



Title | Immanuel
Series | After God's Own Heart
Text | Psalm 73
By | Ricky Amano
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Sermon Notes

Psalm 73:1 Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart! 2 But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling, my steps had almost slipped. 3 For I was envious of the arrogant as I saw the prosperity of the wicked. 4 For there are no pains in their death, and their body is fat. 5 They are not in trouble as other men, nor are they plagued like mankind. 6 Therefore pride is their necklace; the garment of violence covers them. 7 Their eye bulges from fatness; the imaginations of *their* heart run riot. 8 They mock and wickedly speak of oppression; they speak from on high. 9 They have set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue parades through the earth.... 13 Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and washed my hands in innocence; 14 For I have been stricken all day long and chastened every morning. 15 If I had said, "I will speak thus," behold, I would have betrayed the generation of Your children. 16 When I pondered to understand this, it was troublesome in my sight 17 until I came into the sanctuary of God; then I perceived their end. 18 Surely You set them in slippery places; you cast them down to destruction. 19 How they are destroyed in a moment! they are utterly swept away by sudden terrors! 20 Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when aroused, You will despise their form. 21 When my heart was embittered and I was pierced within, 22 Then I was senseless and ignorant; I was *like* a beast before You. 23 Nevertheless I am continually with You; You have taken hold of my right hand. 24 With Your counsel You will guide me, and afterward receive me to glory. 25 Whom have I in heaven *but* You? and besides You, I desire nothing on earth. 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 will perish; You have destroyed all those who ^care unfaithful to You. 28 But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all Your works. NASB

Big Idea:

Psalm 73:28 But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all Your works. NASB

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

Read Psalm 73:1-3. What did Asaph (the author) confidently declare in verse 1? What happened to that confidence in verses 2 & 3?

Tuesday:

Read Psalm 73:1-16. Compare verses 1 and 13. How are they similar? How are they different? How did his heart change from verse 1 to verse 13? Have you ever had similar thoughts and feelings as what Asaph describes so honestly in these verses?

Wednesday:

Read Psalm 73:17-22. What did Asaph do in verse 17 that allowed him to discover the truth of his situation? While Asaph initially envied those who practiced evil, what were their true consequences? What does he realize about his own behavior in verses 21 & 22?

Thursday:

Read Psalm 73:23-24. While God does not promise to fix all our circumstances and problems, what does He continually do? How does this relate to the name for Jesus declared in Isaiah 7:14, over 700 years before he was born in Bethlehem? How does it relate to what Jesus declared in Matthew 28:20, his parting promise given after His death and resurrection? Therefore, we can have all confidence that God intends, wants, and will always be with us.

Friday:

Reread Psalm 73:25, 26 & 28. What does Asaph come to realize in verse 25? How meaningful and valuable is God's presence in your life? In verse 26, what does it mean for God to be "my portion"? How is that far better than anything else we could possibly desire in this world? Compare verse 1 and the first line of verse 28. Note how verse 28 validates verse 1 and nullifies verse 13. Always remember that first line of verse 28: "But as for me, the nearness of God is my good." When the toughest times in life wear us down, hold onto those words and tap into the richness and warmth of God's presence in your life.

Daily Prayer:

Father, thank you for always being with me through even the toughest times in my life. There is nothing I lack when You are near as Your presence fills me; it overflows. Your love and Your grace, they draw me ever closer to You. Amen.

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