

Doubts Resolved

- Look Around
- Look Within
- Look Upward
- Look Ahead

This morning, the lesson will be entitled “**Doubts Resolved**”, and based from the context of [Psalm chapter 73](#).

[Psalm 73](#) is a reflection on the problem of evil, with questions of injustice, suffering, and the apparent prosperity of the wicked. It is attributed to Asaph, who was a Levite, and a worship leader, appointed by King David ([1Chron.16:4-7](#)).

A problem stated in life, by many, is,

- “Why do bad things happen to good people, and vice-versa?”

Some respond with, behavior of Fret / despair / bitterness / cynical / and ultimately, “doubt God”.

- Job asked, “Shall we **ACTUALLY** accept **GOOD** from God, but **NOT** accept **ADVERSITY**?” ([Job 2:10](#))

Some,

I. Look Around

...See the Problem, and Conclude “Life is **NOT** Fair” ([Psa.73:2-12](#))

Asaph said,

- “But as for me, my feet came **CLOSE** to stumbling, My steps had **ALMOST** slipped.” ([Psa.73:2](#) NASB)

Faithful man’s problem: He saw wicked people, and envied their...

A. Prosperity

- Asaph said, “For I was envious of the arrogant (or foolish), As I saw the **PROSPERITY** of the wicked.” ([Psa.73:3](#) NASB)

They live in pleasure, and die in strength and ease.

- “For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm.” ([Psa.73:4](#))

They have plenty, that comes easily; No troubles or struggles.

- “They are **NOT** in trouble as other men; **NEITHER** are they plagued like other men.” ([Psa.73:5](#))

When some look around, they see,

B. Pride (Psa.73:6-9)

Some wear it, like a gold chain.

- “Therefore pride (or arrogance) compasseth them about, as a chain; violence covereth them, as a garment.” ([Psa.73:6](#) KJV)

Pride wants **MORE**, and their wishes are gratified.

- “Their eye bulges (or stands out) with fatness; The imaginations of their heart overflow.” (reads [Psa.73:7](#) NASB)

Pride **CORRUPTS**, and hearts are seen, in their **SINFUL** speech.

- “They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily (or from on high)” ([Psa.73:8](#) KJV).
- “O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh.” (reads [Matt.12:34b](#))

Pride sets the **MOUTH**, to speak against God Himself.

- Asaph said, “They have set their mouth, against the heavens, And their tongue, parades through the earth.” ([Psa.73:9](#) NASB)

Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying,

- “Behold, the Lord **COMETH** with ten thousands of His saints, ¹⁵ to **EXECUTE judgment** upon all, and to **CONVINCE** all, that are **UNGODLY** among them, of all their ungodly DEEDS, which they have ungodly COMMITTED, and of all their **HARD speeches**, which ungodly SINNERS, have spoken AGAINST Him.” ([Jude vs.14-15](#))

When some look around, they see,

C. Popularity (Psa.73:10-12)

Most of the world, worships success.

- “Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup, are wrung out to them.” (reads [Psa.73:10](#) KJV)

They think that God, does not know all.

- “They say, “How does God know? And is there knowledge with the Most High?” ([Psa.73:11](#) NASB)
- The Bible says, “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight (that is, God’s sight): but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him, with Whom we have to do.” (reads [Heb.4:13](#))

Popularity of the wicked, is a real stumbling-block.

- “Behold, these are the ungodly (or wicked), who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.” ([Psa.73:12](#) KJV)

If we are to resolve our doubts, we must,

II. Look Within

...This is a personal upheaval (Psa.73:13-16).

