Introduction

It’s easy for us to be busy and in such a hurry that we never stop and ask, “Where we are going?” Knowing our destination in life is important. What gets you out of bed each morning? For some, ambition for things gets them out of bed. For some, it is comfort and pleasure. We all live for something.

What are you living for? Where is that road taking you? You have to know where you are headed.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use Psalm 119:33-40 as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

1. Kick envy out of the driver’s seat. Vs. 17-24
2. Boast in knowing God. Vs. 25-26

Read & Discuss

1) Read 4:17-24

What has happened to Cain – the person who rebelled against God and killed his brother? We see here that he prospers. He built a city and named it after his son, Enoch. Cain’s ancestors became successful in a variety of ways. What fueled all this activity in the city of Enoch? Cain wanted to be self-reliant. When you push God away like that, your value and significance are defined by performance, comparison, popularity and not by God’s grace and love. Envy is the fuel that drives ambitions. (Ecclesiastes 4:4) But envy can also squash ambitions. If you try and fail, you think “what’s the point of trying?”

By God’s common grace, there were many beneficial and helpful things that came out of this self-reliant, envious culture. God’s people have benefited by the advances of others. Yet, one of the dangers of seeing the godless live in plenty and security is envy. The ungodly seem to be getting ahead. If you are tempted to envy the wicked, look at the big picture. Look at their end. (Psalm 73)

The world today still celebrates sin. The world makes sin look normal and makes righteousness seem strange. Sin is normalized in the TV programs and movies we watch and the songs we listen to. What you watch and listen to shapes you. When you see something, you have to ask two questions: What are they saying? Is it true according to God’s truth? We must guard our hearts and minds so that they are transformed. (Romans 12:2)

Does envy drive your ambitions? Has envy ever squashed your ambition? Does seeing the wicked prosper cause you to envy them? Have you ever been driven by envy to do something good?

Additional Reading: Psalm 73; Psalm 49:10-12, Proverbs 23:17-18

2) Read 4:25-26

If Cain’s line is known for advancement in agriculture, the arts, etc., the line of Seth is known for the worship of God. They called on the name of the Lord. Seth’s line rejected the lie of the serpent and proclaimed that God is good. They trusted God, praised God, worshipped God, and boasted in God.
When sin is downplayed, church becomes a do-it-yourself project and the Bible becomes a how-to book. However, the Bible is fundamentally about God. He is the hero! We can’t downplay sin. The treatment for sin reveals the depth of the problem, and God’s solution for our sin problem required the death of His Son.

When we gather, we don’t declare our glory. We gather to proclaim the name of the Lord. We come together to ask God to transform us and recalibrate us to what is true and right and good. We can’t do it ourselves. We proclaim Jesus’ name because He is our only hope. (John 14:6)

Are you tempted to downplay sin? How do you view God, His church and His Word? What are you living for? What path are you on, and where is that path leading?

**Additional Reading:** Exodus 34:5-7; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

**Prayer of Response**

1) After hearing God’s Word, what sin do I need to confess? From what do I need to repent?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I understand, believe, desire, or do?

Spend time praying together in response to God’s word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at [https://fbcum.org/sermons](https://fbcum.org/sermons)

**Next week’s sermon text:** we turn to Genesis 5:1-23 “Walking with God”