

The Pastor's Page



Tim Fellure

When The Upright Get Upright Psalm 37

Three times David encourages the reader to “fret not” (vv. 1, 7, 8). The word, fret, is just another word for worry or anxiety, so this psalm is for the believer who is bothered by life’s circumstances. It seems there has never been a time when we live longer and better lives but enjoy them less than now. Perhaps you have a troubled heart with all that is going on in your life and around you—this

psalm is for you.

The Troubles That Cause Us to Fret (1-2)

First, we often fret over the injustices of life. In verses 1 and 7, David mentions the wicked who seemingly prosper in their works of iniquity. The idea is that here is a godless man living a wicked life but enjoying the riches of life, while the child of God who is living for the Lord has life coming apart at the seams. Most of us secretly believe that, “Since I am saved God owes me special treatment. I’m trying to live right and God ought to take that into consideration when He passes out calamities.” The psalmist says, however, that the wicked often seem to have life better than we do, and we become envious of that.

Second, we often fret over the inactivity of God. In verses 2, 9, and 10 there is the assurance that God will judge the wicked and vindicate the righteous. The problem we have with these promises is the word “soon” (v. 2) and “yet a little while” (v. 10). Evidently, our soon is a lot sooner than God’s. Often someone will remark how the Lord has started to work in our church. What that person means is that God has finally started behaving like we want Him to behave. But the truth is, He who watches Israel neither sleeps nor slumbers. God is always at work. What arrogance you and I have to ever say God isn’t working. We reminisce to a time when everything was going great, it seemed every prayer was being answered, there was money in our pocket, and the kids were behaving well. And we say it was great when God was working. But who are we to say God was working then and not now? God is always at work. It only looks as though He is inactive, and that causes us to be frustrated.

Third, we often fret over our ignorance of God. What we think is indifference on God’s part is really ignorance on our part. We are ignorant of God’s timing because with God, timing is more important than time. Too, we are often ignorant of God’s values. The things that are valuable to us are not necessarily valuable to God. We think of good in terms of convenience and comfort, but God doesn’t think that way. I may ask the Lord to take something out of my life

and the Lord may respond, “But you need that.” The Lord may take something else away, and I complain, “I can’t live without that.” He is teaching us the things that are truly important.

The Truths That Help Us to Trust (3-11)

Trust in the Lord (3). There are four simple statements made in the first section of this psalm that are the cure for fretting. The first is to trust in the Lord—the other three are only made possible when we trust. I really believe trusting the Lord is a summary statement, and the other three are expressions of that trust. Trust is like a nut you crack open and inside you find delighting, committing, and resting. What do you do when you trust the Lord? You are delighting yourself in the Lord, you are committing your way unto the Lord, and you are resting in the Lord.

The way you learn to trust God is by trusting God. You don’t learn to trust God by reading a book about it; you learn to trust by trusting. But most of us won’t trust God until we have to. As long as I have one more trick up my sleeve, I don’t have to trust God. Yet, God is gracious enough to see to it that we have to trust Him. He puts us in situations where the only way out is by looking up.

Delight in the Lord (4). We all love this verse—especially the “give you all the desires of your heart” part. I think we usually read that as, “If you will just delight yourself in the Lord, bless your heart, God will give you whatever your little heart desires.” But I believe the psalmist had something a little different in mind when he wrote this. It is not that if you love Jesus, God will give you whatever thing you desire, but if you trust the Lord, He will give you the restful, peaceful heart you desire. The psalmist is trying to help us overcome anxiety, not teach us a prosperity gospel. Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you a delighted and satisfied heart.

Commit thy way unto the Lord (5). This is a weighty challenge because you do not know what your way will bring. Maybe the way you walk today will be enjoyable and peaceful. Maybe the path you have set out on will end up in success and pleasure. But it could end up at a dead end or be a road with toils and dangers around every corner. When I walk out the door each morning, I have no idea how that day will turn out. And when I plan my life with career and marriage and other life choices, my dreams may not always come to fruition. But whatever my way brings, I commit it to the Lord.