A. Wages of holiness, seems to be affliction

- “Surely in vain, I have kept my heart pure And washed my hands, in innocence;” ([Psa.73:13](#) NASB)

B. Some look within, with continued grief, unfair treatment, and injustice

- “For I have been stricken all day long, And punished every morning.” ([Psa.73:14](#))
- As the apostles, we should “strengthen... the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, ...It is through many tribulations, that we must enter, the kingdom of God.” (reads [Acts 14:22](#))

C. It may not always be wise, to speak our thoughts

- [Psa.73:15](#) reads, “If I had said, “I will speak this way,” Behold, I would have betrayed the generation of Your children.”
- The Bible says, “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know, how ye ought to answer every man.” ([Col.4:6](#); [Jas.3:5-6](#))

D. Asaph’s theology, did not square up, with the hard facts of life

- He said, “When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;” ([Psa.73:16](#))
- He needed to solve the problem, and enjoy quietness.

If we are to resolve doubts, we need to,

III. Look Upward

...and Adore The God of Grace (Psa.73:17-22 NASB)

A. Ultimately, “Things” do not really matter (Psa.73:17)

We should take the wider view.

- [Psa.73:17](#) reads, “Until I entered the sanctuary of God; Then I perceived their end.”
- Paul said, “...though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us, a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory; ¹⁸ while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen, *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen, *are* eternal.” ([2Cor.4:16-18](#))

B. Earthly Prosperity is like a rainbow (Psa.73:18)

A rainbow, is beautiful, fleeting, and often elusive.

Likewise, **earthly prosperity**, is not a permanent state, but rather a transient, and sometimes unpredictable occurrence, much like the appearance of a rainbow after a storm.

- Asaph said, “You indeed put them on slippery ground; You dropped them into ruin.” ([Psa.73:18](#))
- “For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools, shall destroy them.” ([Prov.1:32](#))
- “Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way, that thou shouldest go.” ([Isa.48:17](#))

Slippery ground, Exposes to sudden destruction.

- “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” ([Gal.6:7](#))

C. One may have delights now (Psa.73:19)

...but will then, be lost.

- Oh, “How they are destroyed in a moment! They are utterly swept away by sudden terrors!” ([Psa.73:19](#))
- “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” ([Matt.16:26](#))

[Psa.37:35-37](#) reads,

- “I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green, bay tree. ³⁶ Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found. ³⁷ Mark the perfect (or complete) man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is **PEACE.**”

In Psa.73:20,

D. God's Goodness is compared to a sleep

- "As a dream, when one awaketh;
so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image." ([Psa.73:20](#))

Like the rich man and Lazarus, one day we will awaken, after physical death,
Either in torment, or comfort ([Lk.16:19-31](#)).

The bible says,

- God "hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness,
by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men,
in that he hath raised Him from the dead." ([Acts 17:31](#))

Thankfully,

E. Asaph GAINED insight, into his OWN heart and mind, and We Can Also ([Psa.73:21-22](#))

- He said, "Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.
²² So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before Thee." (reads [Psa.73:21-22](#))

Asaph GRIEVED:

- For the Pain of inward struggle, had been intense.

He acted FOOLISHLY:

- by envying fools.

He demonstrated IGNORANCE:

- While thinking like one, who knows nothing.

He behaved like a BEAST:

- While thinking / acting like an animal, instead of a believer in God.

If we are to resolve doubts, we need to,

IV. Look Ahead

...and Renew our Allegiance To God ([Psa.73:23-28](#))

Thankfully,

A. Asaph had a complete turnabout, to the True Source of Hope ([Psa.73:23](#))

- [Psa.73:23](#) reads, "Nevertheless I am continually with Thee:
Thou hast holden me, by my right hand."

CONTINUALLY: Means always, without change or interruption.

The unsaved may have health, wealth, and worldly success, but do not have God.
No matter how much worldly success one has, it is NOTHING compared to spiritual success.

From Psa.73:24, we find that,

B. Asaph, is Done with Criticizing

- He said, “Thou shalt guide me with Thy counsel, and afterward, receive me to Glory.” ([Psa.73:24](#))

So now, he puts his hand in the Father’s Hand, and asks to be led, so **LET US ALSO**.

