

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 73 TITLE: "The End Of Envy"

A Psalm of Asaph.

- 1 Truly God is good to Israel (*the church*),
to those who are **pure in heart**.
- 2 But as for me, **my feet had almost stumbled**,
my **steps had nearly slipped**.
- 3 For I was **envious** of the arrogant
when I saw the **prosperity** of the wicked.
- 4 For they have **no pangs** until death;
their **bodies** are fat and sleek.
- 5 They are **not in trouble** as others are;
they are **not stricken** like the rest of mankind. (*got it easy*)
- 6 Therefore **pride** is their **necklace**;
violence covers them as a **garment**.
- 7 Their **eyes** swell out through fatness;
their hearts overflow with follies.
- 8 They scoff and speak with malice;
loftily they **threaten** oppression.
- 9 They **set their mouths against the heavens** (*mock God*),
and their **tongue struts** through the earth (*boasting*).
- 10 Therefore his people turn back to them,
and find no fault in them.
- 11 And they say, "**How can God know?** (*What does He know?*)
Is there knowledge in the Most High?"
- 12 Behold, these are the wicked;
always at ease, they increase in riches.
- 13 **All in vain** have I kept my heart clean
and washed my hands in innocence.
- 14 For all the day long I have been **stricken**
and rebuked every morning.
- 15 If I had said, "I will speak thus,"
I would have betrayed the generation of your children.
- 16 But when I **thought how to understand this**, (*faith*)
it seemed to me a **wearisome** task,
- 17 **until I went into the sanctuary of God**; (*Church*)
then I **discerned their end**. (*judgment/justice*)
- 18 Truly **you** set them in **slippery places**; (*they trippin'*)
you make them **fall to ruin**.
- 19 How **they are destroyed in a moment**,
swept away utterly by **terrors**!
- 20 Like a dream when one **awakes**, O Lord,
when **you** rouse yourself, **you despise** them as phantoms.
- 21 When my soul was **embittered**,
when I was **pricked in heart**, (*conviction/repentance*)
- 22 I was **brutish and ignorant**;
I was like a beast toward you.
- 23 Nevertheless, I am continually with **you**;
you hold my right hand.
- 24 **You** guide me with your counsel,
and afterward **you** will receive me to glory.
- 25 **Whom have I in heaven but you?**
And there is **nothing on earth that I desire besides you**.
- 26 My **flesh** and my **heart** may fail,
but **God is the strength** of my heart and my portion **forever**.
- 27 For behold, **those who are far from you shall perish**;
you put an **end to everyone who is unfaithful to you**.
- 28 But for me it is **good to be near God**;
I have made the Lord **GOD** my refuge, (*faith*)
that I may **tell** of all your works

Intro: **Asaph** = Church Singer/Songwriter. Worship.

Main Idea: "Confessing sin and Believing God's goodness is only end to our envy."

I. I Was Jealous (1-15)

- A. **v1** Theme Verse. We'll come back.
- B. **v2-3** I was tripping. Off-balance. Priorities mixed up. Tempted. Jealous. Envious. Misaligned. Out of Focus. **ILLUSTRATION: Drunk Goggles.**
- C. **v4-7** Ideal #instalife. Food. Health. Fitness. Fashion. Easy/glamorous Life. No troubles.
- D. **v8-12** "God-Mockers". Boasting. Proud. Insult heaven. Threats. Hatred. Haters of God. (Us!)
- E. **V13-14** Complaining to God. Honesty. "This is pointless!" "Why do I keep doing this?" "Why am I trying so hard?" "It's too hard" "I give up" "is this even worth it?" "cant do this anymore" "what the point?" "it's not fair".
- F. **v15** say this out loud, might lead people astray.

APPLICATION: 1) Examples/Scenarios. [BACK]

2) We can go to Jesus with our complaints/frustrations; he's the only one who can hear, understand and handle them without temptation. Mature friend. Confessors. Strong. Trustworthy.

II. My Eyes Were Opened (16-22)

- A. **v16-17** I went to back to church. Reminded.
- B. **v18-20** God will punish. They will get what's coming to them. Their eyes will be opened. "I was trippin. They trippin." Judgment.
- C. **v21-22** My eyes were opened. Convicted.

ILLUSTRATION: Titanic's "Just Missed It" Club.

Luxury Cruise Ship. They were jealous/angry until they realized the fate of the passengers. Relief. **Hershey.**

APPLICATION: 1) Our attitude shouldn't be haughtiness or delight thinking about the retribution that's coming, but rather we should **pity/warn/pray.**

III. God Is So Good (23-28)

- A. You. you. you. you. you. you. you.
- B. God is so good. v1
- C. Better to be **with** God than anywhere else.
- D. Better to **have** God than anything/anyone else.
- E. He will hold. Keep us. Give us strength.

ILLUSTRATION: Jack Clifton. He holds my hand.

APPLICATION: 1) JESUS. Help me. Hold me. Keep me. Give me joy. Peace. Contentment. Satisfy me.

2) Only Gospel can put an end to our envy. **Rom.7**

CONCLUSION: ABC's of Repentance. How to.

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I. APP: Examples/Scenarios:

- > Greedy/Crooked/Dishonest/Corrupt/Abusive/Fraudulent/Suck-up/Cheating/Credit-taker/Mooch
- > Immorality - Movies, TV, Celebrities, Comedy, Crudeness, inappropriate joking, “sex sells”.
- > Why is the girls at high school who show the most skin or on social media, act and dress provocatively, seductively or flirty are the ones who get the attention, views, likes, friends, etc.
- > Why does it so often seem that the faithful marriage husband and wife can’t get pregnant, but the couples who are sexually immoral can. *Abortion debate is about sexual freedom revolution.*
- > Why are the guys who are arrogant, harsh, proud, even sometimes jerks seem to get the praise, respect, promotions, attention from girls, media, etc.
- > Why do spoiled kids get their parents to get them the new car, truck, phone, tablet, toy, etc.
- > God! It’s not fair! What’s the point? It’s too hard. In that moment, “My feet almost slipped.” Lost perspective. It’s hard to believe God’s goodness and pursue holiness in a materialistic world.