

1. **Launchers: Why is the apparent success of the wicked so vexing?**

2. **Worship God: Romans 5:1-5**

Worship the LORD for His surpassing worth and beauty! Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for how His glorious love exceeds all competing offers or allegiances.

3. **Sermon Reflection: Grappling with Evil / Psalm 73**

A Problem with Tension

- What tension do we live with because many suffer and yet apparently some do not suffer (even the wicked)?
- Asaph trusted the LORD’s goodness... How are you trusting in God’s goodness as you encounter evil every day?
- What is shaping your perception of “success?” Do you gravitate towards noticing the success of the wicked, or the success of the Spirit working in the world?

An Eternal Vantage Point

- How do you gain perspective? (Did Jesus speak in temporal terms or in eternal terms?)
- When Asaph was weary, he went into the Temple to worship and atone for his sins. Now, in Christ, we can go to his feet when we are weary and weak. What does this look like for you? How do you go to the feet of Jesus?
- Why is God’s intervention and incarnation so unique (different than every other worldview)? What does this tell you about Jesus’ perspective towards you?

A Very Present, Personal Hope

- What does it mean for God to be your “portion forever?”
- What is the hope for the prideful? Versus, what is the hope for God’s people—the ones whom he has humbled through his grace and holiness?
- What spiritual practices do you employ that remind you of God’s enduring presence with you and in you? Encourage one another in this endeavor!

4. **Kingdom Centered Prayer: You Can Pray with Us**

1. Worship the LORD for His surpassing worth and beauty! Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for how His glorious love exceeds all competing offers or allegiances.
2. How have you lived as if Jesus is not worth having compared with the things, experiences or people of this world? Confess your foolish pride to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and heal your heart by His holy love.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for His amazing work to remove your guilt (*by His atoning death*) and fill your heart (*by His indwelling Spirit*). Thank Him for taking away everything wrong about you and giving you His own Person.
4. Who do you know who lives envying the success of the wicked or the unbelieving? Pray for them, asking the Lord to help them see things from His perspective and to seek instead the LORD and His righteousness.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love, joy and patience. Pray for His work to so secure you in Christ that you can view the temporary things of this world appropriately and set your heart on heaven.

5. **Mission: Our mission is to put our hope in the LORD God, as our refuge and our portion. In him, we can be beacons of truth to the world/evil—testifying that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

- Pray against the seemingly prevailing evil in the world—Pray together for conversions, pray that God would thwart His enemies, and pray that we would have faith as a community.