

Drawing Near to Regain Perspective

Psalm 73

April 19, 2020

“In anything that resembles a crisis, the man who knows wants to be alone with God.” Dr. Eric Frykenberg

1. Appearances can be _____ (73:2-12)

*“How Firm a Foundation, ye saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word”*

It is too easy to slip by looking around at others

The vagaries and _____ of life

I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked

An emotional pulling out of the rug (see Isaiah 11:3)

A “_____ and _____ gospel” for the wicked!

They . . . they . . . they . . . (note pronouns)

Strong bodies, callous hearts, conceited minds, boastful mouths, popular following, oppressive violence, mocking words, stinking rich, practical atheists “*Does God know?*”

2. What good does it do to try to be good? (73:13-17)

Envious contemplation of the world ends in _____

New punishments(?) every morning (opp. Lam. 3:23)

Consider the effect of your _____ on God’s children

Confess what you don’t understand, as well as what you do

Questions _____ to their proper size in worship

3. The short term view of life is _____ (73:18-22)

The dark and slippery path to utter ruin (see also Psalm 35:6)

- Ruin is a _____ consequence of a godless life
- Ruin is personal “*you cast them down*”
- Ruin is _____ “*suddenly*”
- Ruin is spiritual “*completely swept away by terrors!*”
- Divine judgment to be of no _____ to God

To be near-sighted, is to be ignorant, dumb as a _____ !

4. The incomparable riches of staying near God (73:23-28)

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 receive me into glory.

²⁵ *Whom have I in heaven but you?*

And being with you, I desire nothing on earth.

²⁶ *My flesh and my heart may fail,*

but God is the strength of my heart

and my portion 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.

(23) To be “*always with*” God is to never be forgotten or dismissed or ignored or overlooked, my hand in His.

(23-24) The verbs “*hold me . . . guide me . . . receive me*” give assurance in salvation’s journey from beginning to end. In Romans 8:29-30 in God’s eternal plan He predestines, calls, justifies and glorifies as a done deal, a sure thing secured for us by the giving of His Son.

(24) To “*receive me into glory*” is an Old Testament glimpse of the New Testament truth of everlasting life in Christ in the presence of God.

(25) Nothing in all creation “*heaven . . . earth*” can separate us “*from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord*” (Romans 8:39)

(26a) A failing heart and flesh is inevitable, so is the strength (rock) that God provides.

(26b) My “*portion*” is my inheritance; Asaph was a Levite (Deut. 10:9).

(27) To be “*far from God*” is spiritual adultery, unfaithfulness (Hos. 1:2) those he earlier envied, he now realizes are destined to be destroyed.

(28) The goodness of God to Israel in verse one, is now back in view in the final verse of Psalm 73 “*It is good to be near God.*” The psalmist is committed to telling others where he has found refuge. There is room.