

PSALMS

T H E B O O K O F

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The Solution to Foolish Envy

Psalm 73

NOTES:

The Dilemma: A Horizontal Perspective Creates Bitterness and Foolishness

1) Without making God continually our refuge, his character is easily distorted.

Psa. 73:1 Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. 2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped. 3 For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked... 21 When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart, 22 I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you.

2) This distortion muddies our understanding and confidence in God.

Psa. 73:4 For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek. 5 They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind... 11 And they say, "How can God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?" 12 Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches.

3) We must allow his eternal perspective to shape our trust in his righteousness and justice.

Psa. 73:16 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. 18 Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin. 19 How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors! 20 Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as phantoms.

The Answer: A Vertical Perspective Reminds Us of Our Great Riches!

Belonging to God ensures....

1) ...security in the present, the future, and throughout eternity

Psa. 73:23 Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. 24 You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.

Belonging to God ensures....

2) ...a heavenly and earthly wealth (relational)

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

Matt. 6:19 *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

3) ...strength and inheritance beyond the temporary

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

John 11:25 *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"*

4) ...goodness and refuge unavailable to those who aren't loyal to God.

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

Review/Discuss/Apply:

1) What circumstances in your life or in the world tempt you to react with bitterness or envy? What can you take away from the Psalmist's reflections to bolster your confidence in God's character, control, and plan?

2) Nearness to God - and confidence in him – results in bold declaration of who he is and what he does (Psalm 73:28). In what ways have you seen this play out in your own life?

3) Take time this week to write out a prayer/song/poem to God. Use Psalm 73 as a framework - confessing your own bitterness and frustrations while also allowing his character and promises heal and restore your perspective.

SONGS

*I AM SET FREE
MADE FOR MORE
BE THOU MY VISION (O GOD)
O PRAISE THE NAME (ANASTASIS)*

BUDGET

Giving Last Week: \$23,336.93
Weekly Need: \$38,322.00

YTD Giving: \$1,228,188.85
YTD General Need: \$1,417,914.00

Altamont Expansion Fund (9/16): \$197,872.38

COMMUNICATION & GIVING

Envelopes for financial gifts, prayer requests, & communication to our church leadership are in the seatback pockets. Please pass the envelopes to the ushers or deposit them in the offering boxes by the exit doors. Thank you!

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