

**Sermon Title:** Strength & Portion

**Sermon Series:** Gospel Directed Worship

**Scripture:** Psalm 73

**Speaker:** Pastor Mike Barnhart



## **Psalm 73 ESV**

### **A PSALM OF ASAPH.**

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.

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.

6 Therefore pride is their necklace; violence covers them as a garment.

7 Their eyes swell out through fatness; their hearts overflow with follies.

8 They scoff and speak with malice; loftily they threaten oppression.

9 They set their mouths against the heavens, and their tongue struts through the earth.

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

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.

13 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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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.

### **Part 1: Observing the Wicked (Psalm 73:1-16)**

### **Part 2: Seeing God (Psalm 73:17-28)**

Since looking at the wicked leads to envy & doubt, you must  
\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ to see His goodness.

### **Psalm 73:13 ESV**

13 All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence.

### **Psalm 73:16 ESV**

16 But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task,

### **Psalm 73:17 ESV**

17 until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.

### **Psalm 73:18–20 ESV**

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.

### **1 Corinthians 6:9–10 ESV**

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

## **2 Peter 3:8–10 ESV**

8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

## **Matthew 5:8 ESV**

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

## **Psalms 73:21–22 ESV**

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.

## **Psalms 73:23–28 ESV**

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.

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

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

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.

**God holds him.**

**God guides him.**

**God receives him to glory.**

**God is good to him.**

**Psalm 73:25–26 ESV**

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

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

**Psalm 73:27 ESV**

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

**Psalm 73:25–26 ESV**

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

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

### **Psalm 73:28 ESV**

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.

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. Pray together.
2. How was your week?
3. Read Psalm 73.

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4. In what areas of your life are you most tempted to envy others? Does Asaph's envy resonate with you in any way? If so, how?

5. Does living a godly life ever seem pointless to you? What does this reveal about your faith in God's promises?



6. Why should we discuss our doubts with trusted Christian friends?

7. Describe, in your own words, what brought about Asaph's change of perspective in verse 17.

8. How does acknowledging and understanding God's judgment help us make sense of the seeming prosperity of the wicked?

9. How can regular exposure to God's Word—preaching and in personal reading—prevent us from envying unbelievers and their so-called success?

**10. Pray for one another.**