Rest in the Lord (7). There is one thing I require when I rest. Quietness. Have you ever tried to close your eyes for a nap with grandchildren seeing who can be the loudest, running around like wild Indians? There is no resting with noise going on around you. And there is no rest with a troubled soul. You need it to be quiet. The Lord wants you and I to stop complaining, stop murmuring, stop telling Him how it has to be done. Just be quiet in your spirit. When you have learned to trust Him, when you are delighting in Him more than anything else, when you are able to commit whatever your way may be to Him, then you will find rest for your soul.



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THE NEWSLETTER

April–June 2024

“The Lord gave the word: great *was* the company of those that published it” (Psalm 68:11).

A JAB AT THE DEVIL

An Argument for a Christian Political Party

by Wallace R. Struble

first published in 1895

Somebody must run this country politically. The Devil and the politicians will run it if we permit them. They have run it considerably, heretofore, and they are getting ready to run it some more. If decency wants any part in the management of public affairs, it is high time she got out of bed and washed her face.

Under the republican form of government, as exemplified in the United States of America, the office-holder is intended to be the incarnation of his constituents. In other words, the people send themselves, in theory, to the White House, to Congress, to the Legislature, and to the judicial bench. In a similar sense, I am in favor of sending Jesus, the Christ, to our halls of national legislation, to the White House, and to the bench of the United States Supreme Court. I am in favor of sending Him to the states’ legislatures and to the municipal councils and boards; of electing Him governor, mayor, state and county judge, attorney general, states’ attorney, and corporation lawyer; of naming Him for sheriff, constable, chief of police, and police officer; in a word, of transferring this entire government, from the supervision of a township road or the scribing of a notarial folio, up to the executive management of the nation and the supreme direction of its judiciary, upon the shoulders of the Man of Galilee.

Victory Baptist Press is a ministry of Victory Baptist Church of Milton, Florida.

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Editor's Notes



Jim & Mary Fellure

Dear Friends,

I Have My Old Job Back

Many of you are probably aware that for the last year or so I have experienced a few health problems that people my age normally have. Most people have learned to live with these problems without whining and complaining, and hopefully I can do the same.

Considering the few setbacks, I began throwing out some hints about leaving my post at VBP, and as time went on, my intentions became more obvious. Some of my preacher friends even commented that “we could see it coming.” Well, good news for some—not so good for others—the pastor has said that I will be the director of VBP as long as I live. That includes editing this *Newsletter*. Do I think I can do the job justice? Absolutely not, but Joseph Bertram has been appointed as my assistant, and together, by the grace of God and all for His glory, we will do the best we can.

My Wife Mary's Bout With Cancer

This is March 29 and I am writing from a hotel room on the grounds of the MD Anderson Cancer Treatment Clinic in Houston, Texas, where Mary is being treated for her multiple myeloma cancer. When she first checked in here on December 4, she was so weak she couldn't stand up on her own, and the doctor's diagnosis was that her bone marrow was one hundred percent packed with the cancer cells. Her treatments of chemo and radiation started immediately, and because her body was not producing good blood cells, she was getting one or two blood transfusions each week.

Intercessory Prayer

An experience that I will never forget was on Thanksgiving night at approximately 9:30 pm. I was in my office in Florida, thinking about a message I had recently heard Pastor Danny Farley preach on intercessory prayer. Influenced by that one sermon—probably for the first time in my life—I prayed a genuine intercessory prayer for my wife. To the best of my ability, and as honest as I knew how to be, I told the Lord that I would be willing for Him to take the cancer away from her and give it to me. I realized that if the Lord answered the prayer the way I was praying, it could be life for her and death for me, but I was willing. At that moment, the good Lord spoke to my heart and said “**I'LL TAKE THE CASE.**” Some may ask if I heard the Lord speak in an audible voice. I can answer in the words of the late Dr. Harold Sightler, who faced a similar situation: “**Oh no, it was much clearer than that!**”

The two most important people in my life are the Lord Jesus Christ and my wife, so it gives me great joy to report that prayers have been answered! After four short months of treatments, she is now strong enough to get around on her own and hasn't needed a blood transfusion for more than six weeks. The count of cancer cells are down, and her blood count is up. To God be the glory!

