

## Envy Study

Heavenly Father, Thank you very much for this opportunity to gather together with like-minded brethren to look at your word and look back on all of the things that YOU are causing in our lives, also how we can understand these things and grow through them. We are very grateful you give us this wisdom and knowledge to know what you're doing, not be left in the dark. So we ask for wisdom and faith in the ability to endure what you're causing and then the ability to apply these things that we're going to learn today. In Christ's Name, Amen.

Welcome everybody. We're back in our Sunday night study. We're going to be doing a series on emotions now. We talked about anger last week and this week we're going to be talking about envy.

So on Envy, which is a powerful and deadly emotion that will rot your mind, rob your health, and will make you angry. And it will lead to so many other horrible sins that destroy your life and the lives of those around you. And often times, like all things, it can start off very small and very subtle. You just don't think much of it and then over time as it grows and grows, the bad fruit of that becomes overwhelming.

So James helped me by pulling together some definitions and some verses. This was one of the definitions James uncovered from Webster's dictionary 1828 that says Envy is:

1. To feel uneasiness, mortification or discontent, at the sight of superior excellence, reputation or happiness enjoyed by another; to repine (feel discontent) at another's prosperity; to fret or grieve one's self at the real or supposed superiority of another, and to hate him on that account.

Sometimes in the case where you hate the other person, sometimes envy will cause you to hate yourself. It will cause self-loathing and will cause all these negative things within the sorrow of the world.

Another definition here for envy is: **ENVY** is pain, uneasiness, mortification or discontent excited by the sight of another's superiority or success, accompanied with some degree of hatred or malignity [So all these things are lurking in our flesh and the LORD's going to seek occasions against us by putting other people in front of us that have what we want. And the LORD is a master at creating the exact circumstances to give someone something that we been seeking for so long]. Then to not receive it just elicits all of these negative powerful emotions within us, and often or usually with a

desire or an effort to depreciate the person, and with pleasure in seeing them depressed. Envy springs from pride, ambition or love, mortified that another has obtained what one has a strong desire to possess.

\* Webster's dictionary 1828

So, envy is the opposite of rejoicing with someone, rejoicing and being happy for them and their blessings, as well as realizing that what we have is what GOD has ordained for us. Envy is the opposite of that. It is seeing what another has and being angry and frustrated and bitter, that we don't have what GOD is causing in their life.

This is talking about Christ... it says:

**Mat 27:17 (NKJV)** Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?"

**Mat 27:18 (NKJV)** For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.

That was why the Jews turned Christ over to Pilot, because as you look at it, Barabbas was clearly the criminal. While all Christ was doing was healing people, teaching the Scriptures, being the perfect example of what GOD had sent him to do. So why were the people so envious?

**Matthew 7:28 (NKJV)** And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching,

**Matthew 7:29 (NKJV)** for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Here are a few more verses that attest to this attitude of envy:

**Matthew 13:54 (NKJV)** When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this *Man* get this wisdom and *these* mighty works?

**Matthew 13:55 (NKJV)** Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?

**Matthew 13:56 (NKJV)** And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this *Man* get all these things?"

**Matthew 13:57 (NKJV)** So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house."

**Matthew 13:58 (NKJV)** Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

They marveled at his wisdom. They marveled at his healings, but the Pharisees and the Sadducees again hated Him. Because Christ so surpassed them, that they envied him.

And the only way to restore their position of leadership and respect from all the people that came to them was to get rid of this guy. So what are they to do next but to plot evil against Him, to turn Him over and to try to get him crucified. They end up doing all which GOD works!

**Romans 1:28 (NKJV)** And even as they did not like to retain GOD in *their* knowledge, GOD gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

**Romans 1:29 (NKJV)** being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers,

So with evil spirits, they travel in flocks, likened to birds in a lot of the scriptures and they travel together. When you get envy, it doesn't come alone. You don't envy and it stops there, it leads to covetousness, maliciousness, murder, hatred, deceitfulness, and all these things. Look at what the Jews did to get Christ condemned; they had to lie and falsify stories. They were trying to trap him, they did all these things. They were going out of their way to try to exact this evil upon him to get what they wanted. This is all because they were envious that he was taking what they have.

