

Why after all *do* the godly suffer?

A SONG OF CONFESSIOIN - PSALM 73

This Problem – *Almost wrecked his faith!*

7 Steps to his Problem Resolution

¹⁵If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children. ¹⁶When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;

1. Not willing to express his *doubts* to cause any others to stumble.

¹⁷Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.

2. Shift from natural thinking to *spiritual thinking*. When feelings govern us, our range of view limits us. When mind governs us, the facts reign.

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 are utterly consumed with terrors. ²⁰As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image.

3. Awareness that without God, the ungodly inside are falling apart – the ‘end’ of all their processes (not just life) is *futile*, gripped by fear. Ultimate end: to be forgotten like a bad dream. Those who persist in rejecting God’s love and grace make a splash, and then are gone.

²¹Thus my heart was grieved and I was pricked in my reins. ²²So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.

4. Did not stop with just correcting his thinking – he *honestly faced* what led him to this – worked it thoroughly through. What made him act this way? Saw three things:

- he was stupid, got worked up by feelings into frenzy, built mountains out of molehills
- he was ignorant, behind trials is a Father’s loving heart
- he was like an animal, acting instinctively

²³Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand. ²⁴Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

5. Nevertheless – all the *grace of God* poured into this word! Finds: Forgiveness, God's Restoring Hand, God's Guidance, His End is Glory

²⁵Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. ²⁶My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

6. God is my portion. Realization of utter *adequacy of God*. No matter what...God is able! I only need God Himself.

²⁷For, lo, they that are far 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, that I may declare all thy works.

7. Resolution Conclusion – **God is good!** Draw near to God and He will draw near to thee.

Prayer – “Lord, keep us from being envious of the ungodly.”

Leviticus - the Book of the Sanctuary and the help you receive there, corresponds to this Psalm

The Contradiction is Apparent (this is the beauty of the Psalms)

“How can your God be both a God of *love and power*?”

New Christians are frightened by this seeming contradiction. **Why after all do the godly suffer?** The ungodly are noted for their *self-indulgence* in food and pleasure. They become so used to operating without God that they *actually forget* He exists. “How can people live like this?”