

HOW TO EXAMINE YOUR FOCUS

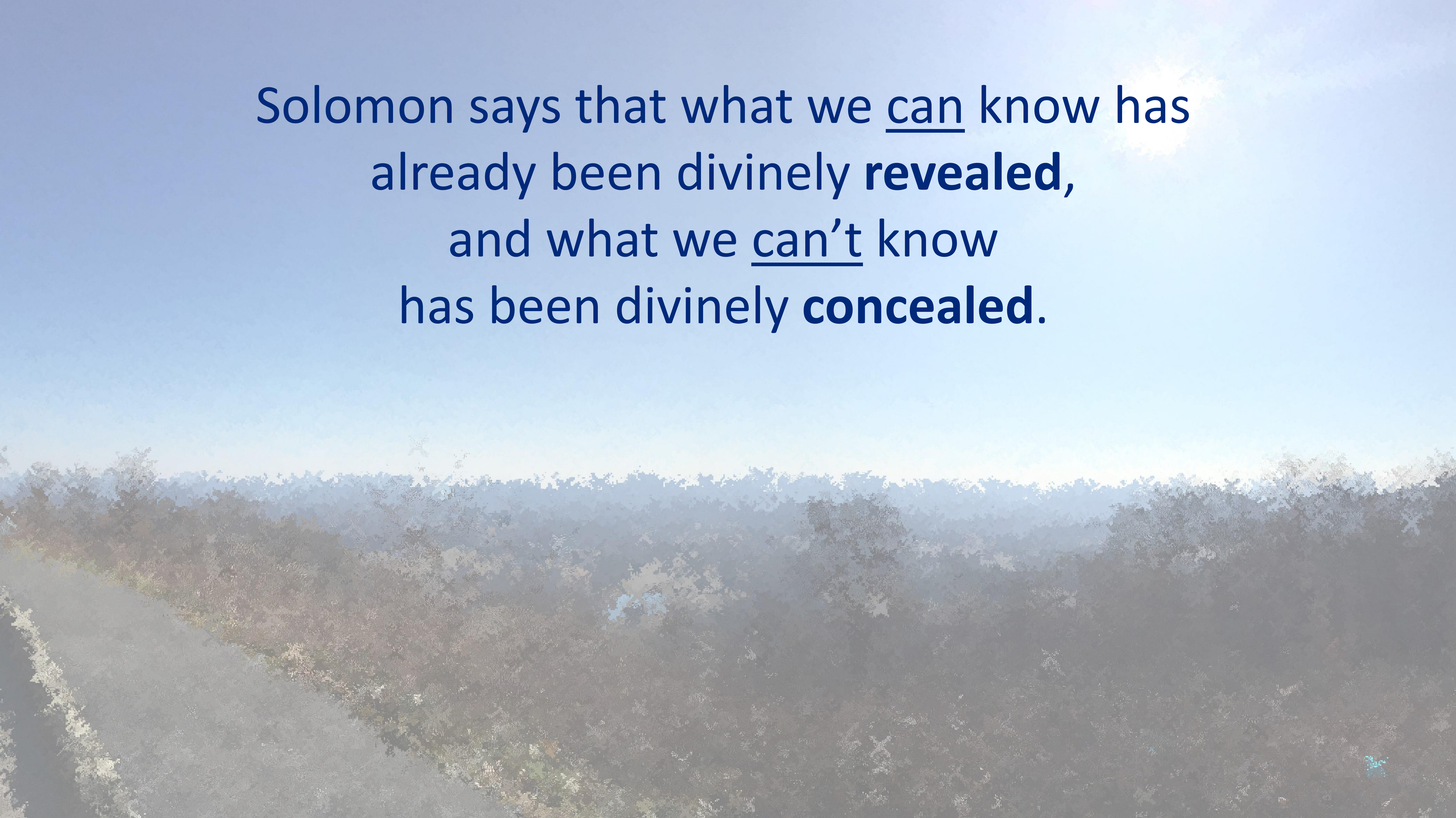
Psalm 73:1-14

ECCLESIASTES: LIFE UNDER THE SON

“God does make knowledge available to human beings, but to gain knowledge we must begin by listening to Him (Proverbs 1:7). We can come to know the world when our thinking is based on God’s revelation, found in the creation, to be sure, but also in the Bible.”

Then we must know our limits. Our goal must be, not to gain a divine knowledge of reality, but to obtain a human knowledge sufficient to carry out whatever calling God has given each of us.”

John Frame

A scenic landscape featuring a dirt road on the left, a dense line of trees in the middle ground, and a bright, hazy sky with a sun flare in the upper right. The text is overlaid in the upper half of the image.

Solomon says that what we can know has
already been divinely **revealed**,
and what we can't know
has been divinely **concealed**.

