.

THE BIG PICTURE FOR THE _____ Psalm 73:23-28

- God holds them, guides them with advice, and welcomes them in glory!
- Mind and body may fail, God is our strength, always and forever!
- They, in turn, tell others of God's wonderful deeds and truths!

THE RIGHTEOUS MUST EMBRACE THESE _____ Psalm 37:1-11

- Don't envy or be annoyed by those who do wrong.
- Trust God and live right!
- Be patient and trust the Lord's guidance and timing.
- Don't be angry or furious.
- Expect the blessings of a big harvest!

THE WORDLY EMBRACE SOME WRONG _____ Psalm 37:12-22

- They plot against the good people
- They mistreat and harm the poor and needy.
- They miscalculate the power of wealth.
- They borrow and never pay back.

SOME _____ OF THE RIGHTEOUS Psalm 37:23-34

- You will not stumble nor fall!
- Your children are a blessing!
- They have a heart of giving and lending!
- They stop sinning and do right!
- They walk by the Word!
- Their trust and security are in the Lord!

THE _____ PICTURE! Psalm 37:35-40

"In all things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." Romans 8:37 (NIV)

"I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love – not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, and not powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39 (CEV)

Don't forget the morning prayer or song from Psalms 8:

"Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"