

Exod 03-10-19a

Let's continue our worship this morning by taking a moment at this point to clear our minds, to lay aside distractions and issues that may be weighing on our minds, and cultivate in our souls the ministry of God's Holy Spirit. Allow ourselves to receive spiritual nourishment that is found in God's Word and is ministered to us by God's Spirit. It is probably the second most important thing that we do as believers is to take in the Word of God under the ministry of the Spirit.

The most important is to remember it and apply it at the point where it is required, again, under the ministry of God's Spirit. Intake without application is unfruitful. And you remember what the Lord Jesus did to the fig tree that had taken in plenty of nourishment and was full of leaves and yet bore no figs.

We want to receive what God has for us and then carry it with us into our daily walk in such a way that God's glory reflects in us and through us. But that process begins with taking in God's Word. It is something that needs refreshing.

No matter how many times we visit a well, we will soon once again be thirsty. In this life, we are always in need of replenishment and refreshment. That is why we meet three times a week for six separate studies to be sure that God's Spirit is able to speak the truth of God's Word to us and supply us with that which is our daily bread.

So let's go at this point to the Lord in prayer. Father, what a privilege it is to find ourselves in the midst of a circumstance where we are not in fear of our lives. We are not hiding.

We are not having to meet in a cloak of secrecy. We are not afraid of invasion or of persecution for our faith. We can freely and openly assemble.

We can worship You as we understand it should be done from Your Word and there is no threat to our lives or to our property. We know that in many parts of the world and in many times in history, this has not been the case. And we recognize the fact that You have placed us in this time of freedom and given us this opportunity for a reason.

And we pray that You will bless us as we worship together this morning so that that purpose will be fulfilled. We thank You for our country. We thank You for godly men and places of leadership.

And we ask that You will sustain them and uphold them with the right hand of Your righteousness, that You will enable them to prevail and to continue to guide our country in a direction that guarantees our freedom and does reflect the fact that it is in God we trust. We pray for those who are overseas, who are serving in the military and in other governmental positions that require them to be away from their homes and families. We pray especially for believers on this day that You will grant them a refreshing portion of Your Word in their souls, that You will comfort and encourage them.

We pray for those who also serve on the domestic front and all of the structure from the federal level down to the local level that supports and maintains our country. We are thankful for our Lord Jesus Christ who has given our lives meaning and purpose. We thank You that even now He is seated at Your right hand and is interceding on our behalf, is praying on our behalf and pleading His own work on our behalf.

And we look forward to the day when He will stand and return to take us unto Himself. We pray that we will be ready on that day through the things that we learn and the things that we practice in our experience here on earth. We pray that once again You will bless our fellowship, that the spiritual gift of each one here will find manifestation and be a blessing to others, that each one will leave encouraged and refreshed and strengthened for the time that remains to us in this life.

We pray it all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. For our scripture reading this morning, turn with me to Psalm 112.

Psalm 112. This is a song of celebration. These are some of the advantages that you and I enjoy because we are saved, because the Lord Jesus Christ has claimed us for His own possession, because of His great mercy and compassion.

It is easy for us to lapse into subjectivity. What are the three areas of subjectivity? Eyes on self, eyes on people, eyes on circumstances. If our eyes are not on the Lord, they will rest on one of those three things in an unhealthy way.

We, of course, need to be aware of circumstances. We need to be aware of ourselves, examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith. We need to make application of God's Word, His promises, His principles, His doctrines to our decision-making process.

We need to be aware of people. The second great commandment is to love our neighbor, and you can't do that without paying attention to that neighbor and recognizing their situation and their needs and their opportunities. So it is not a blindness to self or a blindness to people or a blindness to circumstances, but it is having a balanced and objective perspective on them.

We only do that under the ministry of God's Spirit, in the light of God's Word. There is no other way. There is no program.

There is no philosophy. Scientology won't do it. L. Ron Hubbard, Dianetics won't do it.

