

Kootenai Communicator

July
2018

The monthly newsletter of Kootenai Community Church, Kootenai, Idaho

Important Dates <<<

4 Independence Day

Looking ahead -

August 13-17 VBS

September 15 Women's Brunch/Kitchen Shower

Details in next month's newsletter

October 12-14 Fall Conference

with Andrew Rappaport

Expounding the Scriptures, Exhorting the Saints,
Exalting the Savior

As of June 3, 2018 - we are meeting at 477 Main St., Kootenai, Idaho.
WE ARE IN THE NEW CHURCH BUILDING!

Details on page 3.

The Peril of the Wicked, Pt. 2 Psalm 73:18-20

By Jim Osman
Pastor/Teacher

But What about the Prosperous Righteous?

We should not conclude from these verses that God *always* gives prosperity as a judgment nor that prosperity is *always* a judgment.

God does not *always* judge the wicked through prosperity. There are plenty of wicked people who live in poverty. The fact that they do not enjoy prosperity does not make them any less wicked, nor any less deserving of divine judgment. The lazy lout who spends his days blaspheming, drinking, and carousing, then comes home to his double-wide and beats his wife and children before falling to sleep in a drunken stupor may live a meager life in terms of this world's wealth, but he is no more righteous than the prosperous wicked described in Psalm 73. Such a person has earned God's judgment, and the Lord most certainly will avenge that evil, but it is obviously not going to be through prosperity. God does not *always* judge the wicked through prosperity.

Likewise, prosperity is not *always* a judgment. Scripture is filled with men who enjoyed the grace of riches as a gift from the hand of God. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Job, David, and Noah, are all examples of men to whom God gave tremendous wealth. Just as God is free to use prosperity as a curse and judgment upon the wicked, so he is free to use prosperity as a blessing and grace given to the righteous. Prosperity is not promised in the gospel. That does not mean that the Lord does not put a good deal of this world's riches into the hands of those who please Him. Proverbs 10:22: "It is the blessing of

the LORD that makes rich, and He adds no sorrow to it." In the case of the wicked, God adds to their prosperity the sorrow of their eternal judgment.

The Lord is free to execute his judgments through whatever means He deems best. If wealth and riches can be used by God to curse the wicked and increase their judgment, He is free to do so. We may not view prosperity as a judgment, but that is because we do not see what God is accomplishing through the prosperity He grants to the wicked. The problem is not with the means which God has chosen, but with our ability to understand the way He works through those means.

From Envy to Pity

In light of what we learn from this verse, why would we ever envy the wealth of the wicked? Who in their right mind would envy the means of someone's judgment? Who would wish to have as their own the downfall and destruction that awaits these impenitent rebels? Certainly we would never wish we were the convicted criminal with his neck upon the block awaiting the plunge of the executioner's axe. Would you wish to be under the executioner simply because the axe is on its way up?

God forbid! Rather, "we ought to be of God's mind, for His judgment is according to truth, and not to admire and envy that which

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He despises and will despise; for, sooner or later, He will bring all the world to be of His mind.”⁹

The downfall and destruction of the wicked is certain. This is evident in the fact that God has placed them in a slippery place so that in due time, their feet may stumble. Their fall will be great.

At this realization, our envy should turn to pity. The righteous do not gloat over the death or downfall of the wicked. Their destruction, their suffering, their eternal damnation is not a source of joy for those who know Christ and the gracious forgiveness that He has provided.

God will most certainly delight in the execution of His judgment as He avenges Himself on His enemies. God does not judge sin reluctantly. He judges sin so that justice and righteousness may be vindicated. Psalm 33:5 says, “He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the lovingkindness of the LORD.”¹⁰ Such judgment is no violation of His love, grace, or compassion.

It is appropriate for the righteous to rejoice when God’s name is vindicated, justice is done, and the sin of the wicked is punished by God. Proverbs 21:15 says, “The exercise of justice is joy for the righteous, but is terror to the workers of iniquity.” Proverbs 11:10 describes the rejoicing of the righteous over the downfall of the wicked: “When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices, and when the wicked perish, there is joyful shouting.” Psalm 107 describes the judgment of God upon the rebellious and His deliverance of His people. Near the end of the psalm, we read, “The upright see it and are glad; but all unrighteousness shuts its mouth” (Psalm 107:42). The righteous are glad over the deliverance of God’s people and the judgment of God’s enemies. Psalm 58:10: “The righteous will rejoice when he sees the vengeance; He will wash his feet in the blood of the wicked.”