Galatians 5 describes the works of the flesh. It says:

**Gal 5:19 (NKJV)** Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

**Gal 5:20 (NKJV)** idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

**Gal 5:21 (NKJV)** envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

And now remember, all these things. Idolatry is not just bowing down or worshipping a physical golden calf in your living room, Right? Idolatry is putting anything in front of GOD and trying to have those worldly things solve the problems that only GOD can and trying to get answers other than the way he tells us to. All of these things apply within. Adultery is not just the physical type of adultery; it is being unfaithful to your husband Christ, being unfaithful to the body of Christ and giving all that you have to others outside of the brethren.

Just like in a marriage; if the husband or wife is never home and is constantly away, even doing good things, constantly away from the family, it destroys the marriage and it falls apart. The same thing is true within the body of Christ. We have to do things literally to go to work and take care of physical families. But if you don't have the first fruits of your labor going back to serve the brethren, then you're going to watch your marriage fall apart. You're not going to have the relationship that GOD has intended there.

**1Ti 6:2 (NKJV)** And those who have believing masters, let them not despise *them* because they are brethren, but rather serve *them* because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort these things.

**1Ti 6:3 (NKJV)** If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness,

**1Ti 6:4 (NKJV)** he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come **envy**, strife, reviling, evil suspicions,

**1Ti 6:5 (NKJV)** useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a *means of gain*. From such withdraw yourself.

**1Ti 6:6 (NKJV)** Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

The Scriptures tell us that our good deeds are as filthy rags. You can do perfectly good actions, but when your intentions are wrong, it's evil. Take studying the Scriptures for example; in gaining knowledge we're commanded to do, we're supposed to do it, but if your motivation in doing it is to get attention and to be better than others and to just show off your knowledge, because you want to feel good about yourself, then that's not a godly motive. And that can be driven from envy. You can see someone else, who has a lot of knowledge and so you want to show that you've got more knowledge, so you go in there and try to make these points. You want

to fight about words and to get involved in useless wrangling's. You don't properly apply the principles of the Scriptures.

It's amazing how our heart can be so deceitful! It has us not be aware of what we're doing. Only looking back will we see our motives and what we're doing and why. We will cover it in this study towards the end, because there's a big difference between envying someone who is quite ahead of you in knowledge or understanding your action and being inspired by them to follow in their footsteps. Then all of your diligence in labor and work is very productive. It is very godly and it produces good fruits. But if we have this competitive, "I'm gonna show you up", "I'm to do more than you" and you know that is no use in the kingdom of GOD. That is not who is going to be lifted up in the kingdom and we see the stories in the Scriptures. Stories like, if we try to come down and take the place of the head of the table, the honorable seat, then we are going to be removed from that place and it will be embarrassing.

Whereas when we labor diligently and quietly and just serve others, then you're asked; "come forward", share what you have and do this for others. That's the way that you become great in kingdom. The greatest among you shall be the servant of all. But a lot of times, we won't be aware of it. Our motivation is envy and not a godly motivation to serve others. It's wanting and it spreads pride for what it really is.

**Tit 3:3 (NKJV)** For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and **envy**, hateful and hating one another.

So again, it's easy to see malice, hatefulness and murder out in the world; one of these big obvious things. Where it's hard to see is when it's subtle and it's in the heart. Trying to 'one up' your brother, Right, by just being envious and being malicious. Looking to take shots at them, talk negatively about them or disparage them when others aren't around, because you're envious. It's amazing, how these things will crop up in our lives. Once we're aware of it, we can see it, take it captive and get it out.

**1Pe 2:1 (NKJV)** Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,

**1Pe 2:2 (NKJV)** as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

Why the Scriptures tell us to lay these things aside is because they're going to be there. This is our natural state when we first come into this knowledge, is to be malicious, deceitful, hypocritical and evil speaking because that's just our default nature. We have to put those things aside, be humbled and empty ourselves. And to then say; "Look I'm going to start from ground zero, start over; I know nothing",

I just need to drink the pure milk of the word, be quick to listen, slow to speak and let GOD just do this work. It is amazing as you start to gain knowledge, how all of these evil things will crop up in your mind.

**Acts 13:43 (NKJV)** Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

**Acts 13:44 (NKJV)** On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God.

**Acts 13:45 (NKJV)** But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul.

When Scriptures say; "knowledge puffs up", it is serious. It does puff up and pride comes with it and The LORD is very good, very skilled at driving that spirit out.

