



STAYING CONNECTED

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MCIVOR CHURCH FAMILY

August 16, 2026

PSALM 75 – A PSALM OF ASAPH

For the choir director: A song to be sung to the tune "Do Not Destroy!"

1 We thank you, O God! We give thanks because You are near. People everywhere tell of Your wonderful deeds.

2 God says, "At the time I have planned, I will bring justice against the wicked.

3 When the earth quakes and its people live in turmoil, I am the one who keeps its foundations firm.
Interlude

4 "I warned the proud, 'Stop your boasting!' I told the wicked, 'Don't raise your fists!

5 Don't raise your fists in defiance at the heavens or speak with such arrogance."

6 For no one on earth—from east or west, or even from the wilderness—should raise a defiant fist.

7 It is God alone who judges; He decides who will rise and who will fall.

8 For the Lord holds a cup in His hand that is full of foaming wine mixed with spices. He pours out the wine in judgment, and all the wicked must drink it, draining it to the dregs.

9 But as for me, I will always proclaim what God has done; I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.

10 For God says, "I will break the strength of the wicked, but I will increase the power of the godly."



REFLECTIONS ON PSALM 75 – PASTOR JON

Psalm 75 praises God that He is the judge of the earth—specifically, that God judges the wicked. In the Psalms, the wicked are something like a prototype for life lived apart from God. The wicked are not just people who don't go to church, or people who fail to keep God's commandments. The wicked are people who live in opposition to God. The wicked "*lift up their horn against heaven*" (v. 5), meaning that they see themselves as the highest authority there is.

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and His good intentions for His
creation, the wicked fill the earth with
suffering and death instead of the joyful
flourishing of life that God intends.**

In practice this suggests that the wicked are making a life for themselves in ways that dehumanize other people and destroy the world around them. They are using their strength to get stronger. They are keeping wealth and resources to themselves to insulate them from danger, harm and death. The result is that the wicked receive their prosperity and comfort at the expense of others. By rejecting God's rule over the earth and His good intentions for His creation, the wicked fill the earth with suffering and death instead of the joyful flourishing of life that God intends.

**What profit there is in living
according to God's Word?**

One of the problems the psalms wrestle with is exactly this reality, that the wicked often do quite well, while the righteous may not. Those who lift their heads up against heaven often seem quite successful, while a life lived by God's Word seems not to promise comfort or prosperity. In our world today, as it was back then, it seems like taking advantage of others through deception or coercion is

the clearest path to prosperity and financial gain. We might wonder what profit there is in living according to God's Word.

And so the perspective of God as the ultimate judge over the earth is something the psalms return to. Psalm 75:8 describes an interesting scene: God holds a cup in His hand, filled with wine mixed with spices, which He pours out on the wicked. This strange picture draws on another idea; that our actions and behaviour is like the fruit of our lives. So we are invited to imagine that God is harvesting the fruit of the wicked: all of their cruelty, abuse and violence, and mixing it together in a cup which they will one day be forced to drink.

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The sense is that God is the one who will ensure that the wicked are brought to justice. While the natural way of the world seems to be that the humble, the kind and the meek suffer at the hand of the wicked, God the great judge is committed to justice and will set all things right in the end.

For us, this is an encouragement in two parts: firstly, **we are encouraged to continue in righteousness.** Even though wickedness presents itself as an easier path to get what we think we want, in the end it leads to ruin. God will bring justice and that includes the setting right of all that wickedness has set wrong.

Secondly **we are encouraged that even though we may not see it now, God rules with justice and His plans for His creation will be accomplished in the end.**

**The way of the Righteous One leads to
life flowing out to all, washing away the
way of the wicked, so that the earth will
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**God's Word is confirmed to us in the
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God's Word is confirmed to us in the coming of Jesus, who took the weight of our wickedness onto Himself and put it to death, so that we could be restored to life in His presence. The way of the Righteous One leads to life flowing out to all, washing away the way of the wicked, so that the earth will be restored to God's good intentions.

TAKE AWAYS

1. CONTINUE IN RIGHTEOUSNESS.
2. REMEMBER THAT GOD RULES WITH JUSTICE AND HIS PLANS WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED.



Enjoying a beautiful day together this week at Donwood!

GIVING

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