

Adjusting Your Lantern

¹ Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.
² But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.
³ For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
⁴ They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong.
⁵ They are free from the burdens common to man; they are not plagued by human ills.
⁶ Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence.
⁷ From their callous hearts comes iniquity; the evil conceits of their minds know no limits.
⁸ They scoff, and speak with malice; in their arrogance they threaten oppression.
⁹ Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth.
¹⁰ Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance.
¹¹ They say, "How can God know? Does the Most High have knowledge?"
¹² This is what the wicked are like— always carefree, they increase in wealth.
¹³ Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence.
¹⁴ All day long I have been plagued; I have been punished every morning.
¹⁵ If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed your children.
¹⁶ When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me
¹⁷ till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.

Psalm 73:1-17 (NIV)

Others Adjustment

"Why have we fasted," they say, "and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?" "Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. ⁴ Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high... ⁶ "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? ⁸ Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I." Isaiah 58:3-4,6-9 (NIV)

Eternal Adjustment

"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body." Philippians 3:12-14, 18-21 (NIV)

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like." James 1:22-24 (NIV)

Lantern Adjustments

- Stuck in neutral? – Step on the clutch. Get in gear!
- Others first or talk to the hand?
- Eternal or earthly rewards? – Living for the yellow rope!
- Look back or press forward? - Go do your man thing!