



Big Idea: There is no treasure like being treasured by God.

1.) Worship and WHINING don't mix (v. 13-14).

- Today's text compels us to ask if there is any way we have spoken against God.
- The complaints we make in secret are not kept secret from God.
- In asking what good it does to serve God, the Israelites were really asking what good does it do for **ME**
- You can be a worshipper or a whiner, but you cannot at the same time be both.

2.) ENVY is the epitome of immaturity (v. 14b-15).

- Instead of rejoicing in the providence and promises of God, they lusted after the power and prosperity of Babylon.
- Envy was blinding Israel to the bigger picture of God's greater glory and rooting their lives in the poisonous soil of avarice.
- Proverbs 23:17, Job 5:2, Proverbs 14:30, James 3:14-15
- Envy is the spiritual perspective of people who **LACK** spiritual perspective.
- If we determine what we want based upon what others have, then we will very quickly become disillusioned about and disconnected from true Christian life (Matthew 6:24).

3.) We are in good **COMPANY** (v. 16a).

- God established the church is so that His people would not have to walk through life alone (Romans 1:12, Romans 12:5).
- When those who love God seek answers from His Word **TOGETHER** He blesses us with wisdom and truth.
- When we honestly share our troubles together, God hears us and gives us grace to overcome and grow.
- When trials come, you will be in good company if you remain in the company of those who love and lean upon Christ (Hebrews 10:23-25).

4.) We are in God's **BOOK** (v. 16b).

- Whatever your circumstances on earth, if you belong to God by faith, then you are remembered by God.
- God made a permanent record of those who trusted in Him (Revelation 21:27).
- If you are in Christ, then rejoice that there is an eternal book of remembrance in which God has written your name! (Revelation 3:5)

5.) We are God's **TREASURED** _____ possession (v. 17-18).

- If we know how to take care of our treasured possessions, how much more will God take care of His? (Psalm 121, Isaiah 41:10).
- Although the distinction between the righteous and the unrighteous might not be obvious in this life, it will be clear in the next (v. 18).
- God urges His people to see that their lust for worldly treasure had blinded them to the infinitely greater joy of being treasured by Him.

-- What could give more hope than to know that the God who holds the future holds you as His forever prize?

-- Even now, God holds you **CLOSE** to His heart and wants you to know the incomparable joy of holding Him **CLOSE** to yours.