The nations are encouraged to rejoice at the execution of God’s justice. Deuteronomy 32:43: “Rejoice, O nations, with His people; for He will avenge the blood of His servants, and will render vengeance on His adversaries, and will atone for His land and His people.” Moses rejoiced at the destruction of Egypt along with Pharaoh’s army and the deliverance of God’s people from their oppressors (Exodus 15).

Likewise, the book of Revelation features scenes of rejoicing in Heaven among the saints and angels over the justice of God in the destruction of the impenitent wicked on earth. At the destruction of Babylon, Revelation 18:20 says, “Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her.”

Look at the scene of hallelujahs and worship over the judgment of the wicked in Revelation 19:1–4:

After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and HE HAS AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS BOND-SERVANTS ON HER.” And a second time they said, “Hallelujah! HER SMOKE RISES UP FOREVER AND EVER.” And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!”

All of Heaven sings the song of the Lamb. Revelation 15:3 says, “And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, ‘Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations!’” Truly God’s judgments are righteous. His ways are true. His justice is holy and right. The redeemed say so.

It would be improper to rejoice if sin were overlooked, if blasphemies against God and wickedness done against His kingdom and His people were *not* punished justly and appropriately. We should be surprised if we were not *expected* to rejoice at the display

of God’s justice. Since justice is the foundation of God’s throne and an essential element of His nature, it is unthinkable that the righteous would not rejoice when God displays that aspect of His nature. How can Christians long for the Kingdom of Christ and pray for that Kingdom to come if they do not rejoice in the justice that will accompany the full manifestation of that Kingdom?

Obviously there is an extreme that should be avoided. We do not delight in the justice of God because we wish ill upon individual people and delight in their death, their pain, or their suffering. It is the righteous judgments of God which are our delight, not the sufferings of our fellow man. We should feel pity for those who are the objects of God’s just wrath while rejoicing in the glory of God manifested in that wrath against sin. It is not impossible to be both thankful for God’s justice and sorrowful over the lost condition of those who face it.

Sudden Destruction

Psalm 73:19

How they are destroyed in a moment!

They are utterly swept away by sudden terrors!

Their destruction comes suddenly. It takes but a moment for their fall. In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, the prosperous wicked fall from their slippery place into sudden terrors. Asaph is describing a sudden and swift destruction. There is a sense of wonder over it. “How they are destroyed in a moment!” That is an expression of godly astonishment over the suddenness of this destruction.

When Asaph describes their destruction as sudden, he is not saying it will be immediate. Though they are “destroyed in a moment” the timing of that destruction may be a long way off from our earthly perspective. Let’s return to the earlier illustration of the condemned criminal and the executioner. Though the stroke of the executioner’s axe will only take a moment to end the life of the condemned, that execution may be delayed for an extended time. For instance, the judge may, upon pronouncement of sentence, schedule the execution for one year from the day the verdict is read. The criminal’s execution is not immediate, but when it comes, it happens in a moment.

Spurgeon said, “Headlong is their fall; without warning, without escape, without hope of future restoration! Despite their golden chains, and goodly apparel, death stays not for manners but hurries them away; and stern justice unbribed by their wealth hurls them into destruction....The momentary glory of the graceless is in a moment effaced, their loftiness is in an instant consumed.”¹¹

Their wealth and prosperity can buy them everything in this life, and nothing in the next. They cannot bribe the God of eternal justice. The glory, wealth, prosperity, power, and influence which they think is so lasting and so enduring, is in a moment eclipsed. It is gone. Earlier, Asaph described the death of the wicked as being without pains. “For there are no pains in their death” (Psalm 73:4). That may in fact be true. They may end this life pain-free, but they do not begin eternity that way. Though they may die in comfort, they’ll wake in everlasting pains. This change happens suddenly, in a moment. In an instant, the impenitent prosperous wicked move from luxury to destruction. In a moment, the wicked lose everything. He is plunged from his pedestal - his slippery place - into the abyss of eternal ruin. At that moment, the wicked will realize that all their prosperity, ease, and comforts only served to ripen them for this ruin.

