

The First Baptist Church of Columbus

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Sermon Notes Outline for video posted September 20, 2020

T I T L E: WHEN ENVY SUPPLANTS THE GOODNESS OF GOD

T E X T: Psalm 73

**I. ...THE FOCUS OF OUR MIND IS ON THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD,
THE THINGS THAT ARE, RATHER THAN THE THINGS THAT WILL BE.**

- A. In this world the things that are, i.e. the things we experience or observe often tempt us to doubt the basic biblical truth that God is good, all the time.

Note Asaph's temptation... Psalm 73:2–3 ---- 2 But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling, my steps had almost slipped. 3 For I was envious of the arrogant As I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

The things he experienced or observed: **mockery and oppression of the righteous, v. 8; rebellion against the Lord, v. 9; divine punishment or discipline was the farthest thing from their minds, v. 11; wicked living in comfort and abundance, v. 4; appear to be devoid of trouble nor are they plagued like mankind, v. 5**

God did not seem fair.

Psalm 73:13–14 ---- **13** Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and washed my hands in innocence; **14** For I have been stricken all day long and chastened every morning. **16** When I pondered to understand this, it was troublesome in my sight.

- B. When our minds are focused on the things of this world we may be tempted to regret living righteously.

Psalm 73:12–14 ---- **12** Behold, these are the wicked; And always at ease, they have increased in wealth. **13** Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and washed my hands in innocence; **14** For I have been stricken all day long and chastened every morning.

Colossians 3:2 ---- Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

II. ...IT IS POSSIBLE THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD HAS COOLED DOWN AND OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORLD HAS WARMED UP. V. 16-17

- A. When we neglect the Lord's perspective on the world around us the world around us will cause us great consternation.

Psalm 73:16–17 ---- **16** When I pondered to understand this, it was troublesome in my sight **17** Until I came into the sanctuary of God; Then I perceived their end.

- B. When we neglect the Lord's perspective on the world around us our value system will be more worldly than other worldly, i.e. we are citizens of heaven.

The psalmist was being tempted to succumb to the ways of the world.

- C When our faith in the Lord is about to be supplanted by envy of the world the Lord may restore our faith with a remnant of righteousness that prevents our falling away from the faith. V. 15

- D. When God's perspective of the world around us is revealed and understood our envy of the world around us will disappear and our faith in His goodness will be restored.

Conclusion: Lewis Sperry Chafer wrote with keen insight, "The world and 'worldly' Christians turn to so-called 'worldly' things because they discover in them an anesthetic to deaden the pain of an empty heart and life."