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# CLEAN HANDS AND A PURE HEART: KEEPING IT REAL

## I. Introduction – Recognizing the Gap

- A. A gap is a break in continuity, a break or a hole in an object
- B. Symptoms of the gap: Knowledgeable but impersonal walk with God, a struggle with material things, and a definite lack of personal growth. Something is wrong with this harvest; it contradicts the faith that is supposed to be its source.” Timothy Lane, Paul Tripp (how people change Pg. 3)
- C. Our goal is to consider the gap and its remedy by looking at Psalm 73.

## II. The Truth

- A. “Truly God is good to Israel” (verse 1)
  - 1. How is the goodness of God made manifest to us? Most clearly seen in Christ
  - 2. We know God is good because “the Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.” Romans 8:16

“Saving faith is the cry of a new creation in Christ. And the newness of the new creature is that it has a new taste. What was once distasteful or bland is now craved.” John Piper (Desiring God Pg. 54)

“Saving faith is the confidence that if you sell all you have, and forsake all sinful pleasures, the hidden treasure of holy joy will satisfy your deepest desires.” John Piper (Desiring God Pg. 55)

- 3. Easy to say it with our lips but deny the truth in our hearts when temptation comes
- 4. Gaps don't stay gaps for long. They eventually get filled with someone or something

## III. The Temptation

- A. “But as for me, my feet had almost slipped” (verses 2-12)
  - 1. Asaph makes generalizations and distortions. “They” (all of the wicked) are carefree in all areas of life and getting away with it

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2. Like Asaph, we can be envious of the wicked at times

“Though saved, I am daily beset by a sinful flesh that always craves those things that are contrary to the Spirit. These fleshly lusts are vicious enemies, constantly waging war against the good of my soul. Yet they promise me fullness, and their promises are deliciously sweet that I often find myself giving into them as if they were friends that have my best interests at heart. On the most basic of levels, I desire fullness, and fleshly lusts seduce me by attaching themselves to this basic desire. They exploit the empty spaces in me, and they promise that fullness will be mine if I give into their demands. When my soul sits empty and is aching for something to fill it, such deceptive promises are extremely difficult to resist.” Milton Vincent (Gospel Primer Pg. 45)

“The world is so attractive to our eyes and so seductive to our hearts. The creation can seem so much more real than the Creator. The sights, sounds, touches, and tastes of the world can make us more alive than the purposes, promises, presence and provisions of a God who can neither be seen nor heard. This is a battle you do not win once. It is a battle that you must face every day.” Paul David Tripp

#### IV. The Triumph

- A. “Until I went into the sanctuary of God” (verse 17, 23-26, 28)
- B. What happens in the Sanctuary? Verse 28 “It is good to be near God”
- C. The key to mortifying lusts is to eliminate the emptiness within me and replace it with fullness
- D. “In the gospel I experience a God who glorifies himself by filling me with his fullness.” Milton Vincent (Gospel Primer Pg. 46)
- E. Jesus said, “He who **continually** comes to me will never hunger or thirst again” John 6:35
- F. What happens to my appetite for sin when I am filled with Christ? My hunger for sin diminishes and the lies of lust simply lose their appeal
- G. To the degree that I am full of Jesus, I am free from sin. Eyes do not rove, nor do fleshly lusts rule, when the heart is fat with the love of Jesus

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**V. Practical application to bridge the gap**

- A. Recognize the extent of your own sin
  - 1. Don't minimize sin and temptation (brush it off)
  - 2. Sin resides in the heart ("The heart is the steering wheel of every human being" Timothy S. Lane, Paul David Tripp. *How People Change*)
  - 3. Accept the bad news of your condition so that the good news of the gospel can have its full affect
  
- B. Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God
  - 1. Specific confession of sin before God (repentance) Psalm 32:1-2
  - 2. Specific confession of sin before others
  - 3. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble 1 Peter 5:5
  
- C. Turn your eyes towards Christ again
  - 1. He made an end of all your sin (He is our only hope)
  - 2. Your sin has been removed for a reason (Fellowship with Christ)
  - 3. In him is everything we need (fullness)
  - 4. He stands and knocks wanting to commune
  - 5. Schedule times throughout your day to refocus your gaze
  
- D. Daily remind yourself of God's grace and goodness
  - 1. His Word will help us do this
  - 2. Preach the gospel to yourself every day
  - 3. This fills a heart with gratefulness (what I deserve vs. what I have been given)
  - 4. Joy should be the overflow of a heart filled with gratefulness
  - 5. Books that speak of His grace and goodness most clearly seen at Calvary help us
  
- E. Daily remind others of his grace and goodness
  - 1. Move out of your devotion time keeping Christ on your mind and on your lips
  - 2. Look for ways to talk about Him with others throughout the day. You'll find your soul full with Christ and fleshly lusts losing their appeal
  - 3. Be mindful of his work in you and in others throughout the day and draw attention to his work