**Jas 4:5 (MKJV)** Do you think that the Scripture says in vain, The spirit that dwells in us yearns to envy?

So this is what this is talking about, not the spirit of GOD, but the evil spirit that is first within us. It burns to envy; that's just what it does. It's natural, if you look at the world and you see competition among companies.

I went to see that movie about Ray Croc, the guy who founded McDonald's, well he was the friend and he tried to get the McDonald brothers to franchise the business. He ended up essentially stealing the business from them, because they didn't want to grow as fast as he did. He was on a phone call in one of the scenes and he asked the brothers, he says; "if you saw your competitor drowning, would you want to help them out or just stick the hose in her mouth and push their head underwater?" And they said, "We're not willing to do that." and he said, "I am." And that's the difference between us, right? He didn't want to have anyone be better than him, because he would envy their success to have anything to cut them off at the knees and that's a lot of the attitude of the world. It is eye for eye, tooth for tooth, and

dog eat dog. There is no place for loving your brother and helping out your enemies. Because they did love mammon, flesh, pride more than GOD.

Now it's easy for the flesh to have a nice pretty clean outside of the cup. You can talk a good story. But when it really comes down to that you're going to lose dollars over doing something. The flesh will choose the opposite, Right? The flesh is going to burn in that envy to succeed and overcome others.

**Proverbs 14:30 (NKJV)** A **sound** (H4832) heart *is* life to the body, But envy *is* rottenness to the bones.

This word "sound", it really means: a healed heart, one that has been repaired.

The same word shows up in:

**Jeremiah 33:6 (NKJV)** Behold, I will bring it health and **healing** (H4832); I will heal them and reveal to them the abundance of peace and truth.

So a peaceful heart that doesn't envy and is content to what GOD is doing in our own life brings life to the body, our own physical body. It certainly helps and there are plenty of studies about what stress, envy, jealousy and all these things do to the body that destroys your health. But is also talking about the body of Christ, when there is healing in the hearts of the brethren. Then they, with no selfish ambition are willing to lay down their lives in love for one another and help each other progress to their fullest potential.

But envy is rottenness to the bones. You will rot your physical body and it will rot the spiritual body. If there is envy in our midst, it's the opposite of causing strength. Bones are the foundation. They are the very thing that gives the body its rigidity and we if we had no bones we couldn't stand up. We'd just be a pile of muscles and fat on the ground, Right? So when you have envy it removes the foundation. That's why it's so important to not have that within us. What it does is it doesn't allow you to build others up, and makes you not want them to progress, because it makes you envious of their progress. So even if you don't intentionally sabotage by doing things negative, you will withhold good of what could help others progress. And that can be just as or more destructive than actually doing something negative. Such as do you beat your kids or do you starve them? Which one is better, know it's the same, it's the same problem.

**Malachi 4:2 (NKJV)** But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With **healing** in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves.

**Proverbs 23:17 (NKJV)** Do not let your heart envy sinners, But *be zealous* for the fear of the LORD all the day;

So when we have fear of the Word of GOD, fear of GOD and Christ whom HE sent, then, "the Sun of Righteousness", this knowledge within us is going to arise up with healing and it's going to heal us from this envy. Because we know, if we continue to envy, we're to be judged for that. When you have fear of that judgment you start to go; "Okay, let's take these thoughts captive, let's get this out of here". And then there is a positive application of fatness, you grow in health, you eat well and everybody grows together! The whole flock is better off for that.

I was watching a documentary before this on ants and how they work together. It's amazing, how when ants are attacked, they will sacrifice themselves for the protection of the colony. They'll go out, lay their lives down, no matter what the predator. They're going to go after them. That is what makes the colony so strong. It is how they all fulfill their function. They're not selfish. So the same thing is true of the brethren. When we're willing to lay our lives down and do whatever is necessary, everyone is stronger for it. But, if everyone is selfish, there is no strength and unity and it all just falls apart. It's a big fat mess. That's why the world is waxing worse and worse, because people are turning on each other. We are a country divided, a world divided, Right? Meaning, imagine how strong a country could be, if everybody was of the same mind and on the same page, with the same objectives, with the same the problems, right? But the heart of man is wicked and that's what GOD has worked in. So things are decaying.

I'm going to read some longer passages in Psalms 37 and this is David really describing his process of how he saw people around him and this process of envy.

**Psa 37:1 (NKJV) A Psalm of David.** Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.

...on the one hand we talked about not envying righteousness. Don't envy others, who have things that you want, in a positive way. Here it is saying; don't envy the blessings of the wicked.



