

Facing Our Doubts: The Discipline of Honesty Before God

Psalm 73

Chad Scruggs

Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study

Park Cities Presbyterian Church

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Psalm 73

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.

Table Discussion Questions:

1. How has doubt played a part in your own spiritual journey?
2. What are some of the doubts you have wrestled with in your life?
3. What does it mean to “doubt our doubts”? Can you think of an example?
4. Do you think the Church is a safe place to wrestle with doubt? Why or why not?
5. How might God use our doubts for our maturity and to minister to others?
6. Where do we see God’s love for those struggling with doubt in the Bible? How has God given you mercy in the midst of your own doubts?

Challenge this Week: Reflect on doubts in your own mind and heart:

- Where do your doubts come from? What is the incoherence/disorientation you’re experiencing?
- What beliefs need examining that are propping up your doubts? Can you doubt those?
- How does God’s Word and the story of His salvation in Christ speak to your doubts?
- Pray for mercy and help: “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24)
- Remind yourself of the conclusion of the doubting psalmist in Psalm 73: “My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”