
PSALMS | AMEN Bible Study 2018-19
“Why Do the Wicked Prosper? An Eternal Perspective”

Psalm 73
April 4th, 2019

Scripture Introduction:

I. The Rope of Faith (73:1)

Three categories of doubt:

- Intellectual doubts
- Spiritual doubts
- Circumstantial doubts

Two ways to deal with doubt:

- Dismissively
- Believingly (Is 55:8)
- The Rope of Faith: God is Good to the Pure in Heart (v.1)
 - God's nature is Goodness
 - We encounter His Goodness through His Word and Our Redemption

II. The Storm of Doubt (73:3-14)

- Complaint against the wicked (vv.3-12)
 - No suffering (vv.4-5)
 - No consequences (vv.6-8, 11-2)
 - Get everything (vv.9-10)
- Accuses God and Doubts the Faith (vv.13-14)
 - No benefits to godliness (v.13)
 - No justice (v.14)
- Take-away: God can handle our complaints and doubts (Heb. 4:14-16; Jude 22)

III. Reorientation: The way out of the storm (73: 15-28)

- Where it happened? The Sanctuary (v.17)
 - Old Perspective: Self Focus
 - New Perspective: God Focus
- Three changes of perspective:
 - (1) How we see others (vv.15, 18-20)
 - Believers (v.15)
 - The wicked (vv.18-20, 27; Mark 8:36)
 - (2) How we see ourselves (v.2, 21-23)
 - (3) How we see blessing (vv.23-28)
 - We have the Presence of God (vv.23,28)
 - We have the Protection of God (v.24; Prov. 1; Matt 5:1-11)
 - We have Person of God (vv.25-26; Matt. 13:44)

Discussion Questions

1. The Psalmist is struggling with the idea of the wicked prospering and the righteous suffering. Can you relate?
2. When life seems unfair, or you feel depressed, or you feel like you're being taken advantage of, where do you turn?
3. How does "entering into the Sanctuary" change Asaph's perspective?
4. What does Asaph mean in verses 25-26? Can you make Asaph's declaration in these verses your own?

Going Deeper

1. What truths impacted you the most in Psalm 73? What one step will you take in light of these truths?
2. Who in your life might you be able to serve as being a "Fixed Point"? How can you encourage fellow-doubters?