The destruction of the wicked is described as “sudden terrors.” They are suddenly swept away into the wrath of God to face unimaginable terrors for eternity. “It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Hebrews 10:31) because “our God is a consuming fire” (Hebrews 12:29).

The final judgment of the wicked is described in Revelation 20:11–15:

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Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m.



PROMOTION SUNDAY COMES EARLY!

Effective July 1

WHY? There are so many things to be thankful for about being in our new facility! One of those is better classroom space. Our classes have had unusual age splits and overcrowding. Now that we have space, it is exciting to announce that classes will have more logical splits and better sizes. This is something that is better to do now than to wait until the usual Labor Day Weekend Promotion Sunday. Below is the new list of classes and teachers! It is exciting to provide a better learning/teaching atmosphere for all students! If you have questions, please speak to Dave or Diane Rich.

Class	Teacher
Nursery	Andrea Kinne/Bonnie Mauck
4yrs - K	Katie Moon/(helper needed)
1st-3rd Grade	Melody Lynch/Anna Bottcher Lisa Slippy/Jenny Stevens
4th-6th Grade	Diane Rich/Kathy Conger
7th-9th Grade	Taryn Osman/(helper needed)
10th-College/YA	Dave Rich/Ed Barba
Adult	Cornel Rasor and Jess Whetsel

Remember, the grades are the grade the child will be in this fall. We are moving up early.

As always, if there is a child with special needs, they may advance a class or stay back a year, as their parent desires and the teacher deems appropriate.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you.

How We Came to Be in the New Facility

Here is a short reminder (to the best of our recollection) of how far we have come, and how God has blessed Kootenai Community Church.

2002-2006

- land purchased
- road installed
- storm water management plan, plot plan
- building engineered, fabricated, paid for, delivered
- foundation built, filled with sand

2007

- electrical and plumbing in the slab
- rebar tied
- slab poured and finished
- building construction started
- roof on, insulation bought
- second floor built, pan decking down
- windows framed
- windows ordered

2008

- building erected
- baptistery ordered, installed (partially)
- exterior work done on building
- stage constructed
- interior walls framed
- HVAC plans drawn and finished

2009

- power run to the building
- gas line run to the building
- plumbing and electrical in walls
- HVAC rough-in installed
- gas piping installed
- second floor poured
- work done on designing the permanent stairs

nent stairs

- inspection on pan decking
- dirt leveled out next to facility
- temporary lighting installed

2010

- HVAC rough-in bottom floor finished
- upstairs walls framed
- rough-in electrical
- excavation and installation of water line
- design, fabrication and installation of fire suppression system
- downstairs installation of fire suppression system complete and upstairs begun
- design for permanent stairs finished
- fabrication of one staircase finished
- partial completion of the second

2011

- installation of upstairs fire suppression
- fabrication of second staircase completed
- concrete poured in both stair cases
- framing around staircases
- finish framing to prepare for rough-in electrical and plumbing
- work on rough-in electrical upstairs
- cover for electrical panel

2012

- finished rough-in plumbing
- nearly finished rough-in electrical downstairs
- insulation installed in all exterior walls
- more framing projects completed

- one side of all walls downstairs drywalled
- all audio video wire run
- all phone and data wire run
- drywall in sanctuary nearly complete
- exterior fire doors in sanctuary installed
- some mudding done in a couple of rooms
- work on sprinkler system to test for leaks
- permanent power supply hooked up

2013

- purchased and installed entryway doors (2 front, 1 side)
- fire suppression system pressure tested
- fire alarm system designed and submitted for approval
- completed drywall in the sanctuary
- some taping done in the sanctuary
- kitchen and one bathroom drywalled
- one closet, kitchen, adult Sunday School classroom taped and textured
- two classrooms and one office painted
- one office carpeted and ceiling tile installed and insulated
- all interior walls insulated for sound absorption
- more electrical

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>>>Garden of Readin'



Introducing... the LIBRARY!

