

Today's Sermons

Morning: There Are THREE...
 Evening: A Victory for God on Mt. Carmel

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	29
Sunday AM Worship	45
Sunday PM Worship	25
Wed. Bible Study	29
Offering	\$1437



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 130 Robert Street
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Minister:
Tim Canup
tim@wjchurchofchrist.org

Times of Services:
Sunday
 Bible Study:... 10:00am
 AM Worship:...11:00am
 PM Worship:...6:00pm
 2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
 Sunday:.....7:30am
 "Back to the Bible"
 AM 580 WSKS
 93.5 FM

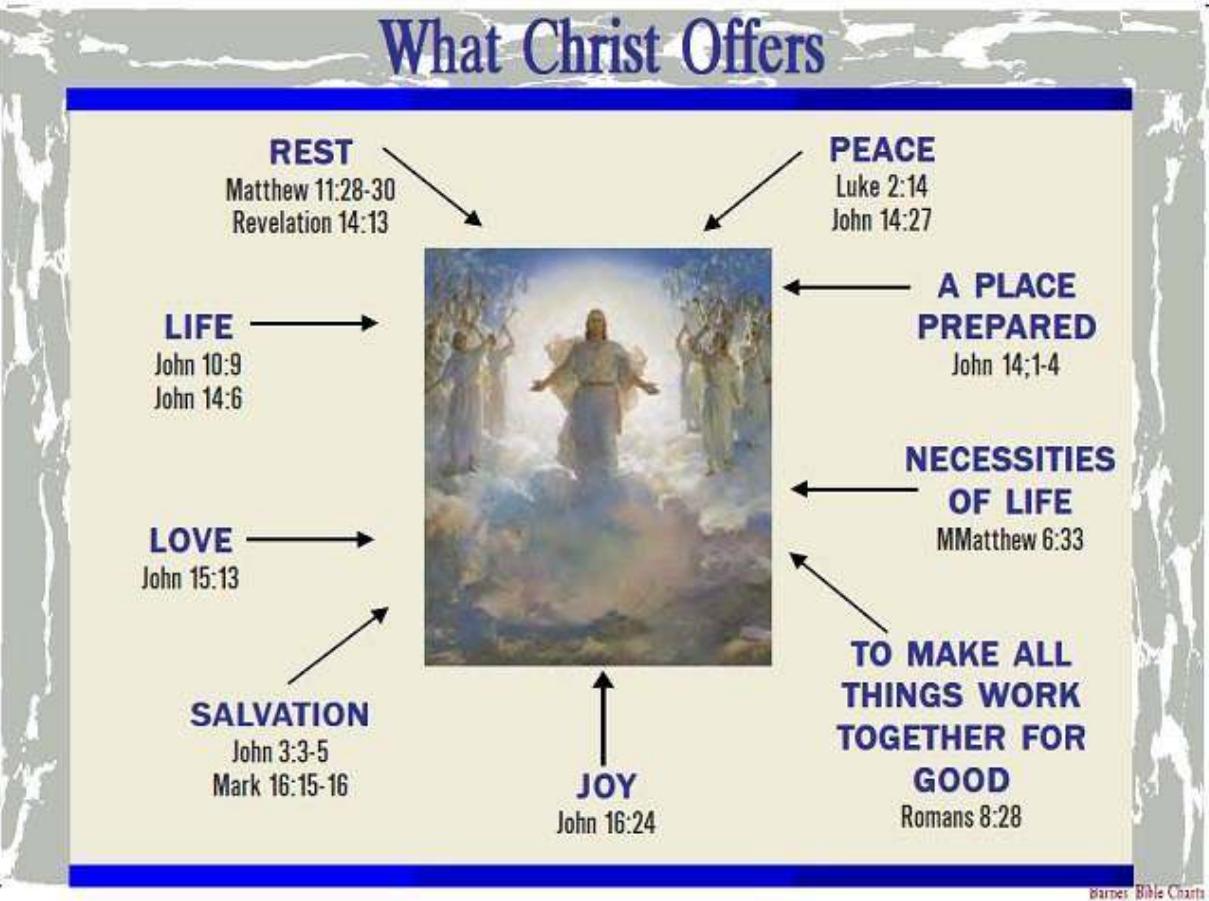
**We Extend A
 Warm & Cordial
 Welcome
 To All Our
 Visitors!**

