

## Psalm 73

English Standard Version

*A Psalm of Asaph.*

Surely God is good to Israel,  
To those who are pure in heart!  
<sup>2</sup> But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling,  
My steps had almost slipped.  
<sup>3</sup> For I was envious of the arrogant  
As I saw the prosperity of the wicked.  
<sup>4</sup> For there are no pains in their death,  
And their body is fat.  
<sup>5</sup> They are not in trouble *as other* men,  
Nor are they plagued like mankind.  
<sup>6</sup> Therefore pride is their necklace;  
The garment of violence covers them.  
<sup>7</sup> Their eye bulges from fatness;  
The imaginations of *their* heart run riot.  
<sup>8</sup> They mock and wickedly speak of oppression;  
They speak from on high.  
<sup>9</sup> They have set their mouth against the heavens,  
And their tongue parades through the earth.  
  
<sup>10</sup> Therefore his people return to this place,  
And waters of abundance are drunk by them.  
<sup>11</sup> They say, “How does God know?  
And is there knowledge with the Most High?”  
<sup>12</sup> Behold, these are the wicked;  
And always at ease, they have increased *in*  
wealth.  
<sup>13</sup> Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure  
And washed my hands in innocence;  
<sup>14</sup> For I have been stricken all day long  
And chastened every morning.  
  
<sup>15</sup> If I had said, “I will speak thus,”  
Behold, I would have betrayed the generation of  
Your children.  
<sup>16</sup> When I pondered to understand this,  
It was troublesome in my sight

<sup>17</sup> Until I came into the sanctuary of God;  
*Then* I perceived their end.  
<sup>18</sup> Surely You set them in slippery places;  
You cast them down to destruction.  
<sup>19</sup> How they are destroyed in a moment!  
They are utterly swept away by sudden terrors!  
<sup>20</sup> Like a dream when one awakes,  
O Lord, when aroused, You will despise their  
form.  
  
<sup>21</sup> When my heart was embittered  
And I was pierced within,  
<sup>22</sup> Then I was senseless and ignorant;  
I was *like* a beast before You.  
<sup>23</sup> Nevertheless I am continually with You;  
You have taken hold of my right hand.  
<sup>24</sup> With Your counsel You will guide me,  
And afterward receive me to glory.  
  
<sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven *but You*?  
And besides You, I desire nothing on earth.  
<sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart may fail,  
But God is the strength of my heart and my  
portion forever.  
<sup>27</sup> For, behold, those who are far from You will  
perish;  
You have destroyed all those who are unfaithful  
to You.  
<sup>28</sup> But as for me, the nearness of God is my  
good;  
I have made the Lord God my refuge,  
That I may tell of all Your works.

**Additional questions for thought and discussion:**

---

**Inductive Bible Study**

(A few general ideas)

**Observation**  
**(What does it say?)**

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

**Interpretation**  
**(What does it mean?)**

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

**Application**  
**(What does it mean for me?)**

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.  
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**