

Fixing Our Perspective

Lessons from Psalm 73

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Introduction: How do we view the world around us?

1. We live in a very wicked world where it's very easy to become discouraged.
2. We can choose one of two paths:
 - a. The path of worldly thinking that will ultimately end in despair.
 - b. The path of godly thinking that will allow us to see truth and hope.
(Romans 8:6)

3. Asaph found himself facing this decision in the context of **Psalm 73**.

I. The Wickedness of the World (v. 1-12)

- A. Asaph observes the various sins of the people,
 1. Arrogance/Pride **(v. 3, 6)**
 2. Violence **(v. 6)**
 3. Evil thoughts - "their hearts overflow with folly" **(v. 7) (Gen. 6:5)**
 4. Mocking **(v. 8)**
 5. Sins of speech **(v. 9, 11)**
— We must guard against these sins as well!
- B. What troubled Asaph so much was that the wicked still enjoyed so much.
 1. God often continues to bless people who are in sin.
 2. Asaph became envious and was tempted to give up his righteousness.
(v. 2, 13)
 3. We must not simply give up because of the wickedness of the world!

II. The Reaction of the Righteous (v. 13-17)

- A. Anger
 1. There are two ways we can be angry at the wickedness of the world
 - a. We can be angry because they're prospering and we're not.
This is selfish
 - b. We can share God's anger at the fact that they are sinning!
(Eph. 4:26) This is the anger Jesus had.
- B. Confusion
 1. This is a natural reaction from a physical point of view
 2. It sometimes appears that doing the right thing is useless/vanity.
(Ecc. 2:14-15)
 3. These reactions must not be the final reactions to the wickedness of the world.
- C. Turning to God
 1. Thankfully, Asaph turned to the right place in his anger and confusion—he turned to God!
 2. Coming into the sanctuary of God will help us put things into the proper perspective, **(v. 17)**
 2. This proved to be a turning point for Asaph, as he saw things in a far different perspective once God was in the picture.

III. Putting Things into Perspective - Learning to Trust in God (v. 18-28)

A. Seeing the disaster of a wicked lifestyle (v. 18-20).

1. The first thing Asaph notes after his realization is the horrible situation that the wicked find themselves in.
2. This also helps him to see the brevity of life (**Psalm 39:4-6**)
3. Ultimately, the disaster of the wicked comes with the wrath of God!
(Romans 1:18)

B. Seeing ourselves and our emotions properly in this conflict (v. 21-24)

1. Sometimes we may seem senseless before God when we think from a worldly perspective, **(v. 22)**
2. But God is still with us, even in the midst of our anger and confession **(v.23)**
3. If we trust in Him, God will guide us through these times, ultimately to a safe and glorious end in heaven! **(v. 24)**

C. Seeing the infinite goodness and love of God! (v. 25-28)

1. When we see the world as it truly is, our desire will be for God, and Him only! **(v. 25)**
2. When we trust in God, He will be our strength even when our earthly strength may depart. **(v. 26)**
3. We must learn to see things from the proper perspective and make God our refuge.

Conclusion: How do we view the world around us?

1. In spite of the wicked world we live in, God is still in control.
2. God wants us to seek Him and find him in the darkness of the world.
(Acts 17:26-27)
3. Are you ready to face reality with the proper perspective?