

Psalm 73 by Asaph, the Lead Singer and Prophet

Taught by Dr Victor Paul Wierwille during “Living Victoriously in God’s Peace”

You see, we have the same discomfort and the same loss today when we lose the peace. And you lose the peace when you lose the grace, the mercy, the love, the power. When you walk away from that, move away from that, you lose the peace. And here’s a prophet, the lead singer of all the singers of the Levites and a prophet, and he loses it. And the 73rd psalm is just a fantastic revelation and that is where I...what I wanna really share with you today.

Remember about “know thy self,” the more you look at yourself, the more miserable you get? I wanna take it a step further today. Not only is it like self-introspection, but when you look around at others and you look at the world, you get miserable and you lose it. And that’s why, here in Psalm 73, verse 1:

Psalms 73:1:

...Truly God *is* good to Israel, *even* to such as are of a [what?] clean heart.

“...clean heart.” He’s good to them that are of a clean heart.

Psalms 73:2:

But [in contrast] as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.

He was on a banana peeling, heading out in a hurry. {laughter} Why? Why? Here it is:

Psalms 73:3a:

For I was envious...

“I was envious.” Can you imagine? The lead singer, a prophet, a man of God, envious?

Psalms 73:3b:

...envious at the foolish, *when* I saw the prosperity of the [what?] {wicked}.

He was envious at the prosperity of the wicked ‘cause the wicked had a better salary than he did. They had finer automobiles; they had bigger houses. Of course they were in debt to the finance company, but that doesn’t make any difference, had the big show! “And all I am is just the lead singer to those Israelites. Oh, yes, once in a while God gives me revelation.” {laughter} See?

Psalms 73:3b:

...I was envious...*when* I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

Verse 4:

Psalms 73:4:

For *there are* no bands in their death:...their strength *is* firm.

What he's saying there: "They're not sick all the time. They're not being attacked all the time. I as the lead singer and as a prophet, everything happens to me all the time. Everyday there's something comes up to hurt me or endeavor to hurt me. They don't have those problems."

Psalms 73:4b:

...their strength *is* firm.

Verse 5:

Psalms 73:5:

[They're] not in trouble [like I am] *as other* men; neither are they [beset or] plagued like *other* men.

Man, this reads to me like God wrote it this morning! {laughter} Boy, oh, boy! How many times haven't you looked at people around you and tried to conduct your life or thinking according to what you saw around you.

Psalms 73:6a:

Therefore [verse 6] pride...

Pride. Pride! He was, number one, envious. Here is what?

Psalms 73:6b:

...[pride compassed] pride [compassed] them about...

Yes, but he didn't see that it was this pride and other stuff until later when he gets greater light, but he writes it here and it's accurate.

Psalms 73:6b-7a:

^{6b}...[compassed] them about as a chain; [and] violence covereth them *as* a garment.

^{7a}Their eyes stand out with fatness...

You know, they're googly-eyed because of the material things.

Psalms 73:7b:

...[man] they have more than [any] heart could wish [for].

You know, not one farm, not two farms, three, four, ten. Not one house, two house, three house. Not one car, three-car-garages and still building on. Gotta go back to Texas, I guess, and the basics. {laughter} Ha-ha-ha.

Psalms 73:7b:

...more than heart could [what?] wish.

Man, how many times I haven't seen that through the years. Out in the senses world, man, they're rolling in money (the way it looks), they got a lot of things, material things. You know, big boats, all that other stuff. Most of 'em ain't got a Harley though. {laughter} Ha-ha-ha-ha-ha. {applause and

cheering} Even though it may take 30 years to get it but I got one, baby. {laughter} I'm expecting to bring it out to you here one of these days. Maybe I'll drive it right up here and set it the front of the room. {applause and cheering} Hey. Ha.

Verse 8 says:

Psalms 73:8:

They are corrupt [they're corrupt], and speak [what?] wickedly *concerning* oppression: they speak loftily.

They say, "Ha-ha! Look what you got; look what we got. Yeah, you Christian? You're a believer? Look what you got, look what I got." See?

Psalms 73:9a:

They set their mouth against the heavens...

That means they set their mouth against God.

Psalms 73:9b:

...and their tongue walketh through the earth.

Ha-ha. And says, "Oh, look at us! Look at us! Their God, nuts to God! I don't need God. God's dead. There ain't no God anyway. So, what are you stewing about?"

Psalms 73:10-11:

¹⁰Therefore his people return hither: [verse 10] and waters of a full *cup* are wrung out [of] them.

¹¹And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High?

"No." Verse 12. Verse 12. Ha-ha.

Psalms 73:12a:

Behold, these *are* the ungodly...

You see, he'd lost his peace. Now he begins to rebuild, he begins to see. There's a turning point coming in here pretty soon.

Psalms 73:12-13:

¹²...these *are* the ungodly who prosper in the world; they increase *in* [what?] riches.

¹³Verily I [13, here it is] have cleansed my heart *in* vain, and washed my hands [where] {in innocency}.

"You know, I've been all out for God, standing on the Word, witnessing, doing all of that. Those... Look what I got. Nothing, compared to what they got out there!" So he says, "I've cleansed my heart, I did this, in vain. Washed my hands."

Psalms 73:14-15:

¹⁴For all the day long have I been [what?] plagued, and [I've been beat all the time]...

¹⁵If I [verse 15, if I] say [if I say], I will speak thus; behold, I [shall] offend *against* the generation of thy children.