**Psa 37:2 (NKJV)** For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, And wither as the green herb.

The hard part is that soon isn't always like a day or week or month or year. It can be a long time before the evil you're sowing produces the bad fruit. Therefore, it's easy to envy the wicked when they're prospering in their evil way.

**Psa 37:3 (NKJV)** Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

**Psa 37:4 (NKJV)** Delight yourself also in Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

This doesn't mean He's going to give you whatever you want. What it means is; when you delight yourself in the Word and in the LORD, you want what he wants and he gives you what he wants, which is what you want now. Do you see, if you always want to get what you want then, just desire what the LORD does and your prayers are always answered, right?

**Psa 37:5 (NKJV)** Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring *it* to pass.

**Psa 37:6 (NKJV)** He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday.

**Psa 37:7 (NKJV)** Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.

**Psa 37:8 (NKJV)** Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret—*it* only *causes* harm.

**Psa 37:9 (NKJV)** For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the Lord, They shall inherit the earth.

When we're suffering, going through our trials, which are necessary to get us into the kingdom. The LORD will send other people around us, health and wealth, blessings and families and all the things you think you want in the flesh; they're going to be getting them while we're sitting here being tied down and beat up, struggling in whatever it is and naturally it makes us angry, it makes us envious, it makes us frustrated. It makes us all those things. So David says; "Don't fret, don't worry, it only causes harm, envy does not help anything and makes everything worse. Any time spent worrying about something; all it does is hurt us. It doesn't help the situation

at all. You can worry all day long; you can't grow an inch or add a hair to your head. Yet we still do it, because of the flesh and that's the battle.

**Psa 37:9 (NKJV)** For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the Lord, They shall inherit the earth.

We have to know and have the faith to believe, that evil doing will reap bad fruit, in time. They will be cut off. We have to know that and believe that. We have to pray for the faith to see that, because in the moment, it doesn't seem like it. It looks like they just prosper and get what they want, **but if you wait long enough, we will inherit the earth, the earth being our own hearts and minds in righteousness.** But also eventually ruling and reigning with Christ.

**Psa 37:10 (NKJV)** For yet a little while and the wicked *shall be no more*; Indeed, you will look carefully for his place, But it *shall be no more*.

**Psa 37:11 (NKJV)** But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

**Psa 37:12 (NKJV)** The wicked plots against the just, And gnashes at him with his teeth.

**Psa 37:13 (NKJV)** The Lord laughs at him, For He sees that his day is coming.

I wrote a point a while back on my site called, "Wait Till the Lion Roars", this idea that people are going to mock you and scorn you for your righteousness and your patience. Everything you're doing. What you are, what you are doing over there while serving GOD, either you're sick; you're having money problems, what's going on with you. And they start giving you that kind of attitude in that, "the LORD laughs at that person and says just you wait, just you wait, all your evildoing you're going to see the exact fruit of".

This is a positive application of laughing in our spirit. When someone says that, we can laugh at them, and go; 'just wait, the LORD will show you'. Now we also need to have mercy. We don't want to see people suffer, just to suffer. We don't want revenge. We just want them to learn the lessons and come into the faith, right? This is a powerful verse that you can use very negatively. We have to hold it in righteousness with the narrow way, because laughing at these situations is very healing a lot of times. You just don't even know what's coming. "I'm over here waiting patiently for the LORD to take care of all this and you got who on your side? You're trusting in flesh, trusting in disobedience to deliver you, that's not going to work out

very well.” It's a faithful attitude. It helps us and you'll see it in the Scriptures. GOD, through Paul, and the writers use sarcasm. They use these things as instructive tools, because we need to hear those harsh words sometimes, to wake us up to how ridiculous we're being. We're fighting against GOD who created everything. You think he is going to be mocked when you disobey his commands; it's not going to go very well.

**Psa 37:14 (NKJV)** The wicked have drawn the sword And have bent their bow, To cast down the poor and needy, To slay those who are of upright conduct.

**Psa 37:15 (NKJV)** Their sword shall enter their own heart, And their bows shall be broken.

Here, it's saying your own backsliding, your own wickedness, will reprove you and correct you.

