

Psalm 73: Captivated by God

Read Psalm 73:17-28

Have you ever found yourself comparing your life with those of the people around you? We find something good in their situation, and by comparison, our life seems inadequate. They get all the good fortune, and we have none. We compare the best of their circumstance (or what *seems* best) with the worst of our circumstance (or what *seems* worst). The result is envy, rising from false observations and unfair comparisons.

That kind of thinking led the writer of Psalm 73 to think that the wicked are better off, and that godliness just isn't worth the effort.

But starting in v.17, his perspective changed completely. What changed his mind? What could reverse His thinking so dramatically?

Coming into the sanctuary. Being in the presence of God. It reminds me of Psalm 36:9, "*In Your light we see light*" (NASB). Or to paraphrase it, "When we see You, God, we see everything more clearly."

How did coming into God's presence change his thinking so completely?

- He saw the big picture (vv.17b-20). Without God, the prosperity of the godless is shallow and short-lived. Their end is sudden and complete.
- He saw how ignorant and deluded he had been (vv.21-22). He had focused only on the shallow and the temporary.
- He realized that God Himself is the greatest good in life. His personal presence is life's greatest blessing (vv.23-28). Notice his prayer:
I am always with You. You hold me by my hand.
You guide me with Your wise counsel.
In the end, You will take me to be with You and share Your glory.
In all the splendor of heaven, who will I need but You?
On earth, what is there to want or seek compared to You?
This physical body will fail, but God will be mine forever!
Your nearness, O God, is my greatest good! (paraphrase)

Child of God, guard your heart. Where is it focused? Are you distracted by the shallow and temporary? Or are you captivated by the personal presence of your magnificent God? Are you wanting more of God, or more of anything else?

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