

IT JUST DOESN'T SEEM FAIR

Psalm 73

Introduction: A Christian man and his family were driving to a town a short distance away and as they came to the top of a small hill, there, in their lane, meeting them head-on was another vehicle. There wasn't time to apply the brakes as the two cars smashed head on together. The man and his entire family were killed instantly and the driver in the other car wasn't. He was drunk.

"God doesn't care" we cry. "He doesn't seem to care that His own children are being killed and maimed by drunken, sinful, wicked, ungodly people." "Why do those who try to follow God's will seem to always have life worse than those who live for the devil?"

"Why is it, we ask, that those who live like the devil seem to have the most wealth, live in the largest houses, drive the most expensive cars, have the most business, live healthier lives, while the Christian's life is most often just the reverse?"

These very same questions have been asked through the ages and were asked by a man several thousand years ago who tried to follow God's will and his name was Asaph. In his despair Asaph had almost given up hope, his faith in God was just about gone and it seemed that trying to live a godly life was useless because all that it ever brought him was trouble and suffering, while all around him, the wicked, those without God were doing alright, making money, having everything they wanted. Before Asaph walked away from God and joined the evil world, he went to God one more time with his problems. His encounter with God is recorded in our text of Psalm 73.

I. ASAPH LEARNED THAT THE WICKED PROSPER ONLY TEMPORARILY

1. Prosperity of the wicked is clearly visible to everyone.
 - Exempted from trouble, seemingly immunity from suffering and trials in life, even appears that there is some kind of divine intervention in their favor which causes confusion among God's Children.
 - The wicked's wildest dreams seem to be fulfilled, no matter what they want. Every luxury and want is made real for them and ever wish seems to be granted.
 - In world matters, the wicked prosper for their crops are not injured by blight or storm nor are their businesses ruined by failure or losses. The wicked are like the rich man whose fields produced so much that he didn't have room in his barns and they seem to always be able to find jobs when jobs are scarce.
2. It seems that the wicked prosper all the way to the end of their lives.
 - To Godly people, it would stand to reason that at the end of the life of a wicked person that pain and suffering should happen, that remorse and fear should sweep over the dying wicked person, but not so. Their prosperity and peace seem to go to the grave with them.
3. Not noticed, however, is the injurious effect that prosperity has upon the character of the wicked.
 - Pride is strong in the wicked and there is no feelings of gratitude, no sense of need, and instead there is the sense of conceit and superiority and causes the proud to think that he/she can

help God instead of receiving help from God. There is the feeling of not needing thing from any person.

- Tyranny and violence are generated in the person not needing God. It would seem that prosperity would make one generous and kind to those less blessed, but instead the wicked rich tend to become violent and begin to oppress the poor, boasting in their glory and actions.
 - The wicked refuse to recognize God and even mock and ridicule Him, thinking themselves independent of God and are masters of their world but are proud, oppressive, violent, blasphemous sinners. Sooner or later they will get what is due them.
4. The prosperity of the wicked causes great concern among God's Children.
- It causes painful doubts about God, questions are thought, even asked, "Doesn't God see?", "Isn't God aware of what's going on? Isn't God able to take care of His own? Doesn't God even care that the wicked are running over His own people? Asaph had these same thoughts.
 - It causes God's Child to doubt the value of trying to live like God wants. It seems that trying to obey God is useless, it has no reward, all seems to be in vain.
 - It brings great distress and sorrow to God's Children. One's faith is greatly tempted in such times when the wicked prosper and God's Children don't, tempting one to leave God and follow after the world, the wicked and Satan. Unbelief almost gains a foothold in the Child of God's life.

II. ASAPH WAS SHOWN THAT CONTRARY TO APPEARANCE, THE WICKED ARE IN DANGER

1. The position of the wicked is perilous. Everything the wicked gain in prosperity, wealth and reputation is laid down at death for the grave makes all equal. The wicked, though appearing to be strong, in control, having no fear from any source, have no firm footing, no solid rock to stand on. Where the Child of God, though not appearing to prosper as the wicked, does have solidity in his/her life, he/she has God.
2. Destruction lies before the wicked. In this life there is prosperity, wealth, recognition, but in the next - HELL. In this life, robes of purple and fine linen, but in the next - the fires of Hell and a burning thirst.
 - Complete destruction
 - Sudden destruction
 - Punishment by God sooner or later, if the wicked do not turn to God in faith, he/she shall be destroyed in the fires of Hell.
3. All the dreams of the wicked come to an end at the grave. Everything they have owned, enjoyed, dreamed of, no matter how precious and great, will come to an end and all will be worthless that was once of such value. What once the wicked cared not for, the things of God will be what condemns them to Hell.

III. ASAPH LEARNED THAT REGARDLESS OF THE SEEMINGLY PROSPERITY OF THE WICKED, IT IS THE CHILD OF GOD WHO ULTIMATELY WILL BE VICTORIOUS

1. The Child of God must keep his/her eyes upon God for what is seen with earthly eyes are but temporal things, not the unseen, eternal, spiritual things.
 - Pride and spiritual enlightenment can't go together.
 - Walking in worldly darkness and spiritual lightness doesn't happen.
 - To walk in darkness is to be separated from God, not understanding God, not seeing God's views.
 - To walk in spiritual light is to be in God's presence, to walk with God, to understand God.

2. Through thorough confidence in God, one is assured of:
 - The constant presence of God, no matter what, for God is always there.
 - The unfailing support of God. When one's steps slip, God is there to hold one up. God will never forsake His own, even the most imperfect.
 - The infallible guidance of God. Trying to reason things in one's own mind and experience brings only frustration, but when one turns to God, answers are found.
 - While God is one's guide, one will never go astray.
 - While God is one's guide, one will enjoy the highest companionship and have a burning heart inside.
 - While God is one's guide, one will be led to receive his/her awaiting glory after this life.

3. God's Children will be victorious through all that God does for them.
 - God is superior to anything that this world or Satan can offer and God can lift up His Child when the dread and fear of death comes and only God can fill the longing to love and be loved.
 - Only God is able to fill the needs of one's soul. Flesh and heart will fail, but God's strength is eternal. When a Child of God's body is drained of all energies, totally exhausted, God is there for God is the "rock" of His Children, their All in All.

CONCLUSION:

1. Asaph concluded his Psalm with these words: *"...It is good for me to draw near to God..."*
 - What can be better for the Child of God than to draw near to his/her God.

2. Christian, Child of God, never envy those who have earthly prosperity for what they have is but only for a very brief time and will pass away at death and the grave, but you, Christian, Child of God, have God who never leaves you and no matter what happens, will see you through it all.

3. If you are not a Christian, then all that you will ever have, no matter what, will be left at the grave and then what? God can make a difference in your life, He wants to, it is up to you whether He can or not.