

Songs from a Broken Heart
Do You Ever Doubt God's Goodness? Part 2
Psalm 73

Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, July 16, 2017

Psalm 73 shows us four steps that can arm us with everything we need to biblically work through the question of, "Is following God worth it and is God really good to those who follow Him?"

I. Admit Your Doubt and then Don't Wait to Unpack It Because It Always Involves More than Just an Intellectual Problem

Asaph had reached this emotional and painful boiling point because of something he saw, something he was personally and painfully going through, and because of something that was raging in his heart besides just sorrow and pain.

II. Resist the Urge to Isolate Yourself But Instead Move Closer to God and His People

Psalm 73:17 "Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end."

It was a new thought that first helped him most. It was something he began to understand better that helped him get out of his funk and start moving toward trusting and resting in God again.

III. Take a Giant Step Back Away from Your Circumstances so that You Can See Yourself and God in Light of Something Bigger

Psalm 73:17 "... then I understood their end."

Asaph went into the sanctuary of God so that he could step back from his immediate circumstances and see what was really going on. He says he then understood their end, which is the life after this one.

Psalm 73:18-19 "Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. Oh, how they are bought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors."

V. 18-19 talk about God Himself setting them in slippery places, casting them down to destruction, and bringing them to desolation, which means to be ruined as a result of being abandoned or completely forsaken.

God's children may feel like they've been abandoned, but they haven't been. The wicked, however, won't just feel it, but will live it.

V. 20 seems to be saying that what has seemed so real, so loud, and all-consuming to those in this world is just a mist or a dream, while reality is that God and His kingdom will explode with truth and justice forever.

- How do you keep big picture perspective in the midst of your trials and painful circumstances right now?

You need to get up to higher ground for some of the fog of your confusion and the noise of your emotions to lift! You need to get up on the spiritual observation deck, which is the Bible.

The Bible gives us that big picture that helps us see the end. It reminds us who is ruling and reigning over it all- a sovereign, loving, wise God who has promised to work all things together for good for His people.

Don't make the mistake that the wicked made in **v. 11**.

Psalm 73:11 "And they say, 'How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?'"

God absolutely does know and He's going to make all things right, which includes bringing judgment to those who refuse to accept His mercy in Jesus today.

You can either have Jesus as your Savior now or you'll face Him as your judge then. **Revelation 6:12-17** explains this more.

- If you're a child of God you might experience persecution, suffering, trials and pain in this life, but you'll never experience the wrath of God poured out on you, because Jesus absorbed that for you on the cross! Unbelievers will face the judgment of God without a Savior to stand in their place.

IV. Ask Yourself the Ultimate Heart-Revealing Question

Psalm 73:25 "Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You."

Asaph realizes that when we're really mad, confused, and gripped with fear, it's because we want something in this life more than we want God. The Bible gives us a word for that- it's idolatry.

V. 25 shows the perspective of eternity that Asaph has now as he realizes that if he has God, then he's got more than enough. There's nothing in this world he wants more than God.

When you have God, he's enough! You can rest and put your trust in Him, because you always have Him.

As children of God we can know God holds us and that He won't let us go (**v.23-24**), even when we act our ugliest or say something awful, because of what Jesus did on the cross.

Jesus was rejected for us, made sin for us, was cursed for us, and abandoned by God for us. God let go of Him so that He could lay hold of us forever.

We have a bigger, better view of God's hand than Asaph could have ever imagined, because we can look back to the cross where Jesus died in our place as the final, all-sufficient sacrifice.