PSALMS
Chapter 112

The Righteous Will Never Be Moved

Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in his commandments! 2 His offspring will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. 3 Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever. 4 Light dawns in the darkness for the upright; he is gracious, merciful, and righteous. 5 It is well with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice. 6 For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered forever. 7 He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD. 8 His heart is steady; he will not be afraid, until he looks in triumph on his adversaries. 9 He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn is exalted in honor. 10 The wicked man sees it and is angry; he gnashes his teeth and melts away; the desire of the wicked will perish!

Ps 112 A eulogy to the godly man—in the spirit of Ps 1 but formed after the pattern of Ps 111 and likely intended as its complement. (CSB)

Emphasis is on the person who fears the Lord by keeping in mind His words and works. (TLSB)

This psalm lists some of the characteristics of the upright man. He fears the Lord, that is, he believes, respects and obeys God's word. He finds pleasure in obeying God's word. His righteousness is described in the same terms as the Lord's: gracious, compassionate, and enduring forever. (PBC)

112:1 The basic theme, developed more fully in vv. 2–9. Verse 10 states its converse. See 1:1–2; 128:1. (CSB)

Blessed. Hbr *'ashar,* "happy, blissful" having God's gifts. See note, Gn 12:3. (TLSB p. 842)

delights – Luth: "A childlike and loving fear, of the sort with which a friend fears to offend a friend, or a son his father.… The Law did not have this fear, but the Spirit of fear gave it" (AE 11:384). (TLSB)

112:2 *offspring.* The godly man brings blessing to his children and is himself blessed through them. (CSB)

will be mighty. Will be persons of influence and reputation. (CSB)

generation of the upright – Descendants of believers. All humankind is corrupted by sin, but by God's gift of faith, we are created anew. (TLSB)

112:3 *Wealth and riches.* See 1:3; 128:2. (CSB)

This psalm is a good text for a study of Christian attitudes towards possessions. Paul quotes from this psalm in 2 Corinthians 9:9, which is part of his well-known discussion of stewardship. (PBC)

The blessed person not only receives earthly gifts from God to varying degrees but also the right attitude to enjoy them and use them in God's service. (TLSB)

endures. It is not an occasional characteristic of his actions (see "steadfast," v. 7). (CSB)

112:4 *darkness.* A metaphor for calamitous times. (CSB)

The upright see through this dark world by faith. They imitate God's attributes (Ex 34:6). (TLSB)

light. Often symbolizes well-being or life and salvation. (CSB)

112:5 *well.* Well-being and prosperity. (CSB)

*deals generously and lends*The upright use their blessings to help others as God has helped them. (TLSB)

112:6 *moved.* Disturb my well-being, unsettle my security. (CSB)

Supported and sustained by God, the upright cannot be moved from their beliefs or forgotten. (TLSB)

remembered forever. His righteousness will have erected an enduring memorial of honor in the memory of both God and man. (CSB)

112:7 *bad news* – Upright people do not fear setbacks and do not constantly worry about what could be lost. They know God will never lose them. (TLSB)

trusting. His trust in God will be as steadfast as his righteousness is enduring (see v. 3). For trust and obedience to God's righteous will as the sum of true godliness. (CSB)

112:8 *looks in triumph.* "Even in darkness light dawns" (v. 4). (CSB)

112:9 *horn* – An image of power. Animals with horns are bold; in Israelite thought, a horned animal with its head held high symbolized strength and triumph. (TLSB)

exalted in honor. As God's name is held in holy awe (see 111:9), so the godly man will be held in honor. (CSB)

112:10 The counterpart. (CSB)

see it and is angry. That godliness is the way to blessedness is the reverse of the expectations of the wicked (see 10:2–11; 107:42). (CSB)

gnashes his teeth – Extreme anguish. (TLSB)

Ps 112 Paul quotes v 9 in 2Co 9:9, the great stewardship chapter. The fear of the Lord leads us in the wisdom of generosity and contentment. • O Lord, give us a firm heart to trust in You, subduing our selfish nature in repentance and reviving us in Your righteousness. Amen. (TLSB)