

Psalm 73 1-6, 16-19, 25-26

- 1 Truly God is good to Israel,
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.
- 6 Therefore pride is their necklace;
violence covers them as a garment.

- 16 But when I thought how to understand this,
it seemed to me a wearisome task,
- 17 until I went into the sanctuary of God;
then I discerned their end.

- 18 Truly you set them in slippery places;
you make them fall to ruin.
- 19 How they are destroyed in a moment,
swept away utterly by terrors!

- 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.

Today: June 4, 2023

Worship in Reading and Song:

Christ is All
Sovereign Over Us
Show us Christ

Teaching of the Word:

James 4-5: *The Life of Faith in the Meantime*

Worship through Giving and Song

Collection of Tithes and Offerings
As the Deer
O Great God
Living Hope
Now to Him

Notices

LOCATION CHANGE NEXT 2 WEEKS:

June 11 & 18: Church will be here again at Abe Martin Lodge. On Fathers Day (June 18th) we will meet at 10am

The Workshop

Men's Bible and character study. This is an ongoing study that meets on the first Sunday morning of every month at 7:30 am. Meeting location is at Robb Besosa's wood shop: 460 Salt Creek Rd.

Next Workshop meeting: July 2

Live Streaming:

If you cannot attend in person, you can join us by clicking the button on our home page at **vineandbranch.family**

Email list:

If you attend regularly and want to be included on the email list, provide your email to Ian Smith. These are set out 2-3 times per month and include prayer requests and announcements.

Please check out vineandbranch.family for a more detailed calendar and to listen to past sermons.

James 4:13-5:12

James delivers a hardcore sermon to their persecutors:

(The Whoopin' of the Rich)

He tells them: Your life is a vapor, your boasting is evil, and your wealth will be a witness against you in the impending judgement because of your many sins against the poor.

This is encouragement: James comforts the believers by allowing them to see what's in store for their persecutors.

Take heart!

- The evil doers will get what's coming to them
- Wait in faith for the judgement - which is going to be good thing
- Don't grumble, but have patience in the meantime - like Job and the Prophets did
- Flee faithless idolatry - don't make oaths on created things

In the meantime:

Pray in suffering! Sing praise in times of gladness! ***"Is any merry? let him sing psalms."***
Singing lifts the heart further and glorifies the Lord to a wider audience
Our time of worship together is a faith-building, faith-strengthening exercise, and you should never skip the fellowship of the saints.

5:14 "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven."

James offers a simple, sensible charge – call the elders and have them come and pray for you. This would apply to not only for physical sickness, but for any sickness, weakness or feebleness including the sickness of sin and a weak faith. There is a strengthening, healing power in faithful prayer.

Confess sins, be forgiven, and live in the LIGHT!

Go get the wanderers, and bring them back! To rescue a wandering Christian is to pull him back into the life of faith, where they will go from "just hearing" the word to obeying it. This rescue will cover a multitude of sins.

- 1) Read James for the rest of your lives: Start a Bible reading plan and stick with it.
- 2) Take joy in Trials. ***1:2-4: Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness...***
- 3) Don't neglect the doing! ***1:22: "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."***
- 4) Stay humble. ***4:10: "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you."***
- 5) Stay in fellowship and pray! The life of faith is not the life of a loner. Confess your sins, be forgiven, pray, and stay in the light! ***5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.***

Encouragement is given in the promise of "justice will be done." In the meantime, humble reliance on God; patience in suffering, righteousness, and prayer are the *works of faith* necessary to navigate trials and uncertainties, live in the light, and restore those who have wandered.