

God's word has been particularly rich these past few weeks. As usual, the psalms have spoken livingly and honestly into this season of uncertainty. Monday, the lectionary directed us to Psalm 37. While nearly every statement in the psalm assures and instructs us in times of anxiety and fear, vv. 18-19 particularly got my attention:

*The Lord knows the days of the blameless, and their heritage will remain forever; they are not put to shame in evil times; in the days of famine they will have abundance.*

Good, correct theology establishes that any claim to blamelessness is ours only through the exchange that happened at the Cross: 2 Cor 5:20-21. In addition, God assures me in his word, through the rhythm of daily liturgical prayers, and through encouragement of other saints that I am held in grace. On that basic, I'll accept that I am among those God counts as blameless. Therefore, this marvelous text from Psalm 37 tells me/us that:

- God knows our days. Our times are in his hands. Matt 6:25-27
- Our heritage will remain forever. That can't be our stock portfolio. That can't be our houses or lands. It cannot be our deeds, remembered on earth. It has to be something untouchable by moth and rust, treasures in heaven invested through living (however limpingly) toward the priorities of the Kingdom of God. Matt 6:19-33
- We will not be put to shame in evil times. Our work, in and for Christ, will never be in vain. 1 Cor 15:58
- If days of famine (or empty grocery shelves), we will have abundance. Whatever "abundance" may or may not mean, we are promised it: John 10:10; John 4:34.

These few thoughts do not begin to plumb the depths of these promises. I encourage you: chew on them yourself. But first, **receive and believe this promise of hope** – and then dig into it for yourself.