Old mouthful of teeth there, positive thinking won't do it. Norman Vincent Peale, the power of positive thinking. Dale Carnegie, the Win Friends and Influence people won't do it.

There is only one way to live a balanced, fruitful life that has hope for the future, and that is the life that God has laid out before us. When we see it, when we follow it, when we find ourselves, by our will and by our desire, walking the narrow road, Psalm 112 tells us some of the blessings that belong to the righteous. And this is a song of celebration.

It's sort of like our doxology. The psalmist says, Praise the Lord. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments.

His descendants will be mighty on earth. The generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches will be in His house, and His righteousness endures forever.

Unto the upright there arises 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 in everlasting remembrance.

He will not be afraid of evil tidings. His heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. His heart is established.

He will not be afraid until he sees his desire upon his enemies. He has dispersed abroad. He has 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 perish. There is plenty to meditate on and be thankful for just in a surface reading of this psalm.

But you will notice that like any good prayer, it begins with praise. It acknowledges the greatness of God because all of these blessings come from God. Every good and perfect gift comes down from above from the Father of lights.

Praise the Lord. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord and delights greatly in his commandments. We tend to chafe under the restrictions of rules, don't we? There are different words for commandments, statutes, judgments, ordinances in the word of God.

And this word here that is translated commandments is a word that has to do with the strictures, the rules, what can and cannot be done. And many people, our whole Pepsi generation and the me generation and the now generation over the last few decades has tried to throw off strictures and throw off what they consider to be puritanical morals and unnecessary restrictions on what you can do with your body and what you can do in your activities with others behind closed doors and so on. And that is not the path of blessing.

People have tried it. It has an allure. It has an attraction.

I just wish I could do whatever I want. But this passage says the one who delights greatly in the rules of God, the commandments of God, is the one who will be blessed. Well, how can we do that? You know what I like about the laws of this land? The laws that protect property, for example? I work hard and I pay on my house and I like the fact that Garland has a police force that will keep unauthorized people off of my property.

And if they come in here, they will pursue them and hound them and arrest them and lock them up because this stuff belongs to me. We have laws that say you can't just walk in and carry off my computer or my valuable belongings. Even my non-valuable belongings.

I like having a stack of plates to eat off of. Somebody says, hey, I'm out of plates. I think I'll go next door and take Sam's.

Well, yet they can't do that. It's against the law. We have rules about that.

I want to go to work and I want to go out and get my car. Somebody says, I need a car. There's one in Sam's driveway.

I believe I'll just bust the window and hotwire it and take that one. We have rules. We have laws about that.

And we enjoy great, unappreciated benefits here that we often don't even think twice about. We take it for granted. That when we go to put our hand on something, it will be there because we have laws that say you don't take what belongs to someone else.

We have laws that say you can't violate the freedom, the privacy, and the property of others. And I appreciate that. I delight in those laws.

I am happy to abide by them because I do unto others just the way I expect others to do unto me. This is a positive benefit of having the laws of the United States, of having the laws in our community. I like the fact that Garland will not let some guy park a junker car out on the street and tear the engine out and leave all the parts on the parking and have a big pool of oil underneath and let it sit there for weeks and months.

It's against the law. You are not allowed to work on your car in the street for more than a couple of hours. You can't do a rebuilding job that takes three months in the streets of Garland, Texas.

It's against the law. You can't leave a junk car parked for any length of time on the streets. They will come and cite you, fine you, and haul your car away.

I like that law. It keeps our community looking fresh. You take the girls for a walk, we have a nice looking neighborhood to walk through.

They force people to keep their lawns mowed and keep their trees trimmed. There are lots of these commandments. And when you look at the benefits that they secure, they don't seem to be egregious.

They don't seem to be burdensome. You say, you know, this is really a good thing. I like having these laws.

The man who delights in God's commandments will be blessed. And he will be a blessing. It's all

in how you look at it.

