

## **PSALM 73 The Tragedy of the Wicked, and the Blessedness of Trust in God!**

12/3/22 – Sat Morn Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com)

### **THE GOODNESS OF GOD** Bethel Music (5:03)

*I love You, Lord, Oh Your mercy never fails me. All my days I've been held in Your hands  
From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head, I will sing of the goodness of God*

*Chorus - And all my life You have been faithful And all my life You have been so, so good  
With every breath that I am able Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God*

*I love Your voice, You have led me through the fire. In the darkest night, You are close like no other.  
I've known You as a Father. I've known You as a Friend. And I have lived in the goodness of God  
(Chorus)*

*Cause Your goodness is running after. It's running after me. Your goodness is running after. It's  
running after me.*

*With my life laid down I'm surrendered now I give You everything  
Your goodness is running after, It's running after me. (2x)*

*(Chorus) (2x)*

*Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God*

**Psalm 73** The next several psalms are ascribed to Asaph. During the reign of King David, Asaph was the chief musician. David addressed some of the psalms to Asaph. It is possible that Asaph would put the music to the lyrics that had been written by David. We do see that Asaph was referred to as a seer, a prophet. (**2Ch 29:30**) *Moreover King Hezekiah and the leaders commanded the Levites to sing praise to the LORD with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshiped.* The name Asaph became a family name in Israel, a name that was associated with the musicians. They were composers and though they are ascribed to Asaph, probably not just the Asaph of David's time but the descendants of Asaph who continued in the music industry, the family of Asaph.

Psalm 73 begins what is known as the third book of the psalms. The psalmist begins with an affirmation, a basic foundational belief. Our faith is based on certain foundational truths. One of the foundational truths upon which our whole faith is built is the fact that **God is good!** That is an extremely important foundation stone because there are many times in our lives when we are going to be facing circumstances in which we do not know the full ramifications. During periods of trial and testing when I do not yet know the outcome, Satan is so prone to challenge this goodness of God in my own heart. If God is good, then why did God allow this to happen to me? It is usually in the midst of the situation where we do not yet know the final outcome. I am in this period of limbo, not knowing how it is going to work out, but it looks like it is disaster. Then Satan comes along, making this challenge of God's goodness to my heart. It is always in those areas where I cannot understand, that the goodness of God is challenged.

### **PSALM 73 – A Psalm of Asaph.**

***Psa 73:1 Truly (ak, affirmation, only) God is good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart.***

***Psa 73:2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped.***

***Psa 73:3 For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.***

- The thing that the psalmist was wrestling with is the age-old question of why does God allow the wicked to prosper and why does God allow the righteous, many times, to suffer persecution? If I am a child of God then why doesn't God give me a life of roses? Why does God allow me to discover the thorns? Why does God allow me to go through painful experiences if I am His child? Look at these wicked, they do not seem to have any trouble like I do.

- The psalmist was looking at the wicked, wealthy people who were living blasphemous lives as he was really going through some heavy water and just trying to keep his head above water. He looks and sees the wicked who does not seem to have any problems. I know that God is good, but I was almost wiped out when I tried to figure out why? When I am doing my best to live a good life, why do I have all these problems? Here are these wicked out here who do not seem to have any problems, they seem to have it made. This was the thing that almost tripped up the psalmist. He was almost wiped out by this.
- He was envious of the wicked when he saw the prosperity. The assumptions and conclusions that he begins to draw are not true because it is Satan who is painting the picture, playing with his mind. It is Satan that is bringing the doubts concerning God, as he does with us. As Satan begins to work us over, he is not really interested in the truth he is only interested in creating generalizations, which are not true. But they are the way that I observe them at the moment. It is the way to me that it seems to be though it is not true, yet I am going through a hassle, so I look at the wicked and think that no one has any problems. All the wicked are free of trouble but here I am, I am not free. He is going on with a bunch of conclusions.

***Psa 73:4 For there are no pangs in their death, But their strength is firm.***

- There is an indication in verse twenty-six that the psalmist may have had a heart problem, maybe a heart attack, and he was incapacitated by it. Here he is in sort of a semi-invalid state. He said, "My flesh and my heart faileth! Man, I am going downhill. It could be that he was dying. He could be laid up with his heart attack and dying. He looks at the wicked, saying, "Hey they do not have this suffering kind of a thing before death. They are not cut down and wither away. Their strength remains firm right up to the hour that they check off."

