

Heart to Heart with the Living God

Psalm 73

"...God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." Psalm 73:26b (NIV)

Day 1: Read Psalm 73.

This psalm is written "after the fact"; it contains the Psalmist's reflections on the ways he has responded to the circumstances in his life.

1. What does the Psalmist affirm in verse 1?

How does that set the tone for understanding the psalm?

2. What caused the Psalmist to almost slip and fall? (v. 3)

3. In what ways were the wicked prospering?

v. 4

v. 5

v. 9

v. 10

v. 12

4. What ungodly actions and attitudes does it appear they are "getting away with" ?

v. 6

v. 7

v. 8

v. 11

Days 2 and 3: Read Psalm 73.

5. What words would you use to describe the Psalmist's emotions as he observed the wicked?

6. How does the Psalmist describe himself when his focus was on the wicked? (vv. 21, 22)

7. What erroneous conclusion did the Psalmist come to about his personal commitment to godliness and purity? (v. 13)

8. Why does the Psalmist determine not to speak freely about the frustration he feels? (v. 15)

9. Fill in the chart below to compare the two ways the Psalmist seeks to solve his problem.

Reference	Action taken to solve problem	Result
v. 16		
v. 17		

10. When the Psalmist “went into the sanctuary of God” he went to worship. When we think of worship we must remember that it is much more than singing songs or hymns in church. William Temple wonderfully described worship as:

the submission of all our nature to God
the quickening of conscience by His holiness
the nourishment of mind with His truth
the purifying of imagination by His beauty
the opening of the heart to His love;
the surrender of will to His purpose
and all of this gathered up in adoration...

How does this understanding of worship explain the dramatic reorientation of the Psalmist’s thinking?

Day 4: Read Psalm 73.

11. With a reoriented heart, how does the Psalmist understand the final destiny of the wicked?

v. 18

v. 19

v. 20

v. 27

12. Reread verses 23-28 and describe how the Psalmist’s worship experience has brought clarity to the way he thinks about:

a. himself and his relationship with God

b. his final destiny

13. The Psalmist was filled with envy before he “entered the sanctuary of God” (v. 17). What fills you with envy?

How does this reveal what you’re hoping in?

14. Describe how worshipping God transforms your attitudes and perspectives? (v. 26)