Perplexity over the Prosperity of the Wicked

A. Their **Prosperity** (1-5)

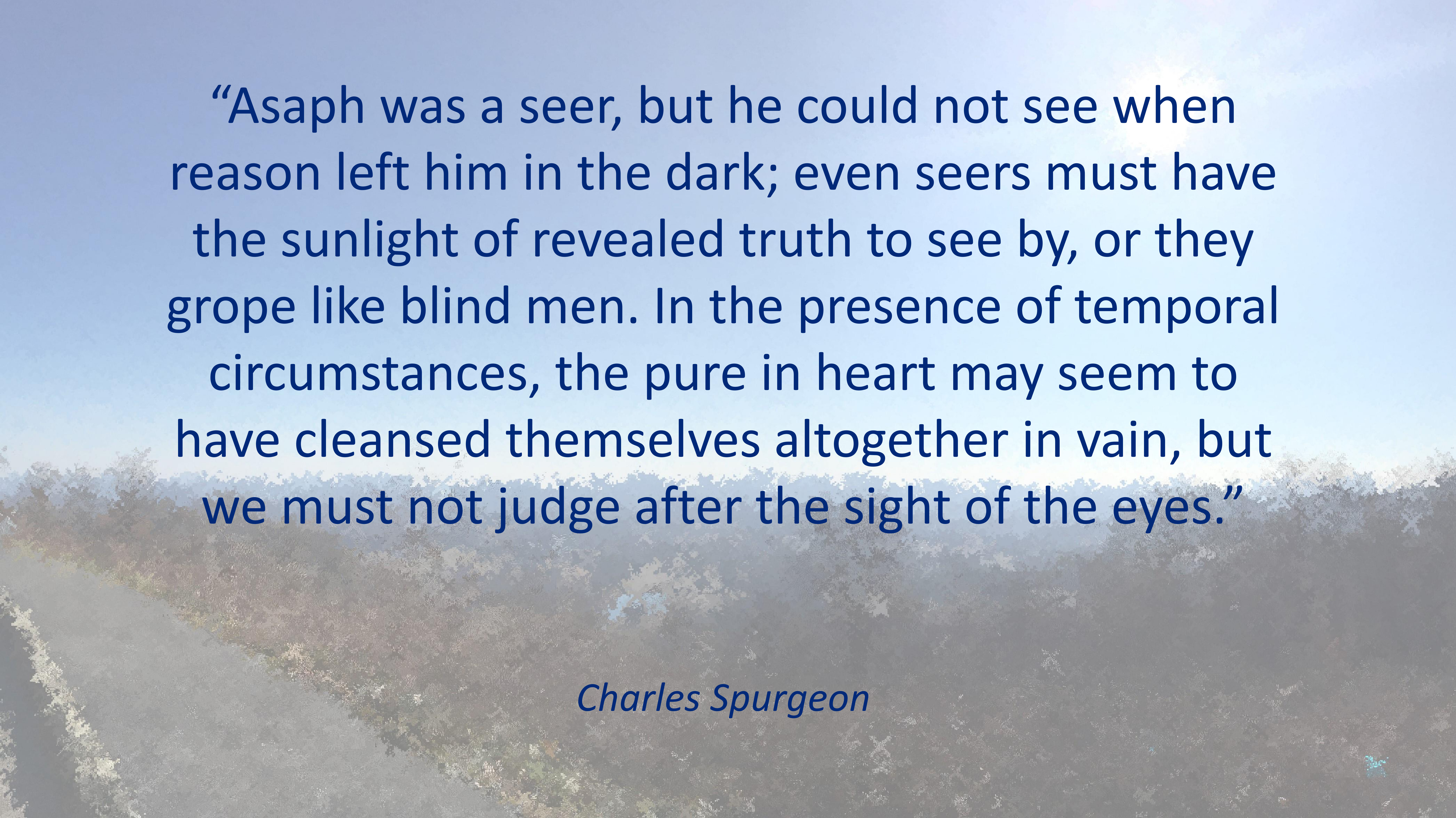
B. Their **Pride** (6-9)

C. Their **Presumption** (10-14)

We are going to use Asaph's candid confession to help us determine where we have **fixed our eyes**, so that we gain a **godly focus** in responding to our own difficult circumstances and the injustices of life.

Step 1: “Understand the power of your interpretations.”





“Asaph was a seer, but he could not see when reason left him in the dark; even seers must have the sunlight of revealed truth to see by, or they grope like blind men. In the presence of temporal circumstances, the pure in heart may seem to have cleansed themselves altogether in vain, but we must not judge after the sight of the eyes.”

Charles Spurgeon

Step 1: “Understand the power of your interpretations.”

Step 2: “Recognize the [4] symptoms of a wrong focus.”



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1. Vv. 3-5, 12 - Envy
2. V. 16 - Confusion
3. V. 13 - Discouragement
4. Vv. 21-22 – Anger

The Christian life is not about you **getting ahead**, the Christian life is about you getting **a heart** – a heart for Jesus and for others.

Step 1: “Understand the power of your interpretations.”

Step 2: “Recognize the four symptoms of a wrong focus.”

Step 3: “Identify and confess the true treasures of your heart.”



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- How have you struggled with regret, saying, “If only...”
- When do you experience problems with prayer and personal worship, faithfulness in gathered worship, and in your relationship with God?

Here are some **questions** you can ask to help you **root out** what you are really living for:

- When (under what conditions) do you tend to experience fear, worry, or anxiety?
- How have you struggled with regret, saying, “If only...”
- When do you experience problems with prayer and personal worship, faithfulness in gathered worship, and in your relationship with God?
- In what situations do you typically struggle with anger?

For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death works in us, but life in you.

2 Corinthians 4:6-12 (NASB)

...knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you.

Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:14, 16-18 (NASB)



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GRACE CHURCH
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