

- I. Session 58: The Goodness of God Part 3: God’s Goodness, the wicked and Psalm 73
- a. Establishing the need: Have you ever struggled with God’s goodness in light of the “victory” of the wicked?
 - b. Purpose: In this session we shall explore Psalm 73 in order to minister to our hearts to trust in God’s goodness and not be tempted to do evil. Our outline of the passage is as follows:
 - i. God is good (v.1, 28)
 - ii. The Psalmist is troubled by the wicked (v.2-16)
 - iii. The Psalmist turning point in believing God is Good(v.17-28)
 - c. God is good (v.1, 28)
 - i. **Verse 1** begins with general statement about God in the third person: “*Surely God is good...*” but after the crisis of faith the Psalmist Asaph applies this doctrine personally, note the personal pronouns: “*But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have made the Lord God my refuge, That I may tell of all Your works*” (v.28)
 - ii. The fact the passage ends with goodness shows us there’s something to learn about trusting in God’s goodness here.
 - d. The Psalmist is troubled by the wicked (v.2-16)
 - i. Asaph wrote this Psalm and describes his inner heart as a result of seeing the wicked (v.2-3, 13-16)
 1. A heart of envy: “*For I was envious of the arrogant As I saw the prosperity of the wicked.*” (v.3)
 2. Felt being pure was all in vain: “*Surely in vain I have [o]kept my heart pure And washed my hands in innocence;*” (v.13)
 3. Felt “*stricken*”: “*For I have been stricken all day long And chastened every morning.*” (v.14)
 4. Afraid to say how one feel in fear it would stumble others (v.15)
 5. The more one thinks, the more troublesome it became (v.16)
 - ii. Why? Here the wicked is described and we outline it with 4 C (v.4-12)
 1. The wicked **comfortably** live and die compared to most (v.4-5)
 - a. “*their body is fat*” (v.4)= In that culture being fat shows one’s glory and luxury. Thus it is a good thing and not a bad thing.
 - b. This is described as something they wear with pride (v.6)
 2. The wicked are **celebrating** their sinfulness (v.6-7)
 - a. This is described as something they wear with pride (v.6)
 - b. This is described as something they enjoy with their body (v.7)

Here they are so fat their eyes are also fattened!
 3. The wicked are **cussing** out God (v.8-11)
 4. The wicked **continue** in their prosperity (v.12)
 - e. The Psalmist turning point in believing in God is Good (v.17-28)

Note: This section also gives us principles in helping us trust again that God is Good which we can call the 5 Cs to persevere under doubt:

 - i. **Corporate** worship: “*Until I came into the sanctuary of God;*” (v.17a)

1. The sanctuary was where other people of faith are there and where the worship of God takes place!
 2. This is a passage with an astounding turn around since before this verse 16 ends with the Psalmist saying “*It was troublesome in my sight*”
 3. Application: When you doubt you often feel like you don’t want to be in corporate worship but here we see this counter-intuitive principle that it was during corporate worship that the Psalmist turned around from his troubled spirit.
- ii. **Contemplate** the end of the wicked (v.17b-20)
1. The turn-about was also due to the Psalmist “*perceived their end*” (v.17b)
 2. This passage indicates that the wicked will face the punishment of God.
 3. There’s an irony with **verse 18**: “*Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction*” for the wicked are set to slip which is certain in contrast to the Psalmist almost slipping in **verse 2**.
 4. They will be destroyed in a moment according to **verse 19** especially in light of eternity.
 5. Application: Consider what Scripture has to say about the consequences of the wicked. Meditate upon that.
- iii. **Confess** your sins: “*21 When my heart was embittered And I was pierced within, 22 Then I was senseless and ignorant; I was like a beast before You.*” (v.21-22)
1. As we’re getting out of our doubt we’re seeing things more from God’s perspective and we will notice our own ungodly view and even sinful thoughts; what do you do? Confess it to God.
 2. Application: When we confess we experience His goodness. Confess!
- iv. **Continue** in God's counsel (v.23-24)
- v. **Commune** with God (v.25-28)