She is scheduled for another PET scan and bone marrow biopsy on April 1. We are hoping that the results from the testing on that day will be good enough for her to return home to Florida.

Shortly after first finding out she had the cancer, we sent an email making her situation known to our email subscribers, and we have had people from all over the world send notes, cards, flowers, and promises to pray. I don't have the words to express my gratitude for every prayer or expression of love and concern, but if you are one of those who prayed for Mary, would you take some time to thank the Lord for how good He has been in providing every thing needed (and then some!) for her well-being.

A Jab At The Devil

I am not surprised that all the efforts of the women politicians and special political interest groups have failed to fix Washington. In fact, they haven't been able to get Jesus to fix it because He didn't come to fix the government. He came to suffer and bleed and die on an old rugged cross to pay for the sins of any person on this planet that would repent of their sins and trust Him as their own personal Lord and Saviour.

If you read the article on the front page by Wallace R. Struble (first published in 1895), you will have to agree that America is still a long way from the form of government he described. Furthermore, it never will be until the Prince of Peace makes His glorious return and takes the government upon His shoulder. He will then—and not until then—fix the government.

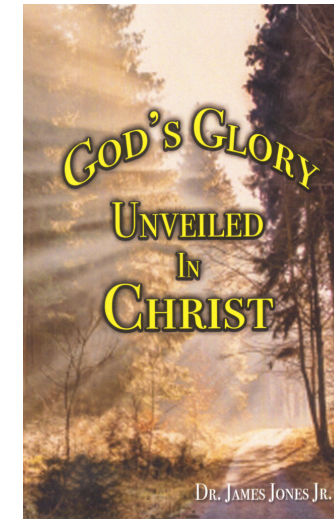
Of course, if the political world stays the same, I will vote in the upcoming presidential election, and the only way I can vote against President Biden is to vote for his opponent. I realize that (according to the federal government) the church is not allowed to endorse one candidate over another. I don't have a recommendation for the way any other person should vote. I plan to vote for the Trump of my choice with the hope that things will get better. However, regardless of which way the world goes, reading what Struble said makes me look forward to the time when the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord, and He will reign for ever as a benevolent dictator.

While we are waiting for that golden daybreak when Jesus will come, as we have been admonished hundreds of times before, let's keep the main thing the main thing and keep sending the glorious, soul-saving Gospel of Christ around the world.

Thank you for your support and prayers,
Jim Fellure

God's Glory Unveiled In Christ

by Dr. James Jones, Jr.
100 pages \$9.00



No one could measure up to, make fully known, or minister God's glory more than He “. . . who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person . . .” (Heb. 1:3). Primarily, the initial three verses of Hebrews chapter one furnish the text for our study. “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.” The majority of our exposition will revolve around the truths discovered in these verses. What vivid, valuable, victorious and virtuous truths they are! God's Messenger, His Mediator, His might, His method of salvation and much more are discovered in this short passage.

Riches From Ruth, by Dr. James Jones, Jr., 273 pages \$12.00. **Psalm 119**, by Dr. James Jones, Jr., 301 pages \$12.00. **Notes on Prayer**, by Dr. James Jones, Jr., 100 pages \$9.00. **Alcohol Friend or Foe?** by Dr. James Jones, Jr., 129 pages \$10.00. **God's Glory Unveiled In Christ** by Dr. James Jones, Jr., 100 pages \$9.00. Total retail value \$52.00. Get a 10% discount when you purchase all five books for only \$42.00. Call it the **James Jones Special** when placing your order.

