

## Finding Peace When the World Looks Upsidedown

Our assessment of life is often little more than the cultural ideas of the society in which we were raised. It's normal and to be expected without careful scrutiny, but that system seldom renders wisdom or peace. As we grow up we hope to see life being fair, simple and easy to explain. But without a proper perspective, we usually live somewhere between confusion and anger. If we don't see life from God's perspective, we might even find ourselves in the barren fields of despair.

Asaph to the rescue! His words are the cavalry riding in at the last moment to save the oppressed. God's teaching through Asaph's pen turns the world upright for those who listen, understand and apply His lesson from Psalm 73.

Asaph addresses the human propensity to assess life by money and ease, and shows us that temporary success is a terrible way to judge true joy in life. Listen carefully to the challenge:

Surely God is good to Israel, To those who are pure in heart!  
But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling, My steps had almost slipped.

For I was envious of the arrogant, As I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

For there are no pains in their death, And their body is fat.  
They are not in trouble *as other* men,  
Nor are they plagued like mankind. - **Ps. 73:1-5**

Obviously, the basis of Asaph's mistake was being envious of the wicked simply because of their material situation. However, after discussing their pride and arrogance Asaph shares the reality of the full situation of the wicked versus the pure:

When I pondered to understand this, It was troublesome in my sight  
Until I came into the sanctuary of God; *Then* I perceived their end. - **Ps.**

**73:16, 17**

After the challenging problem of assessing good and evil, blessings and cursings, Asaph's wisdom conquers his confusion, but only at a certain point, "...Until I came into the sanctuary of God." What did he learn there?

For, behold, those who are far from You will perish;  
You have destroyed all those who are unfaithful to You.  
But as for me, the nearness of God is my good;  
I have made the Lord God my refuge,  
That I may tell of all Your works. - **Ps. 73:27-28**

Psalm 73 ponders both sides of life in a very real way. After that pondering and suffering the mistake of envying the arrogant, we learn the precious and truthful conclusion that the wicked will perish. But, on the other hand we learn that those near to God are so joyous, it becomes natural to tell others of God's great works!

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