Did you know the church has a library? It's located off the church secretary's office. Although it's still a work in progress (meaning books are still being cataloged and organized, and probably will be until the end of the age), church members are welcome to browse the stacks and borrow books. Currently we're quite old-school: if you want to borrow a book, write your name on the card in the front pocket and put the card in the small box marked "Cards." (We're clever that way.) When you bring the book back, drop it in the box marked "Return books here" and the librarian will reshelve it. Questions or suggestions? Talk to Jenny Leo.

Please contact Jenny Leo (208-610-2520) about donations or any library-related matter.

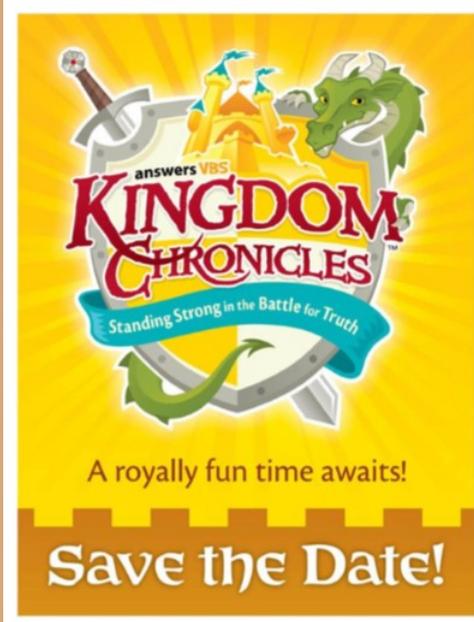
Women's Ministry

We need some help in the nursery!

If you would be willing to cuddle and coo and watch over these precious ones once every other month, please let Kris Bryan know (208-495-4098). We need two people per Sunday, one adult and one youth. Adults, in particular, are needed right now. Are you willing?



Vacation Bible School 2018



WHEN??
Aug. 13-17
6 to 8 p.m.

Volunteers are still needed!
Please contact Jenny Stevens or Katie Moon for more details!

>>>Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp

Please visit the camp website at clbcamp.org for more details.

Attention KCC Campers! Pick up a registration form at the Welcome Table for more information on times and costs. If you pre-register 10 days before camp you will receive \$15 off the price of the camp, plus our church will provide \$15 coupons so that is a total savings of \$30. There are scholarships available. Talk to Marcia Whetsel for details.

Camp Dates:

Teen Camp - July 8-13
 11 & 12 Camp - July 15-19
 9 & 10 Camp - July 22-26
 7 & 8 Camp - July 29-August 2

Student Ministries <<< Nothing for this month.

SOLI DEO GLORIA!



>>>Kootenai Thunder

kootenaithunder.com

For the most current information, please check our website and Facebook page.



Volleyball and soccer start up in the middle of August. Get signed up by contacting Tracy Jensen. Also, if anyone would like to help out with the Thunder, either coaching or other areas, please contact Tracy Jensen (208-290-7898).

work done including some finish electrical

- all the furniture and materials moved from old church building to the new facility
- did work to get the sewer hooked to main (permit, design, etc.)
- utilities installed (phone and internet service)
- some framing projects done to ready for drywall
- more drywall purchased - enough to finish the downstairs
- more mudding supplies purchased
- interior and exterior lighting installed

2014

- painted kitchen, adult Sunday School classroom, and a closet
- installed switches and fire alarm wires
- textured rooms in the office area
- trimmed exterior doors
- painted office area
- taped nursery, hallway, and janitor's closet
- finish electrical in offices
- delivered donated office equipment
- tape in bathrooms and foyer
- texture bathrooms

- tape and texture in sanctuary
- ceiling grid in office area, adult Sunday School, kitchen
- ceiling in offices/library
- 200 yds carpet delivered
- ceiling tile delivered
- Lanny started the mural
- sewer connected
- water connected
- office bathroom installed
- sanctuary taped and textured
- nursery, bathrooms primed
- carpet in adult Sunday School room
- tile office bathroom
- purchased paint for sanctuary
- proposal on first furnace
- ordered and delivered office doors
- wood ordered for shelves in library
- work on shelves