***Psa 73:5 They are not in trouble as other men, Nor are they plagued like other men.***

- That is not so! Wicked people suffer horrible deaths. Wicked people suffer lingering deaths. There are many wicked invalid people in the world and wicked people have lots of trouble.
- Satan starts to build things up in your mind and you get a whole false concept of life if you allow Satan to feed his garbage to you.

***Psa 73:6 Therefore pride serves as their necklace; Violence covers them like a garment.***

- They are wrapped up. Like a person wrapped up with a chain so they are wrapped up in pride.

***Psa 73:7 Their eyes bulge with abundance; They have more than heart could wish.***

- They have so much, they eat so much that their eyes just sort of bulge out of their face.
- The wicked have it made, they do not have any problems, they have more than their heart could wish, they eat the finest of the gourmet foods and they are fat.

***Psa 73:8 They scoff and speak wickedly concerning oppression; They speak loftily (proudly).***

***Psa 73:9 They set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue walks through the earth.***

- They speak out against God, they speak out against the people of God, and they are blasphemous. They reproach God and they reproach the children of God.

***Psa 73:10 Therefore his people return here, And waters of a full cup are drained by them.***

- Again this full cup, they have more than their heart could desire. Their life is full.

***Psa 73:11 And they say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?"***

- They speak contemptuously of God. Oh how does God know? How does God know that?

***Psa 73:12 Behold, these are the ungodly, Who are always at ease; They increase in riches.***

- This trip that Satan is taking him on in the mind leads him to some very wrong conclusions. The kind of conclusions that Satan is trying to bring you to, and the conclusion is this.

***Psa 73:13 Surely (ak, affirmation, only) I have cleansed my heart in vain, And washed my hands in innocence.***

- That it does not really pay to live a good life and it does not really pay to try to serve God. That is the conclusion that Satan is bringing him to. Satan's almost got it. I mean his foot has almost slipped! He is just about to go down, "My feet were almost gone, my steps almost slipped"

***Psa 73:14 For all day long I have been plagued, And chastened every morning.***

- My life is filled with pain and suffering. It seems like I have no relief. So here I am trying to live a good and righteous life, trying to serve God, and I have all of these problems and pain. It really does not pay to try to live a good life and to serve the Lord.

***Psa 73:15 If I had said, "I will speak thus," Behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children.***

- If I would just leave it here, if I were to draw these conclusions and leave it there then I would be an offense to the children, the generations to come.

***Psa 73:16 When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me—***

- I just could not think about it. Every time I would think about it, it was too painful. I just could not handle it.

***Psa 73:17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end.***

- The sanctuary of God gave him a whole new perspective to life because it brought him into the consciousness of the eternal. That is something that the sanctuary of God should always do for us. It should always bring us into the consciousness of the eternal. The problem with our analysis and the conclusions that we draw from them is that we are usually only analyzing that which we could see of the temporal material world around us and we draw our conclusions from that, and we do not have eternity in view. For what should it profit a man if he would gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"
- Here is the wealthy wicked and it seems he is increasing his riches. Man, he controls the whole world, and he dies and goes to hell. So what profit is there? When you take the eternal view, rather than being envious, the guy has been dead now for fifty years; shall I envy him still? His whole estate was blown by the kids. He made alcoholics and wrecks out of them. Now the whole family is a mess. Shall I envy him? God forbid.
- Coming into the sanctuary of God there is a new perspective because you brought in the perspective the eternal. You look down at the end of the path and you see what is at the end of the road. What is at the end of the path for you, the child of God? Maybe you are going through suffering, maybe you are going through hardships, maybe you are struggling and just barely making it. As Satan is pointing to the guy down the street who is dealing drugs and driving that new sports car and seems to have everything and you say, "Man, I cannot even pay rent this month. Look at that guy. It does not pay to try to live a good life and to try to serve the Lord because here I am suffering and hurting. That guy's got everything, and he is so blasphemous. He talks against God and look at all he has." Yes, but look at where he is going. Look at what is at the end of his path! Look at what is at the end of your path as you follow Jesus Christ! What a difference it makes in my evaluation of life!

***Psa 73:18 Surely (ak, affirmation, only) You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction.***

- He talked about his own foot almost slipping, but hey, I am not the guy in the slippery place. They are the ones who are in slippery places.
- The end of the path that they are on is a path of destruction and God will cast them down, they will slip right into eternity.

***Psa 73:19 Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors.***

- Death at any moment, is lurking, waiting.

***Psa 73:20 As a dream when one awakes, So, Lord, when You awake, You shall despise their image.***

- It seems that God is just sleeping as far as allowing them this period of going in prosperity and blasphemes as though God is sleeping and not obvious of it. But Lord when you wake up, when you begin to move and when you begin to act, you will despise their image. He is speaking there in the sanctuary of God.

***Psa 73:21 Thus my heart was grieved, And I was vexed in my mind.***

***Psa 73:22 I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You.***

- I was thinking of man in terms of an animal with no future and no eternity. I felt this foolishness. I was thinking so wrong about this situation. I was looking at it from the wrong perspective. This is the consciousness that he had in the sanctuary of God.

***Psa 73:23 Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand.***

- God, You are with me all the time! I have the joy of the knowledge of Your presence with me. you do not leave me, and You do not forsake me; Lord You are with me all the time.
- You are taking me by the hand to lead me through the path of life.

***Psa 73:24 You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory.***

- The end of their path is utter terror, it is destruction, and it is desolation. The end of my path is glory! God holds me by the hand. He is leading me down the path to my father's house. As David said, "I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever!" It talks about the shadow of death that crosses the path that I am on my way to my father's house; he is holding me by the right hand. He is leading me. God, I am so privileged, I am so blessed.

***Psa 73:25 Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.***

- Lord, You are my life. My life is encompassed by You. Their life is encompassed by pride; it surrounds them like a chain. My life Lord is encompassed by You.

***Psa 73:26 My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.***

- The old body, it can and will wear out!

***Psa 73:27 For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry.***

***Psa 73:28 But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, That I may declare all Your works.***

- The contrast at the end of the road, “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have ever lasting life.” At the end of your path, the path of the wicked is perishing, destruction and desolation. The path of the righteous is everlasting life! “I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” So the psalmist, coming into the house of God, saw life with a new perspective. That should always be, and I pray that it always shall be! That this place will be a place where when people come in, they get the right perspective of life itself, for they are brought into the consciousness of the eternal.
- Living out in the world, rubbing shoulders with the world, seeing the dishonesty, the cheating and the whole fraud that is out there and trying to live a righteous life, many times, brings a lot of problems in our minds as Satan begins to hassle us. The coming in of the sanctuary of God, we get the right perspective, and we realize how blessed we are to have that hope of eternal life in Christ! They have no hope.
- We may be reminded of what conclusion Solomon came to, after tasting wealth and all prosperity, (***Ecc 12:13-14***) ***Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. [14] For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.***

### **SUMMARY**

- We need to remember the endgame here!
- At the end the wicked will suffer, and the righteous will prosper forever and ever!
- It is not about where you are, but where are you going? The ultimate and perfect enduring forever with God!
- Truly the God of Israel is good!

***Psa 73:28 But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, That I may declare all Your works.***

### **NEARER MY GOD TO THEE!** – Sarah Adams (1840) – Londonderry Choir (4:50)

*1 Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee; E'en though it be a cross That raiseth me, Still all my song shall be Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.*

*2 Though, like a wanderer, The sun gone down, Darkness comes over me, My rest a stone; Yet in my dreams I'd be Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.*

*3 There let me see the sight, An open heaven; All that Thou sendest me, In mercy given; Angels to beckon me Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.*

*4. Or if, on joyful wing Cleaving the sky, Sun, moon, and stars forgot, Upward I fly, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.*

### ***FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD LEADERS: -***

***Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation, including: Xi Jinping – China; Narendra Modi- India; Joe Biden – USA; Joko Widodo - Indonesia; Jair Bolsonaro - Brazil; Arif Alvi - Pakistan; Shehbaz Sharif - Nigeria; Hasina Wazed - Bangladesh; Vladimir Putin- Russia; Lopez Obrador – Mexico; Benjamin Netanyahu – Israel; Olaf Scholtz – Germany; Rishi Sunak – U.K.; Kim Jong-un – North Korea; Yoon Suk Yeol– South Korea.***

### **PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE OFFICERS/MILITARY; ISRAEL:**