Seeing As God Sees
 by Marvin L. Weir

It is an age-old problem that becomes a stumbling block to so many people. A person observes those who appear to be healthy and successful as they live in willful sin in rebellion against God. He also observes the struggles and apparent lack of success of those striving to live righteous lives. The false conclusion is quickly drawn that the "end really does justify the means" and that God is failing to bless the righteous. The Bible warns against making rash, quick judgments without all the facts (Matt. 7:1) and based only on outward appearances. A classic example is God choosing a king for Israel from among Jesse's sons and Samuel thinking that surely Eliab will be the one who is chosen (1 Sam. 16:6). "But Jehovah said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have rejected him: for Jehovah seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but Jehovah looketh on the heart" (16:7).

Making judgments based upon outward appearances caused the Psalmist to say, "But as for me, my feet were almost gone; My steps had well nigh slipped" (Psa. 73:2). One must fight the temptation to be envious of the arrogant upon seeing the "prosperity of the wicked" (73:3). Let us learn from the 73rd Psalm that our faith and trust is to be rooted and grounded in Jehovah and not in the glamour and glitter of this present world.

Continued Inside



The Problem To Overcome:

- (1) “The prosperity of the wicked” (v. 3) – their boastfulness that was apparently justified by their security and success.
- (2) The wicked had “no pangs in their death” (v. 4) – that is, they died easy without fear or pain with no apparent mental or physical struggles.
- (3) The wicked were not “in trouble” and “plagued like other men” (v. 5) – in normal life poverty and disease affect the poor while the wealthy appear to be living in luxury.
- (4) They are characterized by “pride” and “violence” (v. 6).
- (5) They possess more than a heart could wish for (v. 7).
- (6) They scoff and set their mouths against the heavens (v. 8).
- (7) They are willfully ignorant of God and blasphemous and haughty in attitude (v. 11).

The Psalmist then notes the wicked being at ease and increasing in riches and exclaims, “Surely in vain have I cleansed my heart, and washed my hands in innocency; For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning” (73:13-14). People today wrestle with the same thoughts. Does it matter what a man does? Will righteousness be victorious over unrighteousness? Does it pay great dividends to be wicked and God-defiant?

The Solution To The Problem:

The realization that the wicked do indeed prosper and enjoy this life is often quite painful to the one striving to live a righteous life. But when one considers and accepts God’s eternal truths, earthly things are then seen in their true perspective. Temporal prosperity takes on an entirely new character when seen in the light of eternity.

- (1) The Psalmist saw that the feet of the wicked were set “in slippery places” and that they were cast “down to destruction” (v. 18).
- (2) A day is coming when the wicked will become “a desolation in a moment” and they will be “utterly consumed with terrors” (v. 19).
- (3) In the Day of Judgment when all accounts are made right, God will despise the image of the wicked (v. 20).

Understanding and accepting God’s revelation (the Scriptures) disposes quickly one’s envy of the wicked. Who in his proper mind would covet the position of one who is rich and famous in this world but wretched and lost throughout eternity? Physical prosperity will never be able to overcome spiritual bankruptcy!

The Destiny Of The Righteous:

- (1) He has fellowship with Jehovah God (v. 23).
- (2) He is guided by divine counsel (Word of God) that will lead to eternal glory (v. 24).
- (3) He realizes that nothing upon earth can compare with God and His eternal blessings (v. 25).
- (4) He knows that the flesh and heart will fail, but that God is his source of strength and refuge (v. 26).
- (5) He understands it is always good for man to draw near to God, and he places his complete trust in God (v. 28).

Let us realize that God’s thoughts are not our thoughts and neither are His ways our ways (Isa. 55:8-9). May we see as God sees, and cherish the blessings that come from God more than the prosperity that comes through the world!

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*“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:1-7).*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Aug 7 – Men’s Meeting & Ladies’ Bible Class
- Aug 14 – Preach & Eat – 1:30 Service
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell