

## Is it Worth it?

Psalm 73

David Bartosik - March 25, 2018

Asaph invites us into his personal anguish in seeking to understand the goodness of God in relationship to prosperity of those far from God.

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God is good, and sometimes we need to reorient our perspective.

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# Life Group Discussion Questions:

## Psalm 73

### Discuss the Text:

1. Try organizing the Psalm into different sections. How many would you use? What are they?
2. What is Asaph saying in v1 about the goodness of God? Who are the pure in heart?
3. What does Asaph admit in v2 about his conviction in this belief?
4. What is the issue that Asaph identifies as his problem in v3?
5. How would you summarize v4-12 regarding the focus of attention for the wicked?
6. What does the psalmist mean in v11 when he quotes the wicked in saying, "how can God know? Is there knowledge in the most high?"
7. In v15, Asaph was doubting God's goodness, yet he was careful about expressing his doubt. Why?
8. What was Asaph's first approach in dealing with his dilemma in v16?
9. In v17, what perspective on the wicked did Asaph get from God that made him realize that the prosperity of the wicked in this world doesn't matter?
10. What is the Psalmist communicating in v18-20?
11. In v22, what does the psalmist mean that he was "brutish and ignorant" towards God?
12. What is Asaph communicating in v25-26?
13. What happens to those who choose to live separated from God, what the psalmist terms "far from You"?
14. What is significant about the final line of this psalm, "That I may tell of all Your works"?
15. How would you paraphrase Psalm 73?

### Apply the Text:

1. When was a time that you doubted the goodness of God? Through that experience, have you ever had a "sanctuary experience"? When? Where? What happened?
2. When things appear to be unfair to us as we look around, how do we increasingly bring these issues before God?
3. What are the areas of my life that I need to have an eternal perspective on? How can I increasingly gain an eternal perspective on my circumstances?

### Live out the Text:

1. After group, take 10 minutes to create a list of lessons from Psalm 73. Journal about which of these lessons means the most to you.
2. Memorize one verse from Psalm 73. Write this verse out on a card and keep in visible for one week. Pray it over and over. Be prepared to share next week on how God was working through this text.
3. Spend 5 minutes of solitude reflecting on and experiencing God's presence is the most important thing in this life.
4. Engage in conversation with someone yet to believe. Ask them about how they view success; how they think about others prosperity around them; how they shift their perspective.

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