**Psa 37:16 (NKJV)** A little that a righteous man has *Is* better than the riches of many wicked.

Another verse in the Scripture says:

**Proverbs 17:1** better is a dry morsel with quietness, than a house full of feasting with strife.

I have seen it personally, have been in beautiful places, large homes and beautiful settings, when there is strife in there and you long for your small little place with your faithful people. I'd much rather have that any day. If you don't have peace, it is not worth anything, right? You're just sitting and say it's pretty, but I'm miserable... what good is this?

**Psa 37:17 (NKJV)** For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, But the LORD upholds the righteous.

**Psa 37:18 (NKJV)** The LORD knows the days of the upright, And their inheritance shall be forever.

**Psa 37:19 (NKJV)** They shall not be ashamed in the evil time, And in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.

I really struggled with this for years, because I had a big fear that when we are doing righteousness, a lot of times it doesn't look very wise to the world. You're laying down your life. You're giving up opportunities, are spending time in places, and people think that doesn't make sense. My consistent

prayer was; "LORD, don't let me be ashamed for doing this; I don't want to be ashamed. I want to have good fruit come from all this". The more I read the Scriptures and found them; I really had to hold onto these, "They shall not be ashamed in the evil time".

The judgment comes, the flood and the trials. Finally, then comes all that grain of righteousness stored up, it's going to be worth it. It's the wicked who are going to be ashamed. That's what we have to remember, because right now it doesn't seem so, when everybody's prospering in doing well.

**Psa 37:20 (NKJV)** But the wicked shall perish; And the enemies of the LORD, Like the splendor of the meadows, shall vanish. Into smoke they shall vanish away.

Just like in childbirth, it's painful for this long period of time. Then once it's over, the women forget the pain, and are glad that they had the child. The same thing is true here, you suffer all this time under all this wickedness and as soon as the judgment comes in, your vindicated. It's like it took five minutes, maybe just that it seems like such a short passage of time to get the reward in the end. But it doesn't feel like that when you're in the middle of it. You have to have the hope that this is going to be worth it... It is going to be worth it, because if you turn away and go away from righteousness and into idols we know we are going to be judged and destroyed, so nothing good is going to come of it.

**Psa 73:1 (NKJV) A Psalm of Asaph.** Truly God *is* good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart.

Remember, Israel is not physical Israel here; this is talking about those who are Jews inwardly with a circumcised heart. Being a Jew in the flesh doesn't mean you're a person of GOD. It just means you're physically descended from in the Jewish nation. GOD is good to his people the true Israel; the true Jews were keeping his commandments. That's who has a pure heart.

**Psa 73:2 (NKJV)** But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped.

**Psa 73:3 (NKJV)** For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

Success has a way of being like strong drink of wine or alcohol, you just get delusional and you just think my success is never going to end. You get

prideful, you get puffed up and you won't stop it, and you look down upon others. So when you're in a place of suffering for righteousness, seeing the envying, prospering and boasting, it's not a pleasant feeling. You're naturally going to envy all the success they're reaping.

**Psa 73:4 (NKJV)** For *there are* no pangs in their death, But their strength *is* firm.

**Psa 73:5 (NKJV)** They *are* not in trouble *as other* men, Nor are they plagued like *other* men.

**Psa 73:6 (NKJV)** Therefore pride serves as their necklace; Violence covers them *like* a garment.

**Psa 73:7 (NKJV)** Their eyes bulge with abundance; They have more than heart could wish.

**Psa 73:8 (NKJV)** They scoff and speak wickedly *concerning* oppression; They speak loftily.

**Psa 73:9 (NKJV)** They set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue walks through the earth.

**Psa 73:10 (NKJV)** Therefore his people return here, And waters of a full *cup* are drained by them.

**Psa 73:11 (NKJV)** And they say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?"

**Psa 73:12 (NKJV)** Behold, these *are* the ungodly, Who are always at ease; They increase *in* riches.

When you're just blessed and things go well, you just don't consider GOD. You just don't. Instead you think, 'Look how great I am', 'look how much I accomplish', 'look at all this', All this would be the exact same way if you didn't send us trials and frustrations and things go wrong. He shows us how stupid and unwise and foolish we can be.

**Psa 73:13 (NKJV)** Surely I have cleansed my heart *in* vain, And washed my hands in innocence.

**Psa 73:14 (NKJV)** For all day long I have been plagued, And chastened every morning.

To put you in David's mindset, here he is trying to be righteous, a time to serve GOD, a man after GOD's own heart and his enemies prosper and boast against him, slander him and you just get tired. You go: "why am I doing all this, what am I getting? The more I do righteousness, the more I get chastened, Right? But you'll see how David turns his attitude around.

