

## GOD IS ALL I WANT ~ Psalm 73:1-28

→Scripture Reading - Psalm 73:17-19, 25-28

### INTRODUCTION

→Abraham Lincoln and honest Man? (Geico commercial)

### THE WICKED HAVE IT MADE ~ Psalm 73:1-12

[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 the burdens common to man; 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; the evil conceits of their minds know no limits. [8] They scoff, and speak with malice; in their 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.

**(HCS)** [9] They set their mouths against heaven, and their tongues strut across the earth.

[9] (NLT) They boast against the very heavens, and their words strut throughout the earth. [10] And so the people are dismayed and confused, drinking in all their words.

[11] They say, "How can God know? Does the Most High have knowledge?" [12] This is what the wicked are like - always carefree, they increase in wealth.

#### **THE WICKED** Boice

- have no PROBLEMS
- possess near-perfect HEALTH
- THRIVE ON pride, arrogance, and violence
- DISMISS God as having NO Power
- have no WORRIES and do what they want

### APPLICATION

**ENVY is really a critical complaining heart towards God and that is sin.** Boice

**Matthew 6:31-32** (NLT) "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' [32] These things DOMINATE the thoughts of UNBELIEVERS, **but your heavenly Father already KNOWS all your NEEDS.**

**God is GOOD to ME ALL the TIME**

### BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY ~ Psalm 73:13-15

[13] Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence. [14] All day long I have been plagued; I have been punished every morning. [15] If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed your children. [16] When I tried to understand all this, it was OPPRESSIVE to me...

What is the point of being godly then? What is the advantage of being a Christian if those who are not Christians get what I want and I don't get it? Indeed, the situation is even worse than that, for not only do I not get what I want, I have troubles to boot. In fact, it even seems as if I am being punished for trying to be good. Boice

**15 (HCS)** If I had decided to say these things aloud, I would have betrayed Your people.

## APPLICATION

Having doubts like Asaph's is not incompatible with responsible Christian living. Boice

### WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

- EXPRESS everything you are thinking and feeling FULLY to God

**Matthew 12:36** (HCS) I tell you that on the day of judgment people will have to ACCOUNT for **EVERY CARELESS WORD** they speak.

- Recognize God's GOODNESS
- Realize the Problem is OUR HEART
- CONFESS our Sin of Self-Centeredness
- Share SELECTIVELY that which will be HELPFUL to others

**Ephesians 4:29** (NIV) Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is HELPFUL for **building others up** according to their needs, that it may BENEFIT those who listen.

**Ephesians 4:29** (NLT) ...Let EVERYTHING YOU SAY be good and HELPFUL, so that your words will be an ENCOURAGEMENT to those who hear them.

## FINALLY SEEING THE TRUTH ~ Psalm 73:16-28

[16] When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me [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] As a dream when one awakes, so when you arise, O 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.

**21- (HCS)** When I became embittered and my innermost being was wounded, [22] I was stupid and didn't understand; I was an unthinking animal toward 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.

### NEW INSIGHT...

- I am ALWAYS in Your PRESENCE
- You HOLD me by the hand
- You GUIDE me
- You will bring me HOME

[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.

**26 - (NLT)** My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine 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.

## TAKE AWAY ??

### GOD IS ALL I WANT IS EXPRESSED IN...

- You are GOOD to ME vs. 1
- Being NEAR You is for MY GOOD vs. 28
- You are SOVEREIGN vs. 28
- You are MY REFUGE vs. 28