

# Realizing Resentfulness

## Psalm 73

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v:1-3 The PROBLEM: "I was envious of the arrogant"

Resentfulness is a subtle but very real temptation in our hearts. We must learn to recognize this temptation when it comes, so that when we start to go down that path, we can take steps to realign our hearts with the truth.

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One may ask these questions:

What good is there in being good?

What is the reward of godliness?

In reality > its premise is focused on *self* rather than on *God*.

Know this: Our doubt does not disqualify us from following God

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Psalm 1 > Blessing, fruitfulness, and prosperity while the way of wicked will perish.

We see a world of injustice: people oppressing people, rich getting richer, people flaunting their wealth for ungodly gain, innocent people being punished, guilty people avoiding punishment, etc...

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v:4-12 THEY have it so good

The wicked seem to:

1. Avoid pain (v:4)
2. Be free of worry (v:5)
3. Flourish with Pride (v:6-11)
4. Enjoy Prosperity (v:12)

Like Asaph, we can all identify with the question, is it worth it?

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v:13-15 Poor me - “All in vain have I kept my heart clean”

Your bitterness and resentment will ALWAYS prevent you from seeing the situation clearly!

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v:15 pause - Asaph considers public ramifications vs personal struggles

Questions:

- Are you quick to speak about your perceived reality, leaving others to discern your doubt and disbelief?

- Are you willing to engage with God himself about it?

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### v:16-17 “Then I discerned”

The Point: bringing our solitary struggles into the place where we worship God, with the people of God, in order to gain understanding.

Asaph goes from seeing the world to seeing God!

Worship is crucial to us understanding God’s outlook because it reminds us of our future!

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v:18-22 Poor them - “*They* are in a slippery place”

In our daily perspective, we only see what works good for the wicked; with an eternal perspective, we see what works good for God.

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v:23-26 I have it so good

Do you need to repent of your resentment toward others when:

- You are suffering and others are not?
- Others having something that you don’t have?

- Injustice seems to prevail for those who need to “learn a lesson”?

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This battle wages war in our hearts and minds...

*2 Corinthians 10:5 “We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.*

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v:25-26 For Asaph, God is not only a heavenly hope but an earthly desire as well.

v:27-28 The Privilege - NOW I will tell others!

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Chiastic Structure of Psalm 73

A1 The problem: “I was envious of the arrogant” (v:1-3)

>B1 They have it so good (v:4-12)

>>C1 Poor me! (v:13-15)

>>>D “Then I discerned” (v:16-17)

>>C2 Poor them! (v:18-22)

>B2 I have it so good (v:23-26)

A2 The privilege: "It is good to be near God" (v:27-28)

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Stop trusting in what you see and trust in the promise of God's goodness

Purity is not in vain for "the pure will see God"

**JESUS IS WORTH IT!**