2015

- installed doors in office area
- lights installed in office area
- painted men's bathroom
- painted women's bathroom
- painted janitor's closet
- work on mural
- stained office doors and jams
- varnished office doors

- installed cabinets in office
- tile in men's bathroom
- ordered tiles for women's bathroom
- continued work on the women's bathroom
- finished shelves in library
- sanctuary primed and painted
- framed in stairway and hung drywall
- mudding and taping of foyer
- work on finish electrical in offices
- texture in foyer
- carpet the office area
- tile in women's bathroom

2016

- shelves in storage closet
- foyer primed and painted
- tile in women's bathroom, men's bathroom, janitor's closet, nursery
- lights in offices and nursery
- purchased and finished doors for the downstairs
- installed exterior lights
- ceiling grid work in foyer, nursery, Sunday School classrooms, bathrooms
- electrical work on alarm and lights
- received permission to occupy the downstairs without finishing the upstairs

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>>>Building Update

Building Update

Well, here we are. We have finally moved into our new facility. First, I (Jim) want to offer a big THANK YOU for all who have volunteered and worked so hard in these final months to help us get in. Folks pitched in on the workdays and in the evenings and it was a rich blessing to see so many with such servant hearts helping in so many ways.

Just because we are in the new building does not mean that we don't have anything left to do. As you can see just looking around, there is a lot of work that still needs to be done to make things better here in our new church home. From this point forward, this space will be used to highlight some of the finish work that is being done and a few of the upcoming projects.

Parking Lot:

Half of phase one of our parking lot has been completed. We will need to get the rest of the parking lot (south of the building and west of the current lot) finished by fall. We are going to let the dust settle and the bills come in for the work that has been done and then see what is needed to finish that project. Right now, getting that lot done is priority one.

Other Projects:

This last month, Jeff Miller has been busy putting down counter tops in the kitchen. Stop in and take a look sometime. It is beautiful! We had two used dishwashers donated for the kitchen. Those should be installed soon. Pat Bradshaw has been working on cabinets for the nursery. When he is finished and those are installed, Jeff will do the countertops for those. The stage was also carpeted!

The Next Projects:

After finishing the parking lot, we will prioritize some of the next few projects. These include more chairs for the sanctuary, sound system, sanctuary projector, and doors for the sanctuary.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Church News <<<

Andrew Rappaport – Striving for Eternity Ministries
Coming October 12-14 SAVE THE DATE!

>>>Kootenai Classifieds

Firewood:
 Call John Kinne: (208) 290-4359

My name is Gerimiah Pennell and I am a 16-year-old boy looking for odd jobs. Please contact me at 208-920-3426.

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE!
 July 13-14
 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
 (most is free after 3)
 157 Bobtail Rd.
 Sandpoint
 -Slippys' home-

Place your ad here next month! Email the details to lisaslippy@gmail.com



2017

- all tile is finished
- constructed sound booth
- concrete pad for HVAC poured
- concrete pad for landing and shed poured
- HVAC unit for the sanctuary purchased and delivered
- HVAC rough-in for sanctuary completed
- room behind the stage drywalled, taped and textured
- ceiling grid in sanctuary installed
- lights for sanctuary purchased and installed
- insulation for downstairs purchased and delivered
- outside flood/security lights installed

- and hooked up
- exterior security cameras installed
- interior security camera wires run
- Sunday School classrooms carpeted
- lights throughout the facility were installed
- sprinkler heads installed through the downstairs
- all furnaces for occupancy are purchased
- started work on the parking lot
- conduit for parking lot lights installed
- trimmed sanctuary windows
- **2018 (in progress)**
- sprinkler heads finished in sanctuary
- installed fire alarm system
- finished lights in sanctuary

- flooded the fire suppression system
- finished sanctuary HVAC
- installed ceiling tile in the rest of the lower level
- insulated ceiling
- put in parking lot
- nursery carpet installed
- working on nursery cabinets
- kitchen cabinets and countertops installed
- stove donated
- carpeted stage

OCCUPANCY GRANTED - FIRST SUNDAY WAS JUNE 3, 2018 - A MEMORABLE AND MOMENTOUS OCCASION!

