

Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs: The Master Musician's Melodies

Bereans Sunday School
Placerita Baptist Church
2007

by
William D. Barrick, Th.D.
Professor of OT, The Master's Seminary



Psalm 112 — The Works and Words of the Godly

1.0 Introducing Psalm 112

- Psalm 112 speaks about the works of the godly person, while Psalm 111 dealt with the works of God.
- Psalms 112 and 111 are acrostic psalms (see the alphabetic notations in the left margin of the translation below).
- Psalm 112 normally is not included among the Hallelujah psalms (106, 113, 117, 135, 146–150), but is one of several that either commence or conclude with “Hallelujah” (104, 105, 111, 112, 115, 116).

2.0 Reading Psalm 112 (NAU)

112:1 Praise the LORD!

How blessed is the man who fears the LORD,
Who greatly delights in His commandments.

112:2 His descendants will be mighty on earth;
The generation of the upright will be blessed.

112:3 Wealth and riches are in his house,
And his righteousness endures forever.

112:4 Light arises in the darkness for the upright;
He is gracious and compassionate and righteous.

112:5 It is well with the man who is gracious and lends;
He will maintain his cause in judgment.

112:6 For he will never be shaken;
The righteous will be remembered forever.

112:7 He will not fear evil tidings;
His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

112:8 His heart is upheld, he will not fear,
Until he looks with satisfaction on his adversaries.

W
I
S
D
O
M
A
N
S
D
E
L
I
G
H
T
S
I
N
H
I
S
C
O
M
M
A
N
D
M
E
N
T
S

112:9 He has given freely to the poor,
His righteousness endures forever;
His horn will be exalted in honor.

112:10 The wicked will see it and be vexed,
He will gnash his teeth and melt away;
The desire of the wicked will perish.

3.0 Understanding Psalm 112

3.1 Outline

- I. The God-fearer Is Blessed (vv. 1-3)
- II. The God-fearer Benefits Others (vv. 4-5)
- III. The God-fearer Is Buttressed by Trusting God (vv. 6-9)
- IV. The God-fearer Buries the Wicked (v. 10)



3.2 Notes

- **Parallels with Psalm 111**

Psalm 111	Psalm 112
1: Praise the LORD!	1: Praise the LORD!
1: the upright	2, 4: the upright
2: all who delight in [His works]	1: Who greatly delights in His commandments 10: The desire of the wicked will perish
3: His righteousness endures forever	3, 9: His righteousness endures forever 4: and righteous 6: The righteous will be remembered forever
4: He has made His wonders to be remembered	6: The righteous will be remembered forever
4: The LORD is gracious and compassionate	4: He is gracious and compassionate
5: those who fear Him	1: the man who fears the LORD
7: His precepts	1: His commandments
8: They are upheld forever and ever	8: His heart is upheld
8: uprightness	2, 4: the upright
10: The fear of the LORD	1: the man who fears the LORD

- Godly individuals will reflect the attributes and character of God.

- **v. 1** “How blessed is the man”

- Beatitudes occur 28 times in Psalms distributed as follows:

- **Book 1 (10x):** 1:1; 2:12; 17:5; 32:1, 2; 33:12; 34:9; 40:3, 5; 41:2

- **Book 2 (1x):** 65:5

- **Book 3 (5x):** 73:2; 84:5, 6, 13; 89:16

- **Book 4 (2x):** 94:12; 106:3

- **Book 5 (10x):** 112:1; 119:1, 2; 127:5; 128:1; 137:8, 9; 144:15[2x]; 146:5.

- **vv. 3, 9** “his righteousness endures forever”

- The wealth and physical blessing of the godly is nothing compared to his spiritual blessing.

- Righteousness here refers to the vindication of God's people who have experienced salvation provided by God.
- Because this righteousness is rooted in God's own righteousness, it is everlasting.



