

Psalm 73 is a wisdom Psalm, written by Asaph. While little is known of this author, it's often assumed that he is the son of Berechiah (1 Chronicles 6:39), a Levite appointed by David to worship before the ark, later established as temple musicians (1 Chronicles 25:1-2). This particular Psalm is referred to as a Wisdom Psalm, meant to pass along instruction for wise living and Godly perspective.

Psalm 73

Unfair!

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Life is simply not fair. All too often, even as Christian, we struggle with feelings of unfairness, thinking we deserve something because of our right behavior, or perhaps in comparison to someone else's inappropriate behavior. At the core of our desire for "fairness" tends to be a wrong recognition of what's fair and who really deserves it. Furthermore, we fail to recognize that envy tends to be the primary factor for wanting what we think is "fair".

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

WHAT do you find appealing about the world?

WHY, as Christians, do we struggle with envy and wanting things others have, even when we may know they're fruitless?

HOW have you been deceived or captivated by the "prosperity of the wicked", then rerouted toward the Lord and His ways?

WHAT are some practical ways the Lord keeps us from stumbling from His path of righteousness, onto one of envy and sin?

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Unfair

Read Psalm 73

OBSERVATION

Who does the Psalmist say God is good to in vs. 1?

What does the author recognize to be true of himself in vs. 2-3?

As you read vs. 4-9 multiple comparisons are given to the wicked and how they live. What are they?

According to vs. 13, what appears to be the Psalmist's frustration?

What does the author discover about his envy toward the wicked in vs. 16, and how does he eventually come to understand the truth (vs. 17)?

In vs. 18-22, what truths do you observe coming to light?

What is the comparison given in vs. 25?

What eventually does the Psalmist realize is worth more than those things envied of the wicked (vs. 25-28)?

INTERPRETATION

While the Psalmist opens with a reality regarding God's view of people, what is the reality of the Psalmist, and what problem does this create for him (and us)?

What were all the causes of the Psalmist's envy when he looked upon the wicked (see vs. 4-9? Why were their lives so desirable?

Why is the desire for things of the world so strong? Consider Paul's words in Romans 7:14-24 as you respond to this question.

Why is it not until the Psalmist enters the sanctuary of God that he finally gains a right perspective? Consider Hebrews 8:1-2.

What does it look like to dwell in God's presence (his sanctuary) today? Read Galatians 5:16-26 for insight.

APPLICATION

How do you relate to the attitude of Asaph in this Psalm?

What are the things of the world you tend to envy most?

How do you practice the presence of God, maintaining a right outlook on life and circumstances as you walk with Him?