

Reflection Questions: Am I fulfilling the reason for which I was created? How do I respond when I feel like life is unfair? Do I truly believe and act like *the nearness of God is my good*? Have I *made the Lord God my refuge*? Am I telling others of all His works? Is there anything in my life that I knowingly treasure more than God? How can I fix this?

How can we pray for one another and our church this week?

Quotes to Ponder

When we think that prosperity is the sure sign that God is blessing us, we'll get into trouble every time because there is always someone who is more prosperous than we. Envy begins to grow in the polluted swamp of that kind of confusing comparison.... The purpose of our life is to meet & know the living God and to come into an intimate relationship with Him. The years of this life, however long or short they be, are for one purpose—to know Him personally and to spend eternity with Him.

Lloyd Jon Ogilvie

Worship puts God at the center of our vision.... It is vitally important because it is only when God is at the center of our vision that we see things as they really are.

Roy Clements

The Westminster Shorter Catechism begins with a very famous question: "What is the chief end of man?" The answer is also celebrated: "The chief end of man is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever." What does the catechism mean by "enjoying" God? The authors ... cite one Bible text as the foundation for what it means to enjoy God: Psalm 73:25.

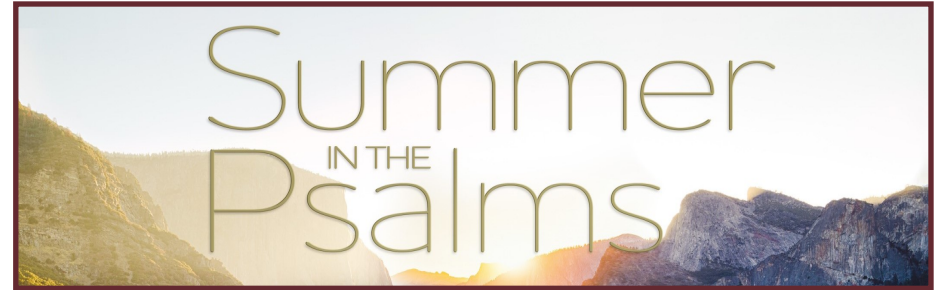
W. Robert Godfrey

The power of envy is such that it made even the Garden of Eden feel like it was not enough. No wonder the psalmist almost slipped and turned from God. Don't let yourself slip into envy, or you will destroy your own joy.

Timothy Keller

While many saints are poor and afflicted, the prosperous sinner is neither. He is worse than other men, and yet he is better off; he ploughs least, and yet has the most fodder. He deserves the hottest hell, and yet has the warmest nest.

Charles Spurgeon



Psalm 73

Sermon
Notes

July 25, 2021

1. Life Isn't Fair

A. A Heart Problem

B. An Envy Problem

C. God's Goodness and Spvereignty Aren't the Problem

2. God Isn't Fair (He's Gracious)

A. Take Responsibility

B. Think Biblically

C. Meet With God and His People

D. Gain God's Perspective

E. God is our Treasure

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you? Comforted you?
2. What caused Asaph to write *Psalms 73*?
3. Is it a sin to struggle with doubt? How can we be honest about our doubts without sinning? Explain.
4. List what Asaph says in *Psalms 73* about the ungodly and himself at the beginning of the psalm. List what he says about them after entering God's presence?
5. In what ways are we tempted to envy the wicked? How can we guard against these wrongful desires?
6. What was it that caused Asaph to see the bigger picture?
7. What does *Psalms 73* teach about envy and bitterness?
8. While *Proverbs (16:18; 18:12)* teaches that the proud will fall, in *Psalms 73* they seem to succeed. How do we reconcile this?
9. Read *Proverbs 23:17*. What do we do when the wicked seem to prosper while those who fear the Lord seem to suffer?
10. When asked, "How can a good and all-powerful God let innocent people suffer terrible trials?" how do you respond? Is your response biblical?
11. What does *James 4:8* promise those who come to God?
12. To what does *James 1:11* compare a rich man and his pursuits?
13. Read *Luke 16:15*. How does God feel about what is highly esteemed among men?
14. What is it which mainly makes you desire to go to heaven when you die? Be honest.
15. How can we come to the place where we can honestly say, *besides You, I desire nothing on earth (Psalm 73:25)*?
16. Asaph concludes *Psalms 73* by saying God is his refuge. When and how has God been a refuge for you?
17. What has helped you most to treasure God above all else? What has hindered you in this quest?
18. What are the benefits of meeting regularly with God in the company of His people?