- v. 4 “Light arises in the darkness”
 - Literally, “shine forth.”
 - Even though the world plunges into darkness, disaster, and distress, those who are upright (godly) possess light and salvation.
 - ✓ See Psalm 97:11. Compare Micah 7:8.
- v. 4 “*He is* gracious and compassionate and righteous”
 - Clearly the psalmist applies divine attributes to the godly individual.
 - As the moon reflects the light of the sun, so the godly reflect the attributes of God. Compare Ephesians 4:32–5:2.
- v. 5 “gracious”
 - The word here is from the same Hebrew as the word in verse 4, but a different form.
 - Used in connection with lending, the idea appears to be that of lending without interest or before the debtor requests aid.
- v. 5 “He will maintain his cause in judgment”
 - The clause has a number of possible translations:
 - ✓ “he will guide his affairs with discretion” (KJV, NKJV)
 - ✓ “who conducts his affairs with justice” (ESV, NIV, NRSV)
 - ✓ “conducts his business fairly” (HCSB, NET: “honestly”)
 - The word for “affairs” or “business” also can mean “words.”
 - Whether by deeds or by words, the godly are fair, honest, and just.
- v. 6 “For he will never be shaken”
 - “For” is perhaps better translated as emphatic here: “Surely” (KJV, NKJV, NIV).
 - Psalm 15 (refer to that psalm’s study notes) concludes with the equivalent statement in a similar context dealing with the characteristics of the godly individual.
- v. 7 “He will not fear evil tidings”
 - Bad news begets no fear in the godly, because their trust is in an eternal, unyielding and compassionate God (cp. v. 4).
- vv. 7, 8 “His heart is steadfast . . . His heart is upheld”
 - “Upheld” has a passive force to it expressive of the divine passive: God is the agent who gives support to the godly.
 - Loyalty and steadfastness comes about because of the support that God gives to His people.

- **v. 8** “Until he looks with satisfaction on his adversaries”
 - No matter how beset by their enemies they might be in the present, the godly trust God to ultimately execute justice. While waiting for the final judgment of all their enemies, the godly will not fear.
- **v. 9** “He has given freely”
 - Literally, “he has spread around” or “he has distributed freely.”
 - Quoted by Paul in 2 Corinthians 9:9.
- **v. 9** “His horn will be exalted in honor”
 - The horn represents power and “exalt the horn” refers to prosperity and victory. The same imagery occurs in Psalms 89:17, 24 and 92:10.
 - See notes on Psalm 75:4.
- **v. 10** “gnash his teeth and melt away”
 - Gnashing the teeth is expressive of anger (see Pss 35:16; 37:12; Lam 2:16; Acts 7:54).

4.0 Singing Psalm 112

How Blest the Man Who Fears the Lord

(Tune: “In Christ Alone” or “He Leadeth Me” or “Sweet Hour of Prayer”)



- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 How blest the man who fears the Lord
And greatly loves God’s holy will;
His children share his great reward,
And blessings all their days shall fill.</p> <p>3 The man whose hand the weak befriends
In judgment shall his cause maintain;
A peace unmoved his life attends,
And long his memory shall remain.</p> <p>5 With kind remembrance of the poor,
For their distress his gifts provide;
His righteousness shall thus endure,
His name in honor shall abide.</p> | <p>2 Abounding wealth shall bless his home,
His righteousness shall still endure,
To him shall light arise in gloom,
For he is merciful and pure.</p> <p>4 Of evil tidings not afraid,
His trust is in the Lord alone;
His heart is steadfast, undismayed,
For he shall see his foes o’erthrown.</p> <p>6 To shame the wicked shall be brought,
While righteous men shall favor gain;
Unrighteous hopes shall come to naught,
Its due reward shall sin obtain.</p> |
|---|--|

— Author unknown

5.0 Praying Psalm 112

- Praise the LORD! [v. 1]
- Thank You, Lord, for giving me a righteousness that last forever. [vv. 3, 9]
- Teach me how to be “gracious and compassionate and righteous.” [v. 4]
- Support my heart, O God, so that I will not be afraid. [v. 8]
-

6.0 Applying Psalm 112

- As the moon reflects the light of the sun, so the godly reflect the attributes of God.
- Whether by deeds or by words, the godly person is fair, honest, and just.
- Trust in God banishes fear in even the direst circumstances.