

LESSONS FROM PSALMS SEVENTY-THREE

Scripture: Psalm 73:1-28

Ray O. Brooks

Introduction:

- A. This Psalm was written by Asaph a chief musician in David's day.
- B. He dealt with a problem that has faced God's people in every generation. It is especially troublesome to the young people.
- C. The problem can be stated thusly .. Does it pay to serve Jesus?
- D. Asaph faced it and was almost defeated by it.
- E. The lessons of this Psalm well learned can mean more to God's people than all of earth's riches.

I. LEARN THAT GOD TRULY IS GOOD TO HIS PEOPLE. v.1

II. LEARN WHAT CAN BECOME A REAL PROBLEM FOR GOD'S PEOPLE.

- A. Envy of those who have earthly riches. v.3
- B. Come to think that salvation and serving God are empty and serve no good purpose in this life. v.13
- C. We can come to place that we well nigh turn away from God and His service. v.2
- D. We can come to the place that we feel that it does not pay to serve Jesus.

III. LEARN WHY THIS PROBLEM IS RAISED.

- A. We let THINGS occupy our thinking.
- B. We fix our thoughts on the prosperity of the wicked. v.3
- C. We take note of the difference in how God deals with the saved and the ungodly. vs. 4-11,14
 - 1. God is patient and longsuffering with the lost.
 - 2. God chastises the saved.

IV. LEARN WHERE THE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM IS FOUND AND UNDERSