

## GOD IS GOOD to the pure in heart...

The "Bookends" of the psalm **GOD IS GOOD & ITS GOOD TO BE NEAR HIM**

- Psa 73:1 A Psalm of Asaph. **Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.**
- Psa 73:28 But for me **it is good to be near God**
- a **fundamental truth** we must never forget because sometimes **the world doesn't make sense**

but that ain't me → Asaph so affected by the world he almost stumbled and slipped

2 [good to those who are pure] **But as for me**, my feet had almost **stumbled**, my steps had nearly **slipped**.

- Asaph leader, musician, & prophet, **stumbled** (turn out of the way & **slipped** (to shed blood drain life)
- He struggled with perspective - its how he saw the world - he lost -- & in the end regained perspective

## We Lose Perspective When We Compare Ourselves to Others

Psa 73:3 For I was **envious of the arrogant** when I saw the **prosperity of the wicked**.

- Must be a loss of eternal values in order to become envious of the prosperity (SHALOM) of the **wicked**

## We Lose Perspective Because the World Doesn't Seem Like a Fair Place

Psa 73:4 For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek.

Psa 73:5 **They are not in trouble as others are**; they are **not stricken like the rest of mankind**.

Psa 73:6 Therefore **pride** is their necklace; **violence** covers them as a garment.

Psa 73:7 Their **eyes swell** out through fatness; their **hearts overflow** with follies.

Psa 73:8 They **scoff** and **speak with malice**; loftily they **threaten oppression**.

Psa 73:9 They **set their mouths against the heavens**, and their **tongue struts through the earth**.

Psa 73:10 Therefore his people turn back to them, and find no fault in them.

- **Everyone seems to follow them - we overlook their faults**

Psa 73:11 And they say, "How can God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?"

- **God is not in all their thoughts -- They forget God DOES know**

Psa 73:12 Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches.

- **There is increased boldness to continue this way of life, because they think God Does Not Know**

## When we Lose Perspective we question our own efforts to walk with God

Psa 73:13-14 **All in vain have I kept my heart clean** and washed my hands in innocence. 14 For all the day long I have been stricken and rebuked every morning.

- **He is about to lose heart doing the very things that lead Him to God**

- Psa 24:3-4 ESV Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?  
4 **He who has clean hands and a pure heart**, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

## When we Lose Perspective we isolate → don't want to be a bad influence

Psa 73:15 If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed the generation of your children.

- Answer is not to isolate, but to change perspective

## UNTIL -- We Regain Right Perspective in the sanctuary “presence” of God

Psa 73:16-17 But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, 17 **until** I went into the sanctuary of God; **then I discerned their end.**

- **The turning point comes when Asaph seeks spiritual understanding in God's sanctuary,**
- In the sanctuary we recognize that GOD DOES KNOW -- GOD DOES SEE -- GOD DOES CARE
- Entering the sanctuary he would have been exposed to a significant amount of blood and sacrifice
  - It would be a reminder of God's redemptive involvement in the world
  - Showing God's hatred of sin and his mercy in providing sacrifice as a way to be redeemed

## We Regain Right Perspective and are no longer envious of the wicked

Psa 73:18 Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin.

Psa 73:19 How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors!

Psa 73:20 Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as phantoms.

## We Regain Right Perspective By Seeing the True Condition of our heart

**In the Sanctuary we are faced with who we are** - The hard questions come up... **Why am I** losing my footing? **Why am I** thinking my own efforts to do right are in vain? **Why do I envy** the prosperity of the wicked, and in some way think the way they pursue life might be better? It is because somewhere along the way I FORGOT THAT JESUS IS ENOUGH

- Psa 73:21 When **my soul was embittered**, when I was **pricked in heart**,
- Psa 73:22 I was **brutish and ignorant**; I was **like a beast toward you**.
- NLT VERSION Then I realized that my heart was bitter, and I was all torn up inside. 22 I was so foolish and ignorant—I must have seemed like a senseless animal to you. 23 **Yet I still belong to you; you hold my right hand.**

## We Regain Right Perspective when we see our Relationship with Jesus is ENOUGH

**We begin to see that even though not all is right with the world, all is right in my relationship to Jesus**

- Psa 73:23 **Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.**
- Psa 73:24 **You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.**
  - God is always with him -- God guides him with Godly wisdom --In the end ETERNAL LIFE

## This ultimate change of perspective came in the sanctuary

Psa 73:25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And **there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.**

Psa 73:26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but **God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.**

- Heaven is not as much about a where or a what, it is about a WHO
- Earth is about regaining right perspective and desiring HIM the only thing that really counts
- God is MY PORTION FOREVER - for me to live is Christ

## We Regain Right Perspective when we understand the nature of eternal judgment

Psa 73:27 For behold, **those who are far from you shall perish**; you put an **end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.**

## We Regain Right Perspective when we understand our mission

Psa 73:28 But for me **it is good to be near God**; I have made **the Lord GOD my refuge**, that I may tell of all **your works.**

- **Draw near to God -- tell of his works - he waits so more will come to repentance**
- Spend life envious of the wicked, spend life asking Why God? righteous in vain, isolating OR
- Or regain right perspective - Jesus my greatest desire, God my refuge, that I may tell all your works