

I. Introduction. v. 1

- A. Injustice can test your faith.
- B. The Psalmist begins by stating his conclusion. v. 1

II. Don't be shortsighted, envying the wicked. v. 2-14

- A. Asaph confesses that he nearly fell. v. 2-3a Job 21:7-15
 - 1. He is brutally honest about his own failings. v. 2,21-22
 - 2. Even good men can lapse into sin and error – envying the wicked. v. 3a Ps. 37:1ff
 - 3. Why did Asaph nearly fall? II Co. 5:7
- B. The wicked appear to abundantly prosper. v. 3b-5 Job 21:7-15
 - 1. They have few earthly sorrows. v. 4a,5 Gen. 3:17-19 Ecc. 1:3 Job 21:13
 - 2. They seem to enjoy the greatest share of outward blessings. v. 4b, 12b Dan. 1:15
- C. They abuse their power over other men. v. 6-8a
 - 1. They believe that they are better than others. v. 6a, 3a
 - 2. They violently mistreat their fellow men. v. 6b
 - 3. They live extravagantly. v. 7
 - 4. They mockingly slander the righteous whom they oppress. v. 8a Ecc. 5:8
- D. They oppose God. v. 8b-11
 - 1. They speak as if they are gods. v. 8b-10 Ps. 75:5 James 4:6
 - 2. They dare to challenge God Himself. v. 11 Psalm 10:4
- E. It appears that God is not good and just. v. 12-14
 - 1. The wicked, instead of being punished, are wealthy and at ease. v. 12
 - 2. The righteous, instead of being rewarded, have all kinds of troubles. v. 14 26:6
 - 3. It seems that it doesn't pay to be pure. v. 13
 - 4. Such thinking puts you in a precarious position.

III. You need to see the world from God's perspective. v. 15-28

- A. In order to cope with apparent injustice, you need a major change in outlook. v. 15-17a Col. 3:1-3
 - 1. Be very cautious about how you speak of God. v. 15 Ps. 39:2 Js. 1:19 Ecc. 5:2
 - 2. There are some issues which natural understanding cannot fathom. v. 16 Is. 55:8
 - 3. Asaph, when troubled, went to God's sanctuary. v. 17a Ps. 68:35 Isa. 8:14
 - 4. When you are troubled, draw near to God in order to gain perspective.
 - 5. How can you enter God's sanctuary when you are troubled? Col. 2:8ff 3:1f
 - 6. What should you expect will happen there?
- B. You will see the destiny of the wicked. v. 17b-20 Mt. 7:27 Ps. 37:1ff
 - 1. While their present may be pleasant, their end will be horrible. v. 17b Pr. 5:4-5,11 Ps. 37:37ff Deut. 32:35 Ro. 12:19 Gen. 15:16
 - 2. God is already preparing their doom. v. 18 Ps 35:6 Deut. 32:35,30
 - 3. They will be suddenly destroyed. v. 19 37:20,10-11 Lu. 12:19-20 Rev. 2:27 19:21
 - 4. They will ultimately be forgotten. v. 20 Ps. 35:23 39:6 44:23 Mt. 7:23 Dan. 12:2
 - 5. Who can comprehend how awful it is to experience God's holy wrath? Heb. 10:31

- C. You will see the folly of your own doubts. v. 21-22
1. Asaph not only has a new perspective on the wicked, he also sees himself from the divine perspective.
 2. There was never any valid excuse for your envy and bitterness. God never for a moment ceased to be good and just.
 3. You were acting like a beast, living by feeling and sight, rather than acting as a child of God, walking by faith. Ps. 49:12,20 92:6
- D. You will see God's faithfulness. v. 23-24
1. God was always with you in the past, even when you were beastly. v. 23
Ps. 139:10 63:8 Isa. 41:10 Heb. 13:5-6 II Pe. 2:9
 2. God will guide you in the present. v. 24a Prov. 3:5-6
 3. God will receive you into glory in the future. v. 24b Ps. 23:3 49:15 Ex. 33:18f
- E. You will find full satisfaction in God alone. v. 25-26
1. There is nothing and no-one who can fill your soul. v. 25 Phil. 1:21a Gal. 2:20
 2. Your body and soul are frail, but God is your strength (Rock). v. 26
Psalm 18:2 119:57 16:4-6 Num. 18:20 Phil. 1:21
 3. Do you desire God more than all earthly things? Ps. 42:1f Luke 14:26
 4. Sometimes you have to endure a great trial in order to realize your need for God.

IV. Concluding applications. v. 27-28

- A. Asaph ends up where he began. v. 27-28,1
1. What has changed?
 2. What should you do when it seems that the bad guys are winning?
 3. You have no reason to envy the wicked. v. 27 Ps. 37:20 1:6 2:12 Deut. 28:63
Pr. 23:17 24:1,19 3:31 James 4:4
 4. Prosperity can be dangerous. Pr. 30:8-9 Luke 12:167ff 1 Tim. 6:17ff
 5. Your spiritual blessings as God's child make you rich. v. 28
 - a. Don't be surprised when you face trouble in this life. Mk. 8:34 Ro. 8:23
He. 12:8 Phil. 1:29
 - b. God is always near you. Heb. 13:5 Rom. 8:31f
 - c. He is your refuge. Ps. 46:1 Pr. 14:26 Isa. 58:2
 6. Tell of His works. v. 28b
- B. How does this Psalm point us to Christ?
1. He experienced great injustice – It appeared that evil had won. Is. 11:3 Jo. 19:10
 2. He makes us pure. v. 1 Titus 2:14
 3. He makes us rich. 2 Cor. 8:9
 4. He is with us in life and death. v. 23-25 Phil. 1:21 Rom. 8:31ff
 5. He brings justice to the wicked.

Discussion Questions

1. What injustices test your faith?
2. What faulty conclusions could one draw from the prosperity of the wicked?
3. What was the Psalmist's real problem?
4. How did the Psalmist gain a new perspective?
5. What must you do to gain a true perspective on your problems?
6. What is the true view of the wicked?
7. What is the true view of your own doubts?
8. Why didn't Asaph fall?
9. What does it mean to find satisfaction in God alone?