

*“Why boastest thou thyself in mischief, O mighty man? The goodness of God endureth continually. Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. Thou lovest evil more than good; and lying rather than to speak righteousness. Selah. Thou lovest all devouring words, O thou deceitful tongue. God shall likewise destroy thee forever, He shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living. Selah. The righteous also shall see, and fear, and shall laugh at him: ‘Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness.’ But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever. I will praise Thee forever, because thou hast done it: and I will wait on Thy name; for it is good before Thy saints.” **Psalms 52 KJV***



God will destroy the unbeliever in a continuing, never-ending torment of destruction! The unbeliever will writhe in black agony, eternally! Unbelievers may say they believe and think that they do, but if there is no obedience to God's Word through faith, you only deceive yourself! Those who believe God, obey God. *“And hereby we do know that we know Him, [God] if we keep His commandments. He that saith, ‘I know Him,’ and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the Truth is not in him.”* Unbelievers boast of their own deeds and wealth and take pride in their ability to survive by their wits. Did you know that “partying” is evil? *“Wine is a mocker, strong drink [booze] is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.”* The “feel-good” of the drinker, drug user, and pleasure seeker is but an escape from the reality of their sin! Unless you face, admit, and repent of your sin, *“God shall likewise destroy thee forever!”* By contrast, the believer is like *“a green olive tree.”* Olive trees withstand circumstance and time. Some are over a thousand years old. Their longevity, fruit, and green leaves manifest the water their sturdy roots have found even in barren ground. Though weather and time split and scar, they continue to grow and bear. They are not necessarily a “pretty” tree, but their fruit is highly prized. Its oil is a chef's favorite and is also used for healing and light. Olives, green or ripe, grace many elegant tables. In the olive tree we find a parallel to the believer. Our sustenance may not be apparent to the observer, but it will be manifested by our life and fruit of our actions. *“Rooted and built up in Him, [Christ] and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.”* To this day we partake of the fruit of believers like Paul, Peter, Daniel, John, Isaiah, Moses, and many others like Tyndale, Wycliffe, Bunyan, Livingston, and Elliot, who gave their lives in testimony to the *“Living Water”* they had found in the barren landscape of temporal life. Is your life *“a green olive tree”* bearing undisputable testimony to the invisible Spirit who is the eternal God? *“That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.”* Does the fruit of your labor grace the world? Your words give healing and light? *“Being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.”* Does your conversation invite others to partake of eternal Life? Does your fruit bear seed that grows in good ground? Can seekers find *“Christ in you? The Hope of Glory?”*

The man who lives by faith alone,
Will testify to sin atoned;
Like mighty tree by river's run,
No storm nor time will leave undone! ~CGP

You can escape this life through substance abuse and pleasure, but you will pay the Piper come Judgment Day! Or, you can escape this life through faith in God, have your needs provided here, and have “*pleasures forevermore*” in eternity in God’s presence! Where is your soul planted? Where do your roots seek sustenance? Truth or self? The Water from the Rock of Salvation eternally sustains those who anchor firmly to its unshakable foundation! You will know them for they shall be like “*a green olive tree.*”

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in His law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” Psalms 1:1-3 KJV

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