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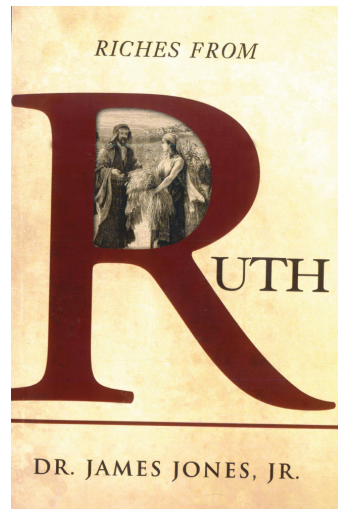
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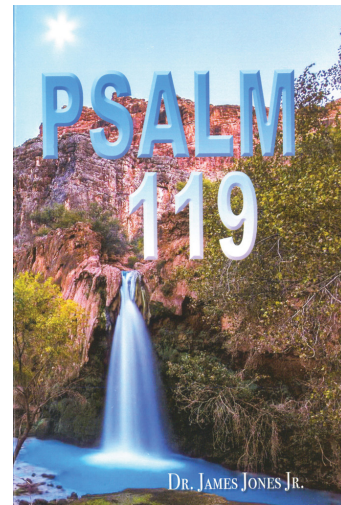
Riches From Ruth

by Dr. James Jones, Jr.
273 pages \$12.00

A preacher at the end of the nineteenth century said, “We cannot bring study too close, or accuracy too exact, or investigation too searching.” We find these principles followed in Dr. Jones’ *Riches From Ruth*.

The suggestive nature of this work in the areas of Bible history, prophecy, a reasonable numerology, soteriology, typology, and

ministry qualifies it as a college-level textbook. And just as well, there is the common warmth of practical application. The lessons with people in spiritual and moral matters, including showing the Glories of the Redeemer, the Kinsman, to any sinner, are truly rich.

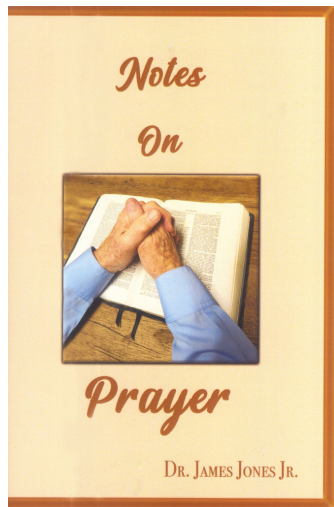


Psalm 119

by Dr. James Jones, Jr.
301 pages \$12.00

The Psalms were given to us out of various situations. Some examples are faith, grief, heartache, disappointment, fear, loneliness, repentance, victory, and celebration. There seems to be no occasion behind this psalm, only a devotion to the adoration of and allegiance to the Word of God. It is unique in that not only is it the longest,

but it is more than twice as long as others. Here, David is addressing the matter of the Lord’s trueness to His promise—His trustworthiness. Oh, how we should store this away as a guarded treasure in our hearts this wonderful, marvelous gift—the Word of God—that it might guard us as well!

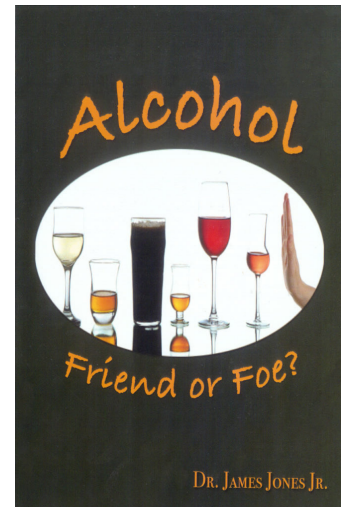


Notes on Prayer

by Dr. James Jones, Jr.
100 pages \$9.00

If someone asked you to describe your prayer life, how would you define it? Fruitful, productive, enjoyable, consistent, necessary, profitable, a struggle, or maybe even a failure; wondering at times if a practical prayer life is even possible. If you find yourself more in the struggle camp when it comes to your prayer life than

the master class, this book will help you.



