

## Envyng the Evildoer

### Psalm 73

#### Introduction:

1. When a believer is encountering problems, the temptation is to look at others who are not God's children, see their prosperity, and become envious.
2. Satan desires that we look horizontally (at others), not vertically (at Christ) when going through problems.
3. The great man of God, David, fell prey to this temptation (vs. 3). He became very envious of the wicked and their prosperity.
4. What does it mean to be envious of someone? It means to \_\_\_\_\_ what others have and wish you had it.
5. Is envy really a sin? Let's read Romans 1:28-31 and Galatians 5:19-21.
6. In Psalm 73, David gives us some valuable principles to remember when we are going through problems, and our hearts are tempted to become envious of others.

#### What happens when we become envious of others?

1. We become \_\_\_\_\_. vs. 16; cf. Proverbs 14:30
2. We become centered on \_\_\_\_\_. vs. 12-14
3. We begin asking ridiculous questions:
  - Why isn't God just and fair?
  - Is trying to live for God really worth it? vs. 13
  - Why does God bless others, but not me? vs. 1-2

#### What causes us to become envious of others?

1. A lack of \_\_\_\_\_ discernment. vs. 3, 5, 7
  - Spiritual discernment causes us to look at invisible, \_\_\_\_\_ things, not outward, temporal prosperity. 2 Corinthians 4:17-18
2. A dissatisfaction with what God has \_\_\_\_\_. vs. 3

- *“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.” **Philippians 4:11***
  - *“But godliness with contentment is great gain.” **1 Timothy 6:6***
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ of ourselves with others. vs. 12, 14
- *“For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you.” **2 Corinthians 10:12-13***

#### **How do we overcome the sin of envy?**

1. Focus on the intangible \_\_\_\_\_ of God. vs. 25-26;  
cf. Psalm 37:16-17
  - *“As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.” **2 Corinthians 6:10***
2. Look past the present to the \_\_\_\_\_. vs. 17-19, 27; cf. 37:37-38
3. Draw \_\_\_\_\_ to God. vs. 17, 26, 28

#### **In Conclusion:**

1. If we are to overcome life’s problems, we cannot allow ourselves to become focused on others and become envious of what they have and possess, or become envious that their lives seem trouble free.
2. All this ultimately does is end up \_\_\_\_\_ us.