



Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2013  
“It Was all a Dream”  
Envyng the wicked.  
Psalm 73

## INTRODUCTION

We don't know much about the author or context of this Psalm, other than that it is a wisdom Psalm written by Asaph around the time of the Babylonian exile.

We can see from the first three verses that Asaph is battling with a paradox. While he knows that *'God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart'* (v1). He is contending with his immediate context and discouraged by his current circumstance. So much so that *'my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped. For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked'* (vv2-3).

### 1. Cause (vv4-16) 35 mins

Verses 4-12 give a very clear picture of the traits of the 'wicked' at the time which the Psalm was written.

- a) Are these traits exclusive to that specific period of time? Do we see examples of this type of person/behavior in London in 2013?
- b) Why do you think that trying to understand this concept (God being good to Israel, but the wicked prospering) was a *'wearisome task'* (v16)?
- c) Why in v15 does Asaph say that he would have *'betrayed the generation of your children'* if he had publically shared his feelings?

### 2. Cure (v17) 20 mins

- a) Here we see an event which is (hopefully) a weekly event for Christians, why do you think that is this such a turning point in this Psalm?
- b) Although some of us attend church weekly, our perspective still doesn't change. How can we insure that our attendance is not just routine? (*clue is in next question*)
- c) How can we be entering the *'sanctuary of God'* daily?

### 3. Change (vv18-28) 35 mins

- a) How does our understanding of eternal God affect our attitude towards this temporary earth?
- b) Compare Psalm 73:25 with Matthew 6:19-21. Who is your treasure and where is your heart?
- c) Read verse 28. Compare this to verse 15. How often do you *'Tell of all your (God's) works'* compared to complaining about those around you?

## CONCLUSION

God is gracious; verses 23-24 show us this clearly. Whilst it's easy for us to point the finger at others when we read verses 4-16, we also realise that it's talking about us. We are selfish, proud, arrogant, greedy and talk rubbish expecting to get a pat on the back. Only through Christ can we truly be *'pure in heart'* (v1). Only by knowing God can we truly understand how remarkably good he is to us.

## PRAYER

1. For God to be graciously leading us into his presence daily by his spirit.
2. To understand that what/who we have in heaven is far greater than what this earth can offer.
3. Awareness of our sinful condition, to be grateful that through Jesus we can be called *'pure in heart'*.