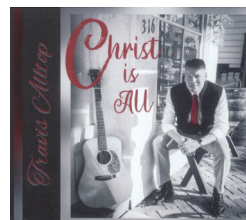
Alcohol Friend or Foe?

by Dr. James Jones, Jr.
129 pages \$10.00

If you are saved and you want an honest, clear biblical view on using alcohol as a beverage, this book is for you. Perhaps there are some passages regarding alcohol that are hard for you to understand. Dr. Jones addresses those troubling texts. Perhaps you have heard people proclaim that we are in the New

Testament church age and the age of grace, and the drinking of alcohol is acceptable in this day, and you honestly did not know how to respond. Dr. Jones covers this as well. You can read the book carefully as Dr. Jones effectively shows from the Scriptures that it is good and right to abstain from alcohol as a beverage.

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8. The Only Thing That Matters
9. Jesus Alone
10. What a Day
11. Let Me Tell You about Jesus
12. Christ Is All

Print Shop News



Al & Heidi Berg

Dear Friends and Supporters,
The print shop has gotten off to a good start this year. We got a truckload of paper at the close of 2023 and started printing English Bibles shortly after the new year began. Normally, it takes about six months to complete a truckload of paper, which includes printing, collating, binding, boxing, and getting ready to ship. We are now on the last stage of a five step process of collating and binding just under 22,000 English Bibles, and it is only the middle of March at the time of this writing. I give a special thanks to all of the volunteers who have made this possible, along with your prayers and giving.

We are always looking forward to the next project, which at this time is to be another load of Spanish Bibles. Our pastor, Bro. Tim Fellure, and Pastor Brent Logan are partnering together to do a special evangelistic project in Costa Rica later this year which will take a lot of Spanish Bibles. Another shipment will probably go to Bro. Don Rich in Peru to be distributed all over South America. It seems like the more he gets, the more requests he gets for them. It is a blessing to know that there are still people in the world hungry for the Word of God. In spite of all the bad news in the world today, the good news of Jesus’ coming, death, burial, and resurrection

is still good news, and unfortunately it is still new news to many multitudes of people. Missionaries have many needs that most of us Americans do not ever think of. Some we can help with, others just have to be dealt with by patience, experience, and the grace of God. Please help us make sure that Bibles are not on the list of needs for as many missionaries as possible.

We do not often get to hear results from the thousands of Bibles we send out, but we did hear of one recently that blessed my heart. One of our volunteers gave a Bible with the military themed cover on it to a neighbor for a son that is in the service. He was not really interested in God, but picked up the book because of the cover. He thought it had something to do with the military. It did not take long for him to figure out that it was a Bible, but his curiosity got the best of him, and he kept reading. I am told he reads it on a regular basis now. Pray that God’s words will shine the light into his dark soul.

It is still true that God’s Word will not return unto Him void. Not every person who reads it will get saved, but they will be without excuse. Even those who refuse to read it, but have an opportunity to, will have to answer to God for their negligence. I believe there are still many out there who would repent if they knew their true condition and what God has done to remedy that condition through His Son Jesus Christ.

May God bless you,
Bro. Albert Berg

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Plato wrote the first sentence of his famous Republic nine different ways before he was satisfied. Cicero practiced speaking before friends every day for thirty years to perfect his elocution. Noah Webster labored 36 years writing his dictionary, crossing the Atlantic twice to gather material. Milton rose at 4:00 am every day in order to have enough hours for his Paradise Lost. Gibbon spent 26 years on his Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire. Bryant rewrote one of his poetic masterpieces 99 times before publication, and it became a classic.

—Source Unknown

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Benefits & Blessings



Mrs. Pam Leake

It's Always Too Soon To Quit!

