

You Become What You Behold

Psalms 111-112 | Part 19, Psalms Series | Hope City Church

CENTRAL QUESTION

What are you beholding, and what is it turning you into?

I. We Become What We Pay Attention To

- We naturally pick up the mannerisms of whoever we spend the most time watching. Kids pick up their parents' habits. Coworkers start to sound alike after years side by side.
- This is human nature. We become like what we pay attention to.

II. A Portrait of a Righteous Man (Psalm 112:1-6)

Key Text: Psalm 112:1-6

- Reads Psalm 112:1-6 first and asks the room to hold the picture of this man before moving on.
- He fears the Lord, delights in His commandments, has wealth and righteousness in his house, and is gracious, merciful, and just.

III. A Portrait of the Lord (Psalm 111)

Key Text: Psalm 111

- Reads all of Psalm 111, described as a song about someone else entirely: the Lord.
- His works are full of splendor and majesty, His righteousness endures forever, He is gracious and merciful, faithful, and holy.

IV. Psalm 112 Is a Reflection of Psalm 111

Hebrew Word Study: Both psalms are acrostics in Hebrew, 22 lines each, one for every letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The structure says "let me show you this A to Z," the full picture of who God is.

- Points out the psalms use identical language: "his righteousness endures forever" appears in both 111:3 and 112:3. "Gracious and merciful" appears in both 111:4 and 112:4.
- The order matters. Psalm 111 (God) comes before Psalm 112 (the righteous man). You don't know what a righteous man looks like until you've seen God first.

V. Finishing Psalm 112: Righteous Man vs. Wicked Man (Psalm 112:7-10)

Key Text: Psalm 112:7-10

- Reads the rest of the psalm. The righteous man isn't afraid of bad news, his heart is firm, and he gives freely to the poor.
- The wicked man, by contrast, watches this and is consumed by anger until his desire perishes.

VI. Beholding, Not a Checklist

- Being good isn't a list of do's and don'ts you check off.
- There is no righteousness apart from God. Psalm 112 doesn't exist without Psalm 111 behind it.
- You become like whatever you fix your attention on. There's no neutral setting. You're either becoming righteous or becoming wicked.

VII. Beholding Produces Transformation

Key Text: 2 Corinthians 3:18

- As we behold the Lord's glory, we're transformed into His image, one degree of glory at a time.
- This is a process. Nobody becomes fully like Christ overnight.

VIII. What Are We Really Looking At?

- Illustration: his wedding day, standing face to face with Amanda, with no awareness of anyone else in a room full of people.
- What if we looked at the Lord that way instead of our phones, our jobs, or whatever else is competing for our attention?

IX. A Personal Word

- Isaiah Wilson was nothing like Jesus before Christ, and is thankful he's still being transformed, not who he was a year, a month, or even a week ago.

Closing

- Psalm 112 isn't asking you to do more. It's showing you what beholding God actually produces.
- There's no standing still. You're moving toward righteousness or away from it, based on what you behold.
- Invitation to prayer and to readjust where our focus has been.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

1. What's getting most of your attention right now, and what is it slowly shaping you into?
2. Read Psalm 111 and Psalm 112 side by side. Where do you see the righteous man reflecting who God is?
3. Where have you tried to become "good" through a checklist instead of through beholding God?
4. Paul says we're transformed "from one degree of glory to another." Where have you seen God change you slowly instead of all at once?
5. What would it look like this week to fix your eyes on Christ the way you'd fix your eyes on someone you love?

Scripture References: Psalm 112:1-10 | Psalm 111:1-10 | 2 Corinthians 3:18