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

The prosperous wicked cannot avoid the day when they shall face the just wrath of God for their sin. They will find that all their acts of oppression, violence, and blasphemy (vv. 3-10), were not forgotten (v. 11). They will realize that while they thought they were escaping the judgment of God, they were in fact storing up wrath for themselves - a wrath that reveals the righteous judgment of God. On that day, "There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Romans 2:9-10).

They will be swept away in terror as they face the justice of Him from Whose presence earth and Heaven flees.

Certain Judgment

Psalm 73:20

**Like a dream when one awakes,
O Lord, when aroused,
You will despise their form.**

The prosperous life of the wicked is compared to a dream from which they will eventually awake. Their life of wealth and ease is no more substantial than the images of a dream. Like a dream, it will pass quickly, and once awakened, they will realize it was little more than a mirage.

Perhaps you have had dreams in which you had something, or several things, that you have always wanted. In your dream, you felt so secure, satisfied, and joyful. How disappointed you were when you woke up and realized it was *only* a dream! The riches you enjoyed are no more. What you possessed in the dream has no bearing upon your lot in reality. The luxury, joy, and delights of your dream vanish the instant you awake.

So it is with the prosperity of the wicked. Their wealth in this life is nothing more than a temporary, transitory, vapor. When this life is over and judgment has come, they will look back upon their wealth the way we view a dream. How quickly it came! How quickly it is gone! How sobering is their reality! Matthew Henry notes:

What their prosperity now is; it is but an image, a vain show, a fashion of the world that passes away; it is not real, but imaginary, and it is only a corrupt imagination that makes it a happiness; it is not substance, but a mere shadow; it is not what it seems to be, nor will it prove what we promise ourselves from it; it is as a dream, which may please us a little, while we are asleep, yet even then it disturbs our repose; but, how pleasing soever it is, it is all but a cheat, all false; when we awake we find it so. A hungry man dreams that he eats, but he awakes and his soul is empty (Isa. 29:8). A man is never the more rich or honourable for dreaming he is so. Who therefore will envy a man the pleasure of a dream?¹²

For the time being, they enjoy their dream only by the forbearance of God which forbearance is likened to sleep. Delay in God's action against sinners appears from our vantage point as if God were asleep. God being aroused from that sleep is a figurative way of describing the sudden way in which God will take action to judge the

wicked. This poetic language is used elsewhere as well. In Psalm 44:23 we read, "Arouse Yourself, why do You sleep, O Lord? Awake, do not reject us forever." Psalm 35:23 calls upon God to "stir up Yourself, and awake to my right and to my cause, my God and my Lord."

Psalm 59:4-5:

4 For no guilt of mine, they run and set themselves against me.

Arouse Yourself to help me, and see!

5 You, O LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel, Awake to punish all the nations;

Do not be gracious to any who are treacherous in iniquity. Selah.

The language regarding God sleeping is only poetic imagery used to describe the delay in the execution of God's judgment on the wicked and His deliverance of the righteous. Psalm 121:4 reminds us, "Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep."

Like the prosperity of the wicked, the inactivity of God is only an illusion. We have learned from the psalm that God is actively judging the wicked through their prosperity. God is at work hardening their hearts, blinding their eyes, and ripening rebels for His justice. He is not ignorant of their sin (v.11). He is not sleeping through their prosperity, but actively using it to prepare them for judgment.

Modern translations vary a little in their rendering of the last phrase of the verse. The difference has to do with the meaning of "form."

KJV: Thou shalt despise their *image*.

NKJV: You shall despise their *image*.

NASB: You will despise their *form*.

NIV: You will despise them as *fantasies*.

ESV: You despise them as *phantoms*.

The word "despise" has the basic meaning "to accord little worth to something."¹³ According to the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, "While this action may or may not include overt feelings of contempt or scorn, the biblical usage indicates that the very act of undervaluing something or someone implies contempt."¹⁴

There are three possible interpretations for the verse.

First, "form" refers to the wicked themselves. It is their image, the representation of themselves, which the Lord despises.¹⁵ This would mean that God does not value them, but rather views them as something of little worth. This stands in stark contrast with the worth that the wicked would attribute to themselves. They strut about in pride and arrogance (v. 6) setting their mouth against Heaven (v. 8). Adorned with chains of gold, the prosperous wicked highly value themselves. God does not share that estimation. In God's eyes, their wealth adds to them no value. God sees them for what they are in truth: children of dust, rebellious enemies deserving of His wrath.