This morning after breakfast, as is my habit every morning along with my husband, I read through the Scriptures and two devotionals for the day. I like the routine and the consistency it imposes on me, otherwise I might be tempted to skip the practice to be involved in more "pressing" needs of the day. In truth, what could be more pressing than to feed my soul and be strengthened for what is awaiting me as the day wears on?

One thing I have found to be certain, and that is that nothing is really certain in this life (other than the proverbial "death and taxes"). I can make plans, and I can dream about what I hope will happen as my life proceeds to its end, but only the Lord knows, and He has me in His hand, so I must surrender to His will and enjoy the ride until He takes me home. Oh yes, that's often easier said than done! There have been many points along the way, thus far, where my body and mind have wanted to drop by the wayside and quit. You know . . . those stressful, overwhelming times that threaten to knock you down. It doesn't matter whether you are in your youth or prime of life, or like me, in the bonus years past threescore and ten, life happens. At those times, in my soul's distress, I can easily lose sight of the fact that I'm actually, literally, in Christ and He's in me, and I can do all things through Him who strengthens me!

One of my devotional readings this morning contained a quote that I've pondered all day, and which will likely remain in my mind to draw on when the rough times come. The author (a retired pastor who, no doubt, wrote from experience) said, ". . . don't quit . . . it is always too soon to quit." Thank you, Lord, for putting those words in front of me to read today, for You know me better than I know myself! You know what lies ahead, and I don't want to miss the victories and blessings You have planned.

There are multiple passages in God's Word that address my need of encouragement from and trust in the One who saved me to carry me through to the finish line. He's the Vine from which this branch draws sustenance and life. He even cares enough to see when I'm getting weak and struggling and to give me a boost from a passage of Scripture, a devotional, or a song that is just what I need. How loving He is!

A songwriter once wrote, "It's a battlefield, brother, not a recreation room; it's a fight and not a game." To that sentiment I'm sure you could say with me, TRUTH! And the grander truth is that, as a child of God, I have Him to walk with me through this battle, to hold me up and to sustain me. I can't quit, even if I'm discouraged and tired, because the Lord never quit on the road to Calvary. He finished the work He came to do, and He'll help me finish my race. As a matter of fact, I'm feeling greatly encouraged just proclaiming His wonderful love and faithfulness to me!

Note: Pam Leake served alongside her husband, Ed Leake, in the pastoral ministry for over thirty-four years. They make their home in Charlottesville, Virginia, and continue to serve the Lord as He opens doors of opportunity.

Pam's email address is leakepm@gmail.com.

"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee" (Isaiah 43:2).

*Is there any heart discouraged as it journeys on its way?
Does there seem to be more darkness than there is of sunny day?
Oh, it's hard to learn the lesson, as we pass beneath the rod,
That the sunshine and the shadow serve alike the will of God!
But there comes a word of promise like the promise in the bow—
That, however deep the waters, they shall never overflow.*

*When the flesh is worn and weary, and the spirit is depressed,
And temptations sweep upon it, like a storm on ocean's breast,
There's a haven ever open for the tempest-driven bird,
There's shelter for the tempted in the promise of the Word;
For the standard of the Spirit shall be raised against the foe,
And, however deep the waters, they shall never overflow.*

*When a sorrow comes upon you that no other soul can share,
And the burden seems too heavy for the human heart to bear;
There is One whose grace can comfort, if you'll give Him an abode;
There's a Burden-Bearer ready if you'll trust Him with your load;
For the precious promise reaches to the depth of human woe,
That, however deep the waters, they shall never overflow.*

*When the sands of life are ebbing, and I near the Jordan's shore,
When I see its waters rising, and I hear its billows roar,
I will reach my hand to Jesus, in His bosom I shall hide,
And 'twill only be a moment till I reach the other side.
It is then the fullest meaning of the promise I shall know.*

*"When thou passest through the waters, they shall never overflow."
—Author unknown
copied from Dr. Wayne Hudson's recent prayer letter*