There are people who, if you come up and tell them that they can't do something, they immediately want to find a way to do it anyway. They just are of a nature that it insults them to tell them they can't do something. And where it was never an issue before, once you tell them they can't do it, they will bend all of their energies to trying to do it.

Just because it bugs them that someone would have the gall to tell them they can't, and that they won't, and that they shouldn't. Well, this person is not going to be blessed. This person is not going to be a blessing.

They are going to be a thorn in the side. You notice how... I'll give you an example. This past week in the news, they ran a feature, an unprovoked news story to try to sway public opinion, talking about how a couple of these child-abusing, child-murdering people were homeschoolers.

This... what's her name? The Drowner Kids in the Bathtub. Homeschooled. And some other yo-yo up north that did something bad to their kids.

Homeschooled. And they're trying to draw a connection, saying, you know, when people homeschool, the teachers don't see the kids every day, and if they have a bruise, or if they have an injury, if they have a broken bone, there's nobody to report them. There's nobody to watch out for them.

Now, I understand, and we all recognize that child abuse is a horrific, horrific crime and sin. But to... what are we going to do? Have the government put a webcam at everyone's home? Because I don't care if your kids go to public school or private school. And by the way, what they didn't point out is that there's no greater percentage of violence against children by parents among homeschoolers than there is among public schoolers.

Their point is there's not as much observation. They had one example in our whole nation. How many people did we decide were in the United States? 235 million, something like that? They had one example of a couple who adopted, a white couple adopted a black child, had him a year or two, and then got mad at him and inadvertently killed him.

He was being too noisy, and he wouldn't shut up, he wouldn't obey. And so these stupid people got a roll of duct tape and duct taped his face shut so that he wouldn't make noise. Well, duh.

He suffocated. And they didn't want to tell anyone about it, so they buried him in the backyard. And because they were homeschooling, nobody knew he was gone for like a year.

Well, so in a nation of 235 million people, you find one Tales of the Strange and Bizarre episode and say, now, see what can happen when people homeschool? And so they want to try to pass laws and say, well, maybe we need to have more oversight over these homeschoolers. Maybe we need a little government person with a clipboard to come around and come into the home

and look around like they do, heaven forbid, if you try to adopt a child. I would not be opposed to adoption except that I refuse to completely sacrifice all of my privacy and have someone, you know, you have your own child and you raise them the way God intended.

If you adopt a child, you basically have to tell every detail, well, I'll tell you what, if you're ever interested, just go ask an adoption agency for their application form and read the questions they ask about your private life and what you and your wife do in off hours and how many times and in what manner. And you cannot believe the questions that they ask and that they will continue to ask all during the time that you have that adopted child. It is a great deterrence to godly people and moral people trying to adopt a child because you basically have to sign away your privacy.

You have to just, you might as well just put cameras in every room of your house and let them run 24 hours a day. I say all of that to say that we delight in the godly statutes. We delight in the laws that reflect divine standards of freedom, privacy, and property.

And when we do that, we are blessed. When we violate those, we will be cursed and we will be a curse to others. It is just that simple.

That is a principle of the Word of God. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord and delights greatly in his commandments. His descendants will be mighty on earth.

Why would that be an advantage? Well, who are we talking to here? This is the nation of Israel and your descendants are your posterity. That's your future. That's your name in Israel.

Will there be a clan? Will there be a family? Will there be a family group in Israel that bears your name and carries your memory forward? Jesse, the father of David, was a great man. He doesn't get a whole lot of attention, but you go to a concordance and count the number of times the name Jesse occurs in the Word of God. That is no accident.

Jesse was a great, great man in Israel and God preserved his name through his posterity. The Lord Jesus Christ is called a root shoot from the stump of Jesse. It's one of the eternal names of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesse's name is honored. Why? Because he was a man who feared the Lord and who delighted in his commandments and he raised his sons that way. One of his sons becomes the king of Israel.

One of his descendants, he is the ancestor of the Lord Jesus Christ himself. His descendants will be mighty on earth. What does this mean by way of application for us? Do we really care if we have some 15th generation descendant that is mighty in the earth? It means that there is a future, that there is a name, there is a continual reflection of God's glory off of our life that survives our earthly sojourn.

It means that there is a remembrance in God's book, a remembrance in God's kingdom that

goes beyond the grave and beyond the end of this earthly life. That's what it means to have descendants that are mighty in the earth. In Israel, this was the literal way to be remembered and have your life count for something as a testimony to the grace of God.

In our lives, it is what is remembered and what is reflected in the kingdom and beyond. The generation of the upright will be blessed. This means that not only individual testimony, but also a corporate testimony.

The generation of the righteous will be blessed. This means, for example, the generation that followed the Exodus generation that had the faith to cross the Jordan and go into the land. We're also going to be talking about the crossing of the Jordan here a little bit.

That generation is memorable in contrast to their parents because they were considered qualified to enter the land. They did decide they could go in and face the giants and face the Canaanites. The generation of the upright will be blessed.

Wealth and riches will be in his house. Remember also, this is blessing by association. His generation, in the first instance, means his immediate family.

God looks at a household and if there is one righteous individual, the whole house is blessed for the sake of the one. Whether you go back to Abraham arguing on behalf of Lot and God says, if I find X number of righteous, I will spare the whole town. If you find me 10 righteous people, the whole town of Sodom is spared.

It's the principle of blessing by association. In the New Testament, Paul talks about the fact that you may find yourself unequally yoked. You may have a believer and an unbeliever or a faithful and a faithless.

But he says, God will sanctify the children, God will sanctify the household, will view the whole household as a household of faith for the sake of one and will preserve it and will put a wall of fire around it and those unbelievers or those faithless gain blessing by association with that one righteous person. The generation of the upright is blessed. This is the way that we can shine as lights in the world.

This is the way that we can communicate almost like kinetic energy. You transfer a blessing beyond yourself and you are a blessing to others. Why? Because you are righteous, because you fear the Lord, because you delight in His commandments.

Wealth and riches will be in His house. Now, is this a promise of actual big bank balances and lots of fancy goods? Perhaps, but not necessarily. What is genuine wealth and what is genuine riches? I think looking around in your home and having peace and having contentment, having fulfillment, having deep satisfaction, seeing the blessings of God in the small things of life, recognizing that you have freedom, that you have privacy, that whatever property you do have is yours and you have capacity to enjoy it.

You go to Africa and find someone who has been living in a primitive culture and give them a watch and a watch that lets them tell time is 50 times as valuable as it would be here. When the Europeans first came to America, glass beads were like gold because they didn't exist here and the Indians who wanted to decorate their moccasins and decorate their blankets and their other things, prized these glass beads that they couldn't make themselves. And so to have a handful of beads to them was incredibly rich, to be incredibly blessed.

We tread glass beads into the mud. We don't value them at all. It's all in how you look at it.

What is meaningful to you? What is valuable to you? And God will give you the things that you value and give you the things that you prize when your standards for evaluating such things are based on His Word and are lived out in the fear of the Lord and in the delight in His Word. Wealth and riches will be in His house. There are many different kinds of wealth.

If you value relationship with your family and God gives you time with your family and joyful experiences with your family, that is wealth. If you value insight into God's Word and you value understanding of what He's trying to tell us and you find that, that is wealth. That is riches.

If you are looking for inner strength, if you are looking for stability, if you are looking for a rudder for your ship so that you can sail in a meaningful direction and arrive at a meaningful destination and you find that, that is wealth. That is riches. Material goods are essentially a detail.

You may have them and you may not. But wealth and riches are something that belong to the righteous. And notice they will be in His house.

And His house is preserved. His house is protected. His house endures.

His righteousness endures forever. You make a mark that goes beyond this life. You make a mark that goes into eternity.

Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness. Being gadget man myself, I saw a thing yesterday that I just had to have. They have a little deal that you plug into the wall and you plug your lamp into it.

I've got several of these lamps have the touch thing where you can touch it and it goes three different light levels and then off. I loved those when they came out. I've got three or four of them.

Some of them you put in the light socket. Some of them you put in the wall. Some of them have a little separate disc you can tap.

And if the lamp is metal you just touch the lamp. The house was so full of them that it disabled my intercom. My little cordless intercom thing.

Anyway, that's another story. But I've got this little box and you plug the lamp into it and this

one is great because you walk into the room and you say lamp commander, lights on. And they come on.

It's like walking around the Starship Enterprise. Computer, lights on. And they come on.

You say lamp commander, lights dim. And it goes down one level. You say lamp commander, lights dim.

And it goes down again. That to me is the coolest thing because if your light is across the room and has a hard to find switch which is the case up there instead of walking in the darkness and stumbling and barking your shins and cursing and getting in a sour mood you just walk in the door and say lamp commander, lights on. And in the darkness you have light.

When we go outside and we have to be out there when you don't have daylight what do we do? We grab a flashlight. We turn on our headlights. We do something.

We flip on the outside spotlight. Why? We need light in the darkness so we don't hurt ourselves. So that we know where we are and we can accomplish what we're trying to do.

Look at this blessing. Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness. Light arises.

This is better than lamp commander. This is better than a flashlight. You know what happens with a flashlight? My peeve with flashlights is the batteries are not always fully fresh for whatever reason.

Maybe they had a previous life inside a little robot dog and then got put in a flashlight or maybe someone used the flashlight didn't get it shut off or whatever. Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness. This is illumination when we need it.

Who in life uses how many different TV programs? I haven't seen some of these programs but I see the commercials for them. There's that guy that gets the paper that says what's going to happen the next day. There was some kind of seven day thing where he goes back in time a week.

I never saw that show but it sounds interesting. Quantum Leap. The guy's just jumping all over in time.

But people are fascinated with the idea of being able to affect the future of knowing the future and planning for it and being ready for it. Crystal Balls. Seances.

All of the different fortune telling, forth telling, your horoscope and the paper. What's the point of all of that? I want light in the darkness. I want illumination.

I want to know what to do. I want to know what's best. I want to be in the right place at the right time, invest in the right thing, take the right path.

Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness. Who would not want to be upright? Someone who is just perverse. Someone who just doesn't want to delight in the commandments because it pees and chaps and annoys that someone might say you need to do this thing.

You need to be this way. Well, this is the unregenerate, corrupt depravity that exists in each one of us to a greater or lesser degree. And when we give into it, guess what? There is going to be no prosperity.

There is going to be no blessing. There is going to be no eternal impact. There is going to be no light in the darkness.

It is just that simple. It is a biblical principle from Genesis to Revelation. Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly.

Blessed is the man who does not stand in the way of sinners. Blessed is the man who does not sit in the seat of the scornful. Blessed is the man who delights in the law of the Lord.

Blessed is the man who meditates in the law of the Lord day and night. There is one way to blessing. There is one way to peace.

There is one way to a meaningful, satisfying, fulfilled life and that is delighting in the Lord and in the things of God. There is no other way. Every other option is a false trail.

Every other option will bring you up to a brick wall at high speed with damage to yourself and others. It is a fact of human existence. That scripture, by the way, was Psalm 1, 1 and 2. Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness.

He is gracious and full of compassion and righteous. Notice, when we have light in the darkness, when we can see where we are and what we are doing, when we delight in the things of God, there is blessing that flows out of us. People are glad to know us.

People are encouraged and blessed just by contact with us. There is graciousness. There is compassion.

There is righteousness. Righteousness breeds righteousness just like faith communicates with faith. The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by God the Holy Spirit.

Notice in verse 5, a good man deals graciously and lends. He's not worried about, well, last time I lent you something and I didn't get it back, so, you know, I'm going to look out for number one this time. Why would a righteous man, a good man, deal graciously and lend and be happy to do so? It's because he's not in love with his stuff.

His happiness does not depend on his possessions. You can deal freely and lend when you are not attached to a thing. Somebody needs a lawnmower, you loan him your lawnmower.

You get it back fine if you don't. Well, you make other arrangements. Why? Because your happiness does not depend on your lawnmower to use kind of a silly example.

But there are lots of things that we possess. We possess time. We possess opportunities.

We possess different things that we can either give or we can conserve depending on our attitude. A good and gracious and full of compassion and righteous man deals graciously with others. He is not stingy with his property.

He will guide his affairs with discretion. Notice, he is generous. He does lend, but he also guides his affairs with discretion.

He doesn't hand stuff out the window to every guy with a cardboard sign. He guides his affairs with discretion. Why is it not good to hand money to somebody standing on the corner with a cardboard sign? At first glance, you think, well, here's a person in need and I delight in the laws of the Lord.

I want to be generous. I'll hand this person some money. What are you doing? Is this the lifestyle you want to encourage? Do you want to find three guys there with cardboard signs tomorrow and seven of them there the day after? If you really want to help the guy with the sign, steer him to a job.

Steer him to a place where he can get rehab. And you will find that they don't want to go. They wouldn't be out there with a cardboard sign if they had any gumption.

They would be sitting there reading the classifieds. They would be sitting there filling out an application for some job instead of looking for a handout. This land and our community is so full of unfilled jobs that it annoys me to see someone who would rather do nothing and wait for a handout.

The New Testament says, he who does not work will not eat. And the church was all over the idea of distribution and sharing. And yet, they guided their affairs with discretion.

If you see someone who is just taking advantage and isn't using this as an opportunity to better themselves and to get to the place where they're self-sufficient, don't give. We do not encourage, we do not sponsor sin. And inadvertent, unthinking generosity will sponsor and encourage sin.

We guide our affairs with discretion. Surely, he will never be shaken. It doesn't mean he will not have stuff thrown up against him, but whatever hits will not shake him.

I saw a guy last night that was wearing a bulletproof vest and he turned a .44 Magnum at his chest and pulled the trigger and lived to tell the tale and did it until he emptied all six rounds. I'm talking .44 Magnum revolver, had his little flimsy vest, then he took his bulletproof vest off and showed where the bullets had hit and torn it up and he wadded it up. It's flexible.

It doesn't have a plate of Kevlar in it. It's some kind of flexible material. I could not believe it.

I want to see the guy tomorrow. How big of a bruise does he have on his chest? Because something has to absorb all that kinetic energy. But he was firing .44 caliber rounds.

He just turned the thing and you thought, well, this is awful. Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang. Then he stood and he was like on a ship because they didn't know where the rounds might deflect to, I guess.

And so he was on the prow or the bow of a ship, and had a guy firing an automatic weapon. And these bulletproof vests are his own manufacturing. And it's just having no effect.

And then he took the thing off and wadded it up. It's flexible. It's one of the more amazing things I've seen recently.

But what got me is, I don't know where the energy of these rounds is going because he didn't even get, you would think, well, at least it would push him back. The impact would push him back. But he was not shaking.

Now, that's what I call a good bulletproof vest. When not only does it not pierce and kill you, you would think, well, he must have a lot of confidence. What if those rounds all hit in the same hole and kind of wear away whatever it is that's doing the work there? But the guy emptied a magazine of, I don't know how many rounds, 20, 25 rounds, into this.

I mean, the vest was just in shreds in the front. And it's not like they're shooting wax bullets or something. I mean, they picked up and showed these lead bullets.

It's amazing. But it reminds me of this. Surely he will never be shaken.