Second, "form" refers to the idols of the wicked. The word is used sixteen times and to quote the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* again, "The word basically refers to a representation, a likeness. Five times it is used of man as created in the image of God. Twice it is used of the golden copies of the mice and swellings that afflicted the Philistines (I Sam 6:5, 11). Mostly it refers to an idol."¹⁶ If this is the sense in which Asaph is using the word, then it likely refers to the wealth and prosperity which the wicked idolize. Their wealth is the idol in which they trust, the god that they serve. In judgment, God shows His contempt for their "idol." God certainly does not value prosperity, riches, and affluence the way the wicked do. He looks down upon it as a useless and worthless thing.

Third, "form" refers to their "dream" mentioned at the beginning of the verse. In keeping with this understanding, the NIV translates the word as "fantasies." The ESV

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Continued from page 7 follows suit and uses the word “phantoms.”

This third interpretation seems to fit best with the immediate context, especially the phrase at the beginning of the verse. Asaph compares the prosperity of the wicked, the life they live, and the ease they enjoy to the brevity and worthlessness of a dream. All their luxury is worth no more than a fantasy. It is only a phantom. Thus, God despises it. He looks down upon it as a worthless thing. God’s evaluation of their prosperity and ease of life is the true and accurate assessment of these luxuries.

When God’s justice awakes, the sinner will find that the riches they enjoyed were momentary but the misery they will endure is everlasting.

The greater the comforts and prosperity of the wicked in this life, the greater will be their loss when they step into the next. The greater the suffering and affliction of the righteous in this life, the greater will be their gain the moment they enter the next.

The challenge for us is clear: will we envy these things as if they have real value? or will we pity those who face God’s wrath when their brief dream is over?

Without Wax –



⁹Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson. 1994), 849.

¹⁰See also Psalm 89:14: “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; lovingkindness and truth go before You,” and Psalm 97:2: “Clouds and thick darkness surround Him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.”

¹¹Spurgeon, 251.

¹²Henry, 849.

¹³Waltke, B. K. (1999). 224 .תןR. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 98). Chicago: Moody Press.

¹⁴Ibid.

¹⁵Some are very uncomfortable with the idea that God should have anything but overwhelming love for the wicked. They have no room in their thinking for the

notion that God’s affections should include a form of hatred for those who work iniquity. They would say that “God hates the sin but loves the sinner.” I do not deny that God has a love for the sinner since the sinner is still a creature made in His image. The love that God has for the sinner is not a redeeming love that moves to rescue him in the way that He loves and rescues the bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25-30). The love that Christ has for His sheep is a redeeming love that saves His sheep everlastingly (John 10:11-18, 25-30). God does not love all people the same way, nor to the same end. Just as it is not fit to deny that God has a certain love for the wicked, neither is it right to deny that Scripture reveals that God has a hatred for the wicked as well. Psalm 5:5 says, “The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all who do iniquity.” Hosea 9:15 says, “All their evil is at Gilgal; indeed, I came to hate them there! Because of the wickedness of their deeds I will drive them out of My house! I will love them no more; all their princes are rebels.” See also Leviticus 20:23. Proverbs 6:16-19 says, “There are six things which the Lord hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, a false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers.” It may be difficult for us to understand how these two affections, love and hatred toward the wicked, can exist simultaneously in God. That difficulty should not drive us to deny what Scripture teaches concerning this reality.

¹⁶Harris, Archer, Waltke, 767.

Attention, Newbies

Here are some basics you should know...

- * Jim sends out a weekly email update of church information. To get on this email list, contact him at kcc@nctv.com.
- * There is a church prayer chain. To be a part of this ministry, contact Marcia Whetsel at secretary@nctv.com.
- * There are several books written by our own pastor, available for purchase at the Welcome Table, from which all the proceeds go toward the building fund.
- * To become a member of KCC, there will be a membership class in September or October. Contact Jim Osman if you are interested.
- * There is a church directory available for purchase. Ask about it at the Welcome Table.