(Psalm 37:1-8)

INTRODUCTION - (v25) "I have been young, and now am old, Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken nor his descendants begging bread"

In pressing times, hardship, difficulty, struggles, and wickedness surrounding us, we do not want to be alone, "forsaken."

- (v14) "The wicked plots against the just" (v32) "The wicked watches the righteous, and seeks to slay him" and the writer of the Psalm gives us hope:
  (v33) "The Lord will not leave him (us) in his hand (the hand of the wicked)"
- (Psalm 37) gives us principles that will increase our reliance on God and will anchor us in times of trouble and calamity.
- 1. (v3) "TRUST IN THE LORD ... " "trust" is also in v5 and v40

"Trust" - we choose to be confident; to possess a strong sense of security; dependence. (Psalm 61:2-3) "... when my heart is overwhelmed, lead me to the rock ... "
(Psalm 57:1) "my soul trusts in You ... until these calamities have passed by"

2. (v3) "Trust in the Lord, and DO GOOD ... "

The Psalm admonishes us to first think right (trust), and then act right ("do good").

- 3. (v3) "Trust in the Lord, and do good ... FEED ON HIS FAITHFULNESS"
  - "Feed on" (Matthew 5:6) "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled." No excuse to go away hungry from God's banquet table.
    (2 Timothy 2:14) "He remains faithful" (Titus 1:2) "God, who cannot lie"
- 4. (v4) "DELIGHT YOURSELF ALSO in the Lord"

May not find "delight" in our circumstances; however, it may be found "in the Lord." (Psalm 16:11) "You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy, at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

- 5. (v5) "COMMIT YOUR WAY TO THE LORD, trust also in Him, ... "
  - "Commit" to give it your all; a choice and contract of the heart; be resolute.
- 6. (v7) "Rest in the Lord, and WAIT PATIENTLY FOR HIM ... " also v9 and v34 (Psalm 27:14) "Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart ... "
- 7. (v7) " ... DO NOT FRET ... " also in v1, v8, and (Proverbs 24:19)

**"Fret" -** chafe or fume; brood or mope; become impatient or irritable. The fate of the "wicked" - v2, v10, v20, v34, v35-36