



Lesson 5: It Is Good To Be Near God

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Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study

Park Cities Presbyterian Church

July 13, 2021

Psalm 73

- 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.

Discussion Questions:

1. In this study of Psalm 73, what struck you the most?
2. How do you relate to the struggle of envying “the prosperity of the wicked” (v. 3)? In what areas are you tempted to think that the grass is greener in the world?
3. Asaph claims that those who live far from God are doing well and have no cares or problems (vv. 4-12). How is this true in one sense and false in another?
4. Why is time in God’s presence so important (vv. 16-17)? How do you (or how could you) pursue “sanctuary” time?
5. In God’s presence, how does Asaph see the Lord, himself, and “the wicked” differently (vv. 17-28)?
6. If we don’t know the Lord or we feel far from Him, how can we draw near to Him?
7. What changed about Asaph’s circumstances? Are you more focused on the Lord changing your circumstances or changing you?
8. If the Lord gives us His perspective, we shouldn’t envy those who live far from Him. How should we relate to them?