**CHEATERS NEVER PROSPER**

**(Leviticus 19:35-37)**

**Introduction:**

**I. TEXT (Psalm 73:1-16) Two main themes, divine providence, and the battle within one’s soul. Envious of the prosperity of others, so are many today.**

 **II. Remainder of Psalm 73 confirms that real prosperity comes by way of a home in heaven!**

**III. When one is envious of what others have, he will (either consciously or subconsciously), begin to create shortcuts for himself.**

A. There are NO shortcuts to prosperity nor to spiritual safety andwellbeing!

 B. CHEAT = swindle or defraud.

**Discussion:**

 **I. God’s Law on the Matter**

A. (Lev. 19:35-37) Perfect weights & measures!

B. Moses reminds God’s people again of this in his farewell message (Deut. 25:13-15)

C. (Mat. 7:2) Jesus also taught on this topic saying, ***“For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”***

D. So why do so many still try to shortcut to the top?

 **II. Envy**

A. Envy will cause one to cheat! The desire to keep up with the Jones’, or better yet become the Jones’

1. Could be in anything, (1) selling a car / to trick out a car, (2) name brand clothes/shoes (4) job/position, (5) schoolwork, (6) another man’s wife/husband

B. (Pro. 14:30) ***“A sound heart is life to the body, But envy is rottenness to the bones.***

C. Jesus was put to death because of envy, (Mark 15:10).

D. We should never envy sinners (Pro. 23:17)

 **III. Laziness**

A. Laziness will cause one to become a cheater! One will always look for the easy way out.

1. Classic examples include: (1) Schoolwork, (2) Pulling others in to pay for their lack thereof, *the caring, and the government*, as they are different from the poor.

 B. (Pro. 6:6-11)

 **IV. Cheating is a Derivative of Satan’s Work**

A. (John 8:40-44), Jesus tells his accusers who they belong to, the father of lies.

 B. (Job 13:4) ***“But you forgers of lies, You are all worthless physicians.”***

C. We cannot allow ourselves to be overcome with the desire to CHEAT. It is packed with everything that is wrong! (Pro. 11:1)

1. (Pro. 6:16-19) Seven things the Lord hates

 D. DOING ALL THINGS HONESTLY & RIGHT IS A VIRTUE!

1. We live in an incentive-based world, however, that is one reason why it is difficult to always do things HONESTLY & RIGHT.

 E. Doing all things “honestly & right”, is how God wanted it then and still today!

**Conclusion:**

 **I. In conclusion let us finish reading the 73rd Psalm (vs. 16-28)**

**II. Cheaters Never Prosper.**

 **II. Cheating is an abomination to God.**

 **III. To be rewarded with a home in heaven, we must not CHEAT anyone not even ourselves.**