- “For this God, is our God for ever and ever: He will be our guide, even unto death.” ([Psa.48:14](#))

AFTERWARD: Means, we CAN put up with the present, WHEN we see the future.

After afflictions / doubts / and fears...

- The faithful servant, in the parable of talents, heard, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.” (reads [Matt.25:21](#))

C. Asaph Turned from superficial, to Eternal Treasure (Psa.73:25)

- He said, “Whom, have I in heaven, but Thee?
and there is none upon earth, that I desire, beside Thee.” ([Psa.73:25](#))
- Paul said, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live, in the flesh, I live by the **FAITH** of the Son of God, Who **LOVED** me, and **GAVE** Himself for me.” ([Gal.2:20](#))
- “For to me to live, **IS CHRIST**, and to die, **IS GAIN**.” ([Phil.1:21](#))

D. Asaph’s own power had Already Failed, and Would Fail him in Death (Psa.73:26)

- He said, “My flesh, and my heart faileth:
but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.” ([Psa.73:26](#))

God would not fail him; All else passes quickly.

- [Heb.1:10-11](#) reads, “And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of Thine hands: ¹¹ they shall perish; but Thou remainest; and they all shall wax old, as doth a garment;”

We **CAN** rely on God **FOREVER**: Not just for a year, or for a million years.

- For the faithful, we have, “an **INHERITANCE**, incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth NOT away, **RESERVED** in heaven for you,” ([1Pet.1:4](#))

E. Many are unclean, but The Lord’s servant Must be Pure (Psa.73:27)

- “For, lo, they that are **FAR** from Thee, shall PERISH:
Thou hast **DESTROYED** all them, that **GO** a whoring, **FROM** Thee.” ([Psa.73:27](#))
- “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the **FRIENDSHIP** of the world, is **ENMITY** with God? whosoever therefore will be a **FRIEND** of the world, is the **ENEMY** of God.” ([Jas.4:4](#))

F. The Closer we are to God, the Less we are Affected by Any Distraction (Psa.73:28)

- “But it is good for me, to draw near to God:
I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works.” ([Psa.73:28](#))

Notice from this passage,
The language of **PRAYER**:

- “**IT IS GOOD FOR ME, TO DRAW NEAR TO GOD**”.

The language of **FAITH**:

- “**I HAVE PUT MY TRUST IN THE LORD GOD**”.

And The language of **PRAISE**:

- “**THAT I MAY DECLARE, ALL THY WORKS**”.

V. IN-CLOSING

Did the world situation change? **NO!** ...Asaph changed ([Psa.73:28](#)),
And if the need arises, we'll need to change too.

God is always good, despite what circumstances look like ([Psa.73:1](#)).
We should spend much time in worship, to glorify Him ([Eph.3:21](#)), and grow in His Grace & Knowledge ([2Pet.3:18](#)).

Invite the lost to draw near -- Read the Word / Meditate / Obey / Serve / Pray / Assemble.

- “**COME NOW**, and let us **REASON TOGETHER**, saith the Lord:
though your sins be **AS** scarlet, they shall be **AS** white as snow;
though they (sins) be red **LIKE** crimson, they shall be **AS** wool.” ([Isa.1:18](#))

Jesus said,

- “**COME** unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will **GIVE** you rest.” ([Matt.11:28](#))
- “And now why tarriest thou (that is, why wait)?
arise, and **Be BAPTIZED**, and **WASH AWAY** thy sins, calling on the Name of the Lord.” ([Acts 22:16](#))

If you have been baptized, but haven't remained faithful,

- “**REPENT** therefore of this thy wickedness, and **PRAY** God,
if perhaps the **THOUGHT** of thine heart, may be **FORGIVEN** thee.” ([Acts 8:22](#))

If you have a Need, COME without delay,
While TOGETHER, we stand and sing.

Source: Sermon Outline by Derrel Shaw
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