**Psa 73:15 (NKJV)** If I had said, "I will speak thus," Behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children.

**Psa 73:16 (NKJV)** When I thought *how* to understand this, It *was* too painful for me—

**Psa 73:17 (NKJV)** Until I went into the sanctuary of God; *Then* I understood their end.

So you see what broke this cycle is he realizing that the success of the wicked is very temporary. It's going to seem like it passes in a few minutes when the end comes.

**Psa 73:18 (NKJV)** Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction.

**Psa 73:19 (NKJV)** Oh, how they are *brought* to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors.

**Psa 73:20 (NKJV)** As a dream when *one* awakes, *So*, Lord, when You awake, You shall despise their image.

So whatever we're tempted to envy with what the world's got going on or wanting to cut corners, do wickedness or do anything to try to get what we want in a hurry, we have to remember what the end of this is. GOD is not to be mocked, he sees it all. HE told us what he is going to do. We just have to be patient, wait for it and you've got to be around the brethren who remind you of these things. Because the world will just beat you to death with their mocking and negativity, in their; "Where's GOD, what is HE doing for you?" You will also reap this reward now.

**Psa 73:21 (NKJV)** Thus my heart was grieved, And I was vexed in my mind.

**Psa 73:22 (NKJV)** I *was* so foolish and ignorant; I *was like* a beast before You.

This is this is David confessing to GOD

**Psa 73:23 (NKJV)** Nevertheless I *am* continually with You; You hold *me* by my right hand.

**Psa 73:24 (NKJV)** You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me *to* glory.

**Psa 73:25 (NKJV)** Whom have I in heaven *but* You? And *there is* none upon earth *that* I desire besides You.

**Psa 73:26 (NKJV)** My flesh and my heart fail; *But God is* the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

**Psa 73:27 (NKJV)** For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry.

**Psa 73:28 (NKJV)** But *it is* good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, That I may declare all Your works.

So when we have a proper perspective on what's going to happen, obedience is the only thing that makes sense. Everything else is just a total waste in vanity and it's going to end up horrible in the end. Yet we just are shortsighted and faithless, we forget that we get so focused on the moment we don't see the end of things that we would focus on the **end** of things, we would see what makes sense to do right now. So that's the end of our study here.

**1 Corinthians 12:27 (NKJV)** Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

**1 Corinthians 12:28 (NKJV)** And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

**1 Corinthians 12:29 (NKJV)** Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?

**1 Corinthians 12:30 (NKJV)** Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

**1 Corinthians 12:31 (NKJV)** But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

**2 Corinthians 10:12 (NKJV)** For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

**1 Corinthians 11:1 (NKJV)** Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

The point I was going to make is;

Corinthians talks about how we are one body with many members and a part of, once you have gotten over not envying the world and now you're focused on the brethren. Your envy is going to change focus and now it's going to focus on the people that have the things you don't have, Right? So

we've got eyes, feet and hands; all these different members and parts of the body and if you look at a foot and you say: "Wow I can't see why you can't hold a spoon? And why can't you feed yourself?" ... Like "I'm a foot, I'm not supposed to be able to hold a spoon." I have a different function, so when you look at yourself and you compare yourself to someone else, it's like trying to compare a foot to a hand or an eye to a knee. It's not the right thing to do. The Scriptures tell us it is unwise to compare with one another. The goal is do your function that GOD has given you and develop it, not someone else. If you see another foot running around, pay attention to that foot and try to be a good foot, right, but appreciate where GOD has placed you.

In that HE has a purpose that no matter how weak, how strong or whatever the function is, GOD has given without any envy or complaining or murmuring, then you're really angry and frustrated with GOD, that he's not doing what you want, not how you want to do it. But he says, look I need these different parts. I made you this way for a reason. So don't murmur; just do the job and that's how you'll be happy, peaceful and happy. That's how you'll have a very well-functioning strong body, the members not envying one another, doing their role and trying to develop the others to doing their role as best they can. So we can cast the spirit of envy out, still get our focus off the world and on the brethren and then get our focus on building up the body and not comparing and prideful, trying to just be something that GOD is not calling us to be.

So that is the end of our study tonight. Nice to see everyone, thank you for coming.