

The Psalms: Infallible Inspiration For Living
Psalm 97
Inspiration for Our Actions

-Name an attribute of God that you love, tend to lean on, or that became apparent in a meaningful way

There are two focal points in Psalm 97:

Psalm 97 contains ten declarations of the glory of God's imposing majesty:

(1) His majesty invokes FEAR. (97:2a, 4)

-How does the darkness of this passage parallel with the Truth that God is Light?
-What is the difference between a healthy fear of God and simply being afraid of Him?

(2) His majesty is grounded in HOLINESS. (97:2b)

-How does Righteousness relate to Holiness?
-How does Justice relate to Holiness?
-Why is it important that God's throne is established in His Holiness instead of in His power alone?

(3) In His majesty, He effortlessly CONSUMES all who oppose Him. (97:3)

-How do you see God 'consuming those who oppose Him' today?

(4) In His majesty, nothing can PROTECT against His judgments. (97:5)

-What 'mountain' do you use to try to hide your sin/avoid His judgment?
-How has God specifically intervened to stop your disobedience or re-direct you?

(5) The UNIVERSE testifies to His majesty. (97:6)

-Where in creation have you been most struck by God's glory?
-According to Romans 1:20, what "excuse" is removed via creation and how is it removed?

(6) His majesty makes all the gods of man and those who trust in them look STUPID! (97:7)

-Read 1 Samuel 5:1-5

-What is one thing that God is tearing down that you keep setting back up?

(7) His majesty makes His people JOYOUS! (97:8)

-Where is God's judgment worth celebrating?

(8) His majesty is UNRIVALED. (97:9)

-Looking back to your one thing in Point 6 above:

-How does it rival your trust in God?

-How does it rival your worship of God?

-How would a different view of God's majesty change that?

(9) His majesty is seen in the eternal SECURITY He provides for all who belong to Him. (97:10b)

-Someone share the Gospel in less than 1 minute

-How is God's majesty connected to your secured eternity?

(10) His majesty is seen in the PROVISIONS He gives His people. (97:11)

-What does it mean that "light is sown for the righteous"?

-Share a time when God brought clarity or joy to you in a hard season

Psalm 97 gives us three rational responses to understanding the glory of God's imposing majesty:

(1) There is never a reason to WORRY! (97:1)

-Discuss and Describe some items, close to you, that you need the Lord to reign over

(2) There is never a reason to justify EVIL. (97:10)

-Discuss this statement from Austin's sermon: "Evil is every response and posture that's not oriented in total, glad submission to God."

-What sin are you most tempted to justify?

(3) There is never a reason to let go of JOY. (97:12)

-What is trying to steal your joy this week?

-How is your attitude supporting or defying that joy-thief?

-Name one attribute of God that overpowers that joy-thief

Challenge: What word best describes the ACTIONS of your life, and what does it say you believe about God?

Other Scriptures Mentioned: Exodus 19:16-19, 1 Chronicles 29:10-11, Psalm 19:1, Daniel 4:37, Matthew 24:30, John 10:28-29, Romans 1:20; 8:28, Revelation 1:7; 19:1-2; 20:9.

Discuss the Objective of the Month