



Summer in the
PSALMS

 Center City Church

Psalm 73

- Psalms is divided into Five books
- Psalm 73 is the first chapter of book Three
- Theme of Book Three = *Crisis of Faith*

Psalm 73

1 Slipping into Doubt

2 Seeing in the Sanctuary

3 Savoring true Goodness

Psalm 73 - Slipping into Doubt

V1 Truly **God is good** to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

Asaph is affirming three realities...

1 God's *God-ness* (*He is in control*)

2 God's *Goodness* (*He cares*)

3 God's Goodness flows to the pure in heart

Psalm 73 - Slipping into Doubt

V2-3 But as for me...my steps had nearly slipped, For I was envious of the arrogant, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

Asaph's Crisis of Faith

If God is God and God is Good, why is good flowing to those who are evil?

Psalm 73 - Slipping into Doubt

[16] But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome (hopeless) task,

The question is not “will we have doubts that leave us hopeless?”

Rather,

“where will we go with our hopelessness and doubts?”

Psalm 73 - Seeing in the Sanctuary

[17] Until I went into the sanctuary of God;

What would Asaph see in the Sanctuary?

1. Prayer and Worship
1. The Word of God Proclaimed
1. Sacrifice

Psalm 73 - Seeing in the Sanctuary

[18] Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin...they are destroyed in a moment

How does the sanctuary change Asaph's perspective?

1. New perspective on Evil - *they will be eternally judged*

Psalm 73 - Seeing in the Sanctuary

[21-22] When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart, I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you.

How does the sanctuary change Asaph's perspective?

1. New perspective on Evil - *they will be eternally judged*
1. New perspective on Himself - *he was ignorant and irrational*

Psalm 73 - Seeing in the Sanctuary

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

How does the sanctuary change Asaph's perspective?

1. New perspective on Evil - *they will be eternally judged*
1. New perspective on Himself - *he was ignorant and irrational*
1. New perspective on God - *God's goodness is ALL GRACE*

Psalm 73 - Seeing in the Sanctuary

God's presence brings new perspective, so...

1 Bring your doubts to the Sunday Gathering

2 Bring your doubts to Christian Friends

3 Bring your doubts to God in Prayer

Psalm 73 - **Savoring true Goodness**

[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.

God doesn't just give good, HE is our good!

Psalm 73 - **Savoring true Goodness**

[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.

Testify

“HIS NEARNESS is
my GOOD!”

Trials

Triggering Doubts

Taking Refuge

Real doubts into
His presence

How do I really know God wants to be near to me?

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

For God has NOT destined us for wrath, but to obtain **salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us** so that whether we are awake or asleep **we might live WITH him.**

God brought His presence to us through Jesus...

...Now **Jesus** is our portal into God's presence!