



THE SIN OF SECULARISM Psalm 73

October 15, 2023
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Good morning Church! Psalm 73 reflects on the wisdom a person has in a good God after a long struggle of observing the world, especially the prosperity of the wicked. If we focus too much on the secular world, we can allow one's faith in God to be buried under self-pity. The psalmist realized his anxiety when he contrasted the prosperity of the wicked with the difficulties of living a righteous life.

God Is My Strength and Portion Forever A Psalm of Asaph.

*"Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. **2** But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped. **3** For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. **4** For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek. **5** They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind. **6** Therefore pride is their necklace; violence covers them as a garment. **7** Their eyes swell out through fatness; their hearts overflow with follies. **8** They scoff and speak with malice; loftily they threaten oppression. **9** They set their mouths against the heavens, and their tongue struts through the earth. **10** Therefore his people turn back to them, and find no fault in them. **11** And they say, "How can God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?" **12** Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches. **13** All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence. **14** For all the day long I have been stricken and rebuked every morning.*

***15** If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed the generation of your children. **16** But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, **17** until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end. **18** Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin. **19** How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors! **20** Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as phantoms. **21** When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart, **22** I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you. **23** Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.*

***24** You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. **25** Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. **26** My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. **27** For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. **28** But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works."*

1. The Dilemma of HUMAN SECULARISM. (v 1-14)

- Their PROSPERITY (v 1-5)
- Their PRIDE (v 6-9)

"For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world." **1 John 2:16**

- Their PRESUMPTION (v 10-14)

2. The Stance of GODLY LIVING. (v 15-28)

- God's PERSPECTIVE (v 16-17)
- God's JUDGMENTS (v 18-20)
- God's GUIDANCE (v 21-28)

- **Living a SECULAR life is to live a FAITHLESS life.**

"Creation was never designed to satisfy your heart. It is true that your heart will rest only ever when it has found its rest in God." **Paul David Tripp**

"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?"

Matthew 16:26

See that God is good. His plans are perfect. His ways are pure and following Christ leads to righteousness. May our attitudes change, our perspective be godly knowing the judgment that comes to the secular, unbelieving world is handled by a just God.

Salvation through Jesus Christ

*The single most important decision a person could ever make in their lifetime is to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. The Bible says, "all have sinned and fall short of God's glory and we don't deserve eternal life because the wages of sin is death". Yet through God's love, only "Christ gives us eternal life by grace through faith"... it is a gift of God. God's word says, That if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is LORD and believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead YOU WILL BE SAVED. **The Bible says to REPENT of your sins. BELIEVE in Jesus receiving His forgiveness.** Then, identify with Christ and start living a new life in obedience to God by being BAPTIZED.*