

FROM DOUBT TO ASSURANCE

Psalm 73

Truly God is good to Israel, to such as
are pure in heart.

But as for me, my feet had almost
stumbled; my steps had nearly
slipped.

For I was envious of the boastful, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. For there are no pangs in their death, but their strength is firm. They are not in trouble as other men, nor are they plagued like other men. Therefore pride serves as their necklace; violence covers them like a garment. Their eyes bulge with abundance; they have more than heart could wish. They scoff and speak wickedly concerning oppression; they speak loftily. They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walks through the earth.

Therefore his people return here, and waters of a full cup are drained by them. And they say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?" Behold, these are the ungodly, who are always at ease; they increase in riches.

Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain,
and washed my hands in innocence. For
all day long I have been plagued, and
chastened every morning.

If I had said, “I will speak thus,” behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children. When I thought how to understand this, it was too painful for me – **until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I understood their end.**

Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors. As a dream when one awakes, so, Lord, when You awake, You shall despise their image.

Thus my heart was grieved, and I was vexed in my mind. I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You.

Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand. You will guide me with Your counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail; but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry. But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all Your works.

Some lessons for us

- We are sure to stumble if we simply look at what is seen
 - We cannot have true wisdom by what is seen
- We need to go “into the sanctuary of God” for truth
 - Without the light of truth, understanding is perverted
 - With the light of truth, we can discern good and evil
 - God’s wisdom allows us to see the end from the beginning
- Proclaiming doubt to God’s people is to be unfaithful to them
- We know, and we need to be reminded
- God is our strength. Draw near to Him
- God will punish the evildoer. But He will receive the righteous into glory