There is extraordinary protection. There is extraordinary stability. There is supernatural stability that comes from God for the righteous.

You can be hit with all kinds of things. Job was greatly afflicted, but Job was not shaken. He did not deny his faith.

He didn't renounce God. He was sorely afflicted, but not shaken. The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance.

If you want to make a mark, we were talking the other day about how can people think that it's a big deal to be famous? That it's a big deal to make a mark in the world and have a monument or a building or something named after you once you die if you truly don't think there's a resurrection? If you truly don't think there's an afterlife? Who cares? What good does it do, Julius Caesar, to be remembered by every generation of school children until the end of time? Caesar doesn't know. It doesn't benefit him a bit. When he wakes up just in time to get judged and sent to the lake of fire, all of his fame is meaningless.

It's worthless. It is useless. So why would people say, well, a life well lived is one that makes an impact on others? Caesar made an impact on everybody from his generation all the way down to the end of time, and his impact is worthless.

Useless. It's not going to do him a bit of good. He can't, in the eternal lake of fire, walk around and say, hey, I'm Julius Caesar.

What do you think? What's the point? The righteous will be an everlasting remembrance. If you perform one righteous act of faith in this life, you have got it all over Julius Caesar and every other unbeliever. And to the extent that our lives reflect God's glory through righteousness by faith, we make an eternal mark.

He will not be afraid of evil tidings. Have you ever been around someone who, you know, they say, it's kind of like the two cowboys at the campfire late at night. Well, Jeb, sure is quiet.

Too quiet. You know, peace, prosperity, there are people who just look around and say, this can't last. When's the other shoe going to drop? You know, evil tidings are about to come.

Oh, this is the most wonderful house. We've been looking and looking. Here's the most wonderful house.

It's just too good to be true. It must have a cracked foundation. We're going to find out it's full of termites.

You know, the second story is going to cave in. Something's the matter with it. Someone was murdered here.

It's haunted. Who knows? Something is the matter. There are people who are shadowed and whose past experience tells them evil tidings are going to follow the good.

This can't last. And there's just a sense of dread and a sense of impending doom and gloom that overshadows and sucks the life out of blessings and good things. Look at this.

The righteous will not be afraid of evil tidings. I enjoy what God is doing today. If I am Job and I lose everything tomorrow, I do not fear that.

I don't necessarily look forward to it. I don't court it. I don't... I'm not some kind of spiritual masochist.

Oh Lord, take away all my blessings and just beat me over the head. But I don't fear it. If it comes, it comes.

It's all in the eternal, immutable, perfect plan of God. I do not fear evil tidings. There's no evil tiding that will come except what God allows.

He will provide a way of escape. He has a purpose. It all works together for good.

I'm not anxious for evil to happen to me, but I don't fear it. This is the righteous man. His heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

I have a righteous, loving, compassionate, eternal Father and He will not allow me to come to harm. This is the bounty. This is the inheritance.

This is the wealth and riches that belong to the righteous. His heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. His heart is established.

He will not be afraid. Even if his enemies seem to prevail, he will one day see his desire accomplished on his enemies. His enemies will be put right.

Somebody robs you and you never get the stuff back. This has happened to me several times. God will put it right.

I'm not concerned. I haven't suffered. I'm not armless or legless because I've been robbed in the past.

Somebody broke into my car when I was off defending their freedom to break into things when I was in Beirut. It annoyed me to no end. But God knows who and where they are.

God will settle that out. The righteous disperses abroad and gives to the poor. His righteousness endures forever.

His strength is 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 perish. Notice that's all future. That's our confidence.

Let God handle that. Vengeance is mine. I will repay.

Don't let it spoil your peace. Don't let it spoil your happiness. This is our heritage.

This is the great thing about being in God's plan and purpose. Well, we need to pause here and take our break. When we come back, we'll pick up our study in the book of Exodus.