

Crossway Life Group, Week of August 4

See sermon notes on [CMC's webpage](#) for background information

Community

Take time to share and pray for each other's concerns and joys.

Scripture: Psalm 73 "Awakening to Reality"

Reading & Discussing Scripture

- **Read the verses from Psalm 73:12-16:** Asaph said that, without looking at the final destination of the two different roads in life, he found the comparison between God's path and the path of people who were far from God to be deeply troubling. What was troubling to him?
- **Read Psalm 73:17, 19, 23-24:** Asaph said that when he "saw the final destiny" of the road that is apart from God, he was no longer troubled. What is the critical difference between the destinations of the two roads that Asaph was able to see?
- **Read Matthew 7:13-14:** How did Jesus describe the difference between the two roads?
- **Read John 14:21 and Isaiah 59:1-3:** The first passage seems to describe the narrow road, and the second passage seems to describe the broad road. What do these passages say about the people who are on each of these roads? Note that "partial goodness" and "partial loyalty" fit within Isaiah's description of the people who are separated from God.
- **Read Colossians 1:21-23:** When we are on the broad road, Isaiah said that we are separated and alienated from God. How does Colossians describe the change from being an enemy of God to being reconciled to God, in other words, to be loved by God as His child? How is the death of Jesus a good thing?



The Big Idea

**The death of Jesus Christ
is the only true hope for eternal life with God**

Application & Reflection Questions

- Since the cross is naturally a symbol of torture and death for guilty people, why does Paul say that it is His boast? (see Galatians 6:14)
- Once you have taken the narrow road of the cross of Jesus Christ and His death for you, there is no more place for pride, fear, and (self) judgment. What draws you back into the place of pride, fear, and (self) judgment?
- When you are back in the place of pride, fear, and (self) judgment, what helps you see clearly again the amazing love of God for us expressed in the death of Jesus Christ?
- We are "to proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." (1 Corinthians 11:26) Whom can you tell of this amazing news, that our hope is not in ourselves, but in the immensity of the love enacted God for us in Jesus Christ's death on the cross?

Growing in Cultural Understanding

In Jesus' day, the cross was a symbol of shame, torture, and death. So when Paul said, "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ," it was a startling statement. For you, what symbol might evoke feelings or thoughts similar to what "cross" brought in that day? How might it change your sense of Paul's words if we substituted that symbol in Paul's statement of boasting in the cross?

Serving beyond ourselves

What are ways that your group can be for the benefit of people beyond yourselves?

New International Version (NIV)

Psalm 73:12-16

This is what the wicked are like—
always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.
Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure
and have washed my hands in innocence.
All day long I have been afflicted,
and every morning brings new punishments.
If I had spoken out like that,
I would have betrayed your children.
When I tried to understand all this,
it troubled me deeply.

Psalm 73:17, 19, 23-24

But then...

I entered the sanctuary of God;
then I understood their final destiny.
How suddenly are they destroyed,
completely swept away by terrors!
Yet I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.
You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will take me into glory.

Matthew 7:13-14

Jesus said, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

John 14:21

Jesus said, "Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

Isaiah 59:1-3

Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save,
nor his ear too dull to hear.

But your iniquities have **separated**
you from your God;

iniquities = immorality and disloyalty

your sins have hidden his face from you,
so that he will not hear.

sins = immorality and disloyalty

For your hands are stained with blood,
your fingers with guilt.

Your lips have spoken falsely,
and your tongue mutters wicked things.

Colossians 1:21-23

"Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.... This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant."

Galatians 6:14

May I never boast (or rejoice or fear) except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.