

Psalm 73

Don't Slip! Get a Grip!

Cynicism ...

I. Confessed

A. The Truth

B. Distorted

C. Ensnared

II. Corrected

A. The Sacred Truth

B. In Perspective

1. Sinners in a Slippery Place

2. Saints in the Grip of God

C. Satisfies

... turned to joy.

Children, Listen ...

1. Why was Asaph jealous of the wicked?
2. Was what he was thinking right?
3. What are some very important things he forgot about God?
4. What are some things that brought great comfort to him? Do these things comfort you?

A Bitter Soul Sweetened

My soul was embittered: what a striking and startling confession on the part of the psalmist! Sadly, unchecked envy of others – even the wicked – can land a saint in such a state of mind. We may never experience bitterness over apparent injustices like Asaph did, but we do need to caution ourselves against entertaining such a beastly attitude toward God (v. 22) by falling for the delusion that unbelievers have it so good ... and then there is poor pitiful Christian me trying to be so good but struggling with life. But the psalm isn't about bitterness it is about coming to grips with reality. The real condition of the unbeliever is truly dreadful no matter how smooth or even glamorous it may look to the naked green eye of jealousy. On the other hand, those who belong to God, though life's circumstances may never measure up to our expectations and may even become overwhelmingly burdensome at times, can be assured that they are solidly in His care. Among the most comforting words in Scripture are found in this beautiful line – a sentiment that can be truly shared by every believer: Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. Psalm 73:23-24