

Is He Worth It?

Psalm 73

*"Here is the final observation I hope you will remember. It concerns the progression of the dominant pronouns in the psalm. In the first section, as far as verse 12, the emphasized pronoun is **they**, referring to the wicked. The psalmist has his eyes fixed on them. In the second section, verses 13-17, the dominant pronoun is **I**. Having seen the prosperity of the wicked, the psalmist looks at himself and falls into unjustified comparisons. In the third section, verses 18-22, the dominant pronoun is **you**. Here the psalmist has stopped comparing himself to other people and is thinking about God. Then, in the final section of the psalm, verses 23-28, **You and I** are combined. Here Asaph says, "you [meaning God] have set your hand upon me" and I for my part want nothing on earth but you."*

You and I need to learn that lesson in the deepest possible way, for if we learn it, all life will be transformed and we will find ourselves always content in God. Remember that heaven and earth will pass away (Matt. 24:35) but that those who know God and do his will abide forever." Boice

- I. We have been given two choices in this life, follow God or follow man. It is an either-or proposition that not only determines our eternal destiny, but also the state our emotional, spiritual and physical wellbeing while here on earth. The world and its system may offer temporary joy and prosperity, but the carefree unsecure footing it gives is based on pride, violence, callous hearts, iniquity, evil conceits, malice, arrogance and oppression. ***Is this the path that you want to walk on?***

Ps. 73:1-12

- II. As followers of Christ, we must determine if the cost of discipleship is worth it in a world that seemingly offers so much more than the discipline of being crucified with Christ and dying to self. ***Is knowing Him worth it?*** "Cheap grace," Bonhoeffer wrote, "is the grace we bestow on ourselves...grace without discipleship...Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must know...It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life."

Ps. 73:13-15

- III. God puts the hope of eternity in our hearts. It, among so many other blessings, is meant to help us keep perspective in a fallen world that is going to hell apart from Christ. An eternal perspective of life with Christ, understands that God is always with us and that he holds us by our right hand to walk us through the craziness of living in this fallen world. He is our strength and the only true refuge that exists. ***As for you, is it good to be near God?***

Prov. 73:16-28

Worship...put[s] God at the center of our vision... It is vitally important because it is only when God is at the center of our vision that we see things as they really are." Clements