

Sermon Scripture Passage: Psalm 73 (NIV)

1 Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.
2 But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.
3 For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
4 They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong.
5 They are free from common human burdens; they are not plagued by human ills.
6 Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence.
7 From their callous hearts comes iniquity; their evil imaginations have no limits.
8 They scoff, and speak with malice; with arrogance they threaten oppression.
9 Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth.
10 Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance.
11 They say, "How would God know? Does the Most High know anything?"
12 This is what the wicked are like— always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.
13 Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence.
14 All day long I have been afflicted, and every morning brings new punishments.
15 If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children.
16 When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply
17 till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.
18 Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin.
19 How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors!
20 They are like a dream when one awakes; when you arise, Lord, you will despise them as fantasies.
21 When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered,
22 I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.
23 Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand.
24 You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.
25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.
26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
27 Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.
28 But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.

Scripture References:

I John 1:5-10 – This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

East Glenville Church – Sermon Notes Handout – September 3rd, 2023
Labor Day Weekend – Psalm 73 – Doubts – My Feet Had Almost Stumbled

Psalm 73 Asaph, a _____ leader in the time of King David is dealing with doubts.

73:1-3 This is a confessional psalm –
Asaph is owning up to a struggle in his own heart with _____.

73:4-12 *How does Asaph describe the wicked?*

73:11 – It is not that they are against God as much as they _____ Him.

73:13-16 Asaph is questioning whether his devotion to God is _____ it.

73:13 Surely in _____ I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence.

How would Asaph speaking out mean that he had _____ the children?

73:17-22 *When Asaph comes to worship what does God enable him to see/understand?*

73:23-28 Six Reminders here at the end of Psalm 73.

One – God is faithful, and will hold onto us through our _____ and _____

Two – God will _____ us, even when we are not sure of the way.

Three – When this life comes to an end, we will be with Christ in _____.

Four – Jesus has shown himself _____. My life is better off in His Hands.

Five – My salvation does not depend on how _____ I am but on His sacrifice for me.

Six – The Lord will _____ with the wicked, that is not my job.

Was there a time in your life when you faced doubts about your faith in Christ/God?

How did the Lord (or how might the Lord) help you resolve those doubts?

Answers for the blanks:

- Worship
- Envy

73:4-12 *How does Asaph describe the wicked?*

- No struggles
- Healthy and physically strong and attractive
- Free from pain and burdens
- Seem to have no problems – not plagued by human ills
- Pride is their necklace
- Violence is their clothes
- Calloused Hearts
- No Limits on conceiving evil
- Scoff and Speak with Malice
- Arrogance and Threats
- Boasting – their mouths lay claim to heaven
- Bragging – their tongues take possession of the earth
- Admired – the people turn to them
- Drink in Abundance

- Ignore
- Worth
- Vain
- Betrayed

73:17-22 *When Asaph comes to worship what does God enable him to see/understand?*

- The wicked are on slippery ground
- They will face God's judgment for their life choices.

73:23-28 Six Reminders here at the end of Psalm 73.

- Ups and downs
- Lead
- Glory
- Trustworthy
- Strong
- Deal