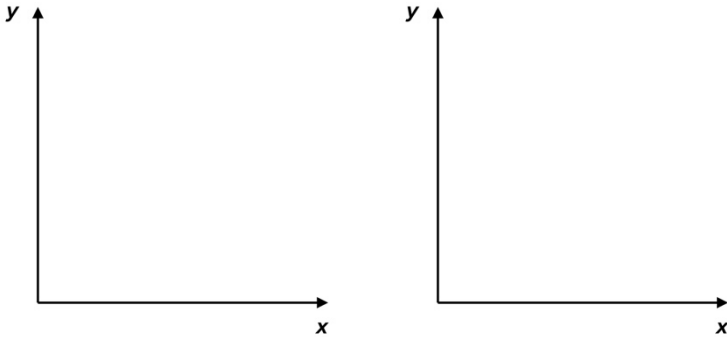


Do You Want To Quit?



Best Reminders For Our Weary Souls:

1. God sees **ALL THINGS**.
Proverbs 15:3
2. Jesus **COVERS** the sins of the **BELIEVER**.
Hebrews 8:12
3. The sins of the **UNRIGHTEOUS** will not go **UNPUNISHED**.
Numbers 32:23
4. **PRIDE** goes before **DESTRUCTION**.
Proverbs 16:18
5. The **WILL** of God is often very **CONFUSING**.
Psalm 55:8-9
6. God sees and hears your cries for **MERCY** and **JUSTICE**.
Psalm 34:17
7. God's **PATIENCE** has **LIMITS**.
2 Peter 3:8-10
8. Everyone will **REAP** what they **SOW**.
Galatians 6:7
9. May we be agents of **RECONCILIATION** to advocate for our **ENEMIES** to God.
1 Peter 3:12

Food for Thought

For the week of August 9, 2020

(Questions and Scriptures for further study & discussion)

WHAT'S YOUR HIGHLIGHT?

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

On a scale of 1 to 10, how weary is your soul right now?

Which one of the nine reminders for our weary souls from Christopher's sermon do you find to be the most comforting and why?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. In the passage this weekend, we saw Herod struck down because he did not give glory to God, but rather accepted praise from the people as if he were a god. Based on these verses about God being a jealous God, why do you think He doesn't want to share His glory?

Exodus 20:1-6 New International Version (NIV)

And God spoke all these words:

² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³ "You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Exodus 34:11-16 New International Version (NIV)

¹¹ Obey what I command you today. I will drive out before you the Amorites, Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ¹² Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land where you are going, or they will be a snare among you. ¹³ Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones and cut down their Asherah poles. ¹⁴ Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

¹⁵ "Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land; for when they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to them, they will invite you and you will eat their sacrifices. ¹⁶ And when you choose some of their daughters as wives for your sons and those daughters prostitute themselves to their gods, they will lead your sons to do the same.

2. Solomon warns us about how we respond to praise in Proverbs 27:21. In what ways does praise test us?

Proverbs 27:21 New International Version (NIV)

²¹ The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but people are tested by their praise.

Can you think of a time when receiving praise from others has been a test for you?

Throughout Scripture, people who humble themselves before God receive honor. How do the following verses help us understand the connection between us receiving honor and God deserving glory?

Proverbs 31:28-31 New International Version (NIV)

- ²⁸ Her children arise and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her:
²⁹ “Many women do noble things,
but you surpass them all.”
³⁰ Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
³¹ Honor her for all that her hands have done,
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

1 Samuel 2:30 New International Version (NIV)

³⁰ “Therefore the LORD, the God of Israel, declares: ‘I promised that members of your family would minister before me forever.’ But now the LORD declares: ‘Far be it from me! Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained.’

Psalms 31:23-24 New International Version (NIV)

- ²³ Love the LORD, all his faithful people!
The LORD preserves those who are true to him,
but the proud he pays back in full.
²⁴ Be strong and take heart,
all you who hope in the LORD.

Psalms 115:1, 13 New International Version (NIV)

Not to us, LORD, not to us
but to your name be the glory,
because of your love and faithfulness.
¹³ he will bless those who fear the LORD—
small and great alike.

James 4:4-10 New International Version (NIV)

⁴ You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? ⁶ But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”
⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

What do these passages teach us about humility?

After reading the verses above, is there anything regarding humbling ourselves you may be able to implement more in your life?

3. In the first part of Acts 12 covered in last week’s message, we saw Peter imprisoned despite being in the will of God. Meanwhile, Herod actively fought against God’s church and seemingly got away with it, living a prosperous life. In the passage this week, however, Herod came to ruin in the end. Psalm 73 speaks to the apparent prosperity of the wicked. As you read these verses:

1. Circle / **highlight** any words or phrases that show the writer’s mindset or emotions throughout the Psalm.
2. Underline anything that speaks to where God is in this passage.
3. Put an X next to anything that confuses you.

Psalm 73 New International Version (NIV)

Surely God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.
² But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;
I had nearly lost my foothold.
³ For I envied the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
⁴ They have no struggles;
their bodies are healthy and strong.
⁵ They are free from common human burdens;
they are not plagued by human ills.
⁶ Therefore pride is their necklace;
they clothe themselves with violence.
⁷ From their callous hearts comes iniquity;
their evil imaginations have no limits.
⁸ They scoff, and speak with malice;
with arrogance they threaten oppression.
⁹ Their mouths lay claim to heaven,
and their tongues take possession of the earth.
¹⁰ Therefore their people turn to them
and drink up waters in abundance.
¹¹ They say, "How would God know?
Does the Most High know anything?"
¹² This is what the wicked are like—
always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.
¹³ Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure
and have washed my hands in innocence.
¹⁴ All day long I have been afflicted,
and every morning brings new punishments.
¹⁵ If I had spoken out like that,
I would have betrayed your children.
¹⁶ When I tried to understand all this,

it troubled me deeply
¹⁷ till I entered the sanctuary of God;
then I understood their final destiny.
¹⁸ Surely you place them on slippery ground;
you cast them down to ruin.
¹⁹ How suddenly are they destroyed,
completely swept away by terrors!
²⁰ They are like a dream when one awakes;
when you arise, Lord,
you will despise them as fantasies.
²¹ When my heart was grieved
and my spirit embittered,
²² I was senseless and ignorant;
I was a brute beast before you.
²³ Yet I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.
²⁴ You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will take me into glory.
²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you?
And earth has nothing 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 Those who are far from you will perish;
you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.
²⁸ But as for me, it is good to be near God.
I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge;
I will tell of all your deeds.

What stood out to you in doing this exercise?

Have you ever experienced a time where it seemed like others who were disobedient to God were prospering while you were being obedient to God but facing trial and hardship?

If so, do you find any similarities between your thoughts in that situation and the writer's experience in Psalm 73?

How does the Psalm writer's mindset and attitude shift throughout the passage? What caused that shift?

Is there anything from the Psalm writer's ultimate conclusion in verses 23-28 you can learn from or be encouraged by in your own life?



NORTH COAST SUMMER SERIES & CLASSES

We have one class left this summer! Check out our website for more details! northcoastchurch.com/classes

Summer Study Series: Is God Evil? with Pastor Christopher Hilken, Friday, August 14 at 7pm
(Streaming online on our Facebook page and YouTube channel.)

*We had a great collection of classes this summer that covered a variety of topics.
To watch recordings of these classes, please visit our website: northcoastchurch.com/classes*