Then verse 16. Verse 16. Here's the turning point, here's the way back to peace.

Psalms 73:16:

When I thought to know this, it *was* too [what?] painful [painful, was too painful] for me;

"All of this was too painful."

Psalms 73:17:

Until [verse 17] I went into [what?] the sanctuary of God; *then* understood I their end.

The reason he understood their end is because he learned to understand his own end, if he kept going what would happen to him. See, his peace was gone because his love for God was gone. God's grace had been forgotten, God's mercy, God's power, until he turned back to God, until he went back into the sanctuary...

Psalms 73:17b:

...*then* [I] understood...their end.

Verse 18:

Psalms 73:18-21:

¹⁸Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.

¹⁹How are they *brought* into desolation, as in a moment! [they're] utterly consumed with terrors.

²⁰As a dream when *one* awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image.

²¹Thus my heart [verse 21] was [what?] grieved [he was grieved], and I was pricked in my reins.

"Reins" are "mind." Mind. In the mind. He was pricked in the mind.

Psalms 73:22:

So foolish *was* I [verse 22], and ignorant: I was [a beast] *as* a beast before thee.

Now he's changed. Now he's changed, he's out of the woods. Now he's back to only beholding God and his Word. Not self, not others, but only God and His Word.

Psalms 73:23-24:

²³Nevertheless I *am* [what? verse 23] continually [what?] with thee: thou hast holden

me by my right hand.

²⁴Thou shalt guide me with thy [what?] counsel, and afterward receive me *to* glory [the hope].

If this life were all that there is, and that is all that there is in the thinking of the vast majority of peoples of the world, that it's just this... But it isn't! You and I know Christ is coming back. We know of the hope of the return.

Verse 24:

Psalms 73:24:

Thou shalt guide me with thy [what?] {counsel}, and afterward receive me [where?] *to* glory.

That's what blessed him. Verse 25:

Psalms 73:25a:

Whom have I...

"...really. Who have I got anywhere?"

Psalms 73:25:

Whom have I [got] in heaven *but thee?* and [there's] none upon earth [what?] I desire beside thee.

Verse 26:

Psalms 73:26a:

My flesh and my heart faileth...

"My flesh and my heart..." I wish I were the man I know to be, but my flesh and my heart faileth.

Psalms 73:26-27a:

²⁶...*but* God [but God, even in the midst of all of that, God] *is* the strength of [what?] my heart, and my portion [how long?] for ever.

^{27a}For, lo, [verse 27] they that are far from thee shall perish...

What should it profit a man if he gain the whole world, but what? Lose his own soul. When you look at self, you're miserable. When you look at others, you get discouraged and that issues in misery. Then you get envious, prideful, and you lose your peace because you have failed to adhere to the grace of God, lit...to understand and walk on the grace of God or the mercy of God or the love of God or the power of God. And when the peace is gone, when that peace is gone, well, you're just [Dr. Wierwille makes a splatting sound] heading down and you're just miserable. God did not make us to be miserable. He made us more than conquerors; He made us to have a more than abundant life; to be joyful in believing.

Psalms 73:27-28:

²⁷For, lo, [verse 27] they...are far [they are far from] from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.

²⁸But *it is* good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD [Jehovah Elohim, Jehovah Elohim, the Lord GOD] that I may declare all thy works.

This Levite, a prophet, screwed up, saw it, lost his peace, but look how he came back. In that record in 1 John or in the records in 1 John it says if we confess our sin, He, God is what? {faithful} Faithful and just to do what? {forgive us} And to cleanse us of all unrighteousness. When we received remission of sins originally, he wiped it out, all gone, started us out brand new. Then when we break fellowship, if we confess...and it's just not saying the word, baby. It's not just saying, "Well Lord, I'm sorry I got drunk last night." That's a bunch of baloney. It has to be an inner recognition. Any stupid bird could say the word "I'm sorry I sinned." Anybody could say that. It isn't in just saying it, it's in knowing it on the inside. You know, if you're happy living in sin 'cause you know next morning you can again go to God and... Aw, you won't get any forgiveness. You're fooling yourself. But if we confess it, He is faithful and just to do what? {forgive us} And cleanse us of what? All unrighteousness.

In the Old Testament, God could only cover their sin. It was like the lid on a garbage can. But with the coming of the Day of Pentecost and with God in Christ in you, it's not a covering, it's a cleansing, it says. He has cleansed us from all sin; washed it out; cleansed it. Man, God looked forward to this day and time in which you and I live, that we could be His cleansed, righteous sons and daughters of God, to stand for Him and the Word over the world! It is He who has called us, people!

Now, ha-ha, peace. A million times (that's a figure of speech, but I must've done it a million times) situations, environment, somebody, you get a little unpeaceful, you lose it. [Dr. Wierwille snaps his fingers] But I've come to place I don't try to lose it very long. You know how I react? The first time I get a sober thought after that, the first thing I do is speak in tongues. Speak in tongues, worshipping Him. (God is Spirit, can be worshipped only via spirit and what? Truth. Spiritually.) So I speak in tongues, and baby, it still works. And then speaking in tongues tells me that God in Christ is still in me. And then I get to thinking, "Well, praise the Lord! He's still here. Nuts to the people who have disturbed my spiritual equilibrium." And then...then I know everything's okay with me and I know it's okay with Him. I know I'm still saved and I know I'm still His son and I know I'm still redeemed, blessed, have everything God made available. All I need to do is just walk in the light as He is the light. That's the day. Thank you! {applause and cheering} That's it.