

Desire for God

Psalm 73:1-3, 16-17, 21-28

Pastor Guna Raman

Psalm 73 was written by Asaph, a musical worship leader in the temple. He was a songwriter who wrote 12 psalms. Psalm 73 was written out from a question and struggle that plagued Asaph: is God really good all the time? While he opened the psalm believing that God was good to Israel, he was struggling with the goodness of God (vv1-2). Similarly, we often struggle in the same way from time to time.

Everyone builds their life on a certain hope or truth. When that hope or truth is shaken, our steps become slippery and we stumble. Despite basing his life on God, Asaph still stumbled because he had begun doubting the goodness of God.

3 Reasons to Asaph's Doubts

1. The Failure of the Hebrew Dream

vv3-4 – Asaph was jealous of the rich and successful. He was enticed by the Hebrew dream and caught up with the unrighteous rich that caused him to doubt the goodness of God.

2. The Futility of the Moral Life

v13 – Despite being morally upright, Asaph did not feel blessed. He struggled with the goodness of God as he questioned and thought about why the ungodly people are rich and successful.

3. The Frustration of Suffering

v14 – On top of everything else Asaph was going through; he was also suffering an affliction. His frustration led him to anger towards God (vv21-22).

While God may deny us His stuff (a comfortable and suffering-free life), He will never deny us Himself (vv16-17). God has proven through the cross and the empty grave that he went through great lengths to give us Himself. To walk into the sanctuary of God is to experience God Himself. We

may not find the things we want in the temple, but we will always find God. Asaph saw that the presence of God was everything.

3 Things that settles Asaph's Doubts

1. God's justice

v18 – The presence of God brought Asaph to a revelation that even as the world would despise and reject God, there will come a day when God's judgment will fall upon them. Entrust the injustice and unfairness of the world into the hands of God and trust that He will deal with them.

2. God's grace

v23 – Despite Asaph's angry and unrighteous behavior towards God, He never once had let go of him. All through his disappointment, anger and doubt, Asaph saw the grace of God upon him. Even through our stumbling and struggling, the grace of God continually upholds us. Grab hold onto more of Jesus because He already holds onto us in spite of our iniquities (Phil. 3:12; Jude 1:24)!

3. God's worth

vv25-26 – Asaph's desire had shifted from the Hebrew dream and a life without suffering to nothing else but God. He realized that God was far more valuable than the blessings He could give. While we might lose those blessings, we will never lose God. Asaph discovered and desired with all his heart – God the ultimate treasure (Ps. 27:4).

When we come into the sanctuary of God's presence, we see an altar, a cross and a sacrifice. They remind us of God's justice, grace and worth that is wrapped in the redemptive story of the cross of Jesus Christ. A generous heart is committed to keep the redemptive story of God's grace alive (v28). Let the justice, grace and worth of God melt

away the doubts, anger and frustration we
have towards God!