

Guzik: "Many commentators note the connection between Psalms 111 and 112. James Montgomery Boice observed, 'the two psalms are an obviously matched pair. The first is an acrostic poem about God; the second is an acrostic poem about the godly man.'"

JFB: "This Psalm may be regarded as an exposition of Psalms 111:10, presenting the happiness of those who fear and obey God, and contrasting the fate of the ungodly."

Psalms 112:1 ¶ Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man *that* feareth the LORD, *that* delighteth greatly in his commandments.

As in the previous psalm, the composer opens with "Hallelujah," or "praise ye the LORD." He picks up in this psalm where the previous psalm left off, stating the truth that the man that reverences the LORD and obeys His commandments is a blessed man, a happy man.

Commandments and rules are more naturally connected in our minds to keeping us from doing things we want to do. The person that reverences the LORD realizes that God's commands are intended for his good, for his protection. The wise child recognizes that loving, responsible parents make rules for the very same reason.

This verse is a companion to Psalm 1:2 in reference to the blessed man: "*But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*"

Psalms 112:2 His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

The words that stood out to me from the Hebrew for "mighty" were "excel" and "strong." The man that reverences the LORD and obeys His commands establishes a foundation from which his children are prepared to excel and be strong in the LORD. They, too, will find themselves blessed if they follow the spiritual example of their father. Sadly, this is not a guarantee that all the children of a godly man will follow his example. Each person is free to make their own choice.

Psalms 112:3 Wealth and riches *shall be* in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever.

This verse can be confusing if we understand it in light of what the world considers wealth and riches. Obviously, not every person that loves and obeys the LORD will be wealthy and rich from the world's point of view. From God's point of view, however, that person will possess spiritual wealth and riches that will last for eternity. There are

people that God blesses with both physical and spiritual wealth. Worldly wealth is left behind when one dies. Spiritual wealth endures for eternity.

Psalms 49:16–17 “Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased; For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him.”

Matthew 6:19–20 “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal....”

When a man reverences the LORD to the point of faith and obedience, one of his greatest treasures is that he will be declared righteous forever. We have been declared righteous in Jesus. That applies not only to the Christian today, but to every person that placed their faith in God in repentance and obedience even before Jesus came into the world to redeem us from sin.

2 Corinthians 5:20–21 “Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

Psalms 112:4 Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

The one that fears God will be able to see the light even in times of great darkness of sorrow, misery and/or wickedness. How is that possible? It is because God is gracious (kind and merciful), full of compassion (love and mercy) and righteous (just). He is always working for good in the lives of those that love Him. He comforts us in the dark times through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

2 Corinthians 1:3–4 “Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.”

Psalms 112:5 A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion.

The different translations certainly read differently on this verse, giving different shades of meaning. Of the eight that I checked, most align with the NIV.

NIV - *“Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with justice.”*

I think the truth is there no matter which way you read it. A “good” man will be kind and merciful to others, willing to lend in whatever way he can help. It is also true that God will return good to the person that is kind and merciful and willing to help others. This type of person will manage his affairs in accordance with God’s law, acting with moral integrity toward others.

Psalms 112:6 ¶ Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.

Psalms 112:7 He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD.

Psalms 112:8 His heart *is* established, he shall not be afraid, until he see *his desire* upon his enemies.

The person that truly reverences God will maintain his faith and character despite the darkness he/she may encounter. Though he would rather avoid it, he does not fear sorrow or evil. Why? Because he has complete faith in the LORD to do what is right and keep His promises. His heart is established; he is leaning upon the LORD in faith; he trusts God to sustain him. He knows that in the end the LORD will carry him through to victory over his enemies—be they physical or spiritual forces of evil. This person is one that is remembered forever—in the eyes and heart of God.

The three Hebrew children that were thrown in the fiery furnace are great examples of this type of faith.

Daniel 3:16–18 “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.”

Psalms 112:9 He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.

I liked the wording of the NLT for this verse: *“They give generously to those in need. Their good deeds will never be forgotten. They will have influence and honor.”*

This verse seems to be an exclamation point for what has been said previously. The person that fears the LORD will be kind and generous to the poor, freely giving to help supply their needs. God makes note of these actions and will reward him accordingly.

Psalms 112:10 The wicked shall see *it*, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away: the desire of the wicked shall perish.

The wicked are never happy when they see how God blesses those that reverence Him. They respond in anger. (Just watch the news each day!) They will one day find that their desires will die with them. Oh how they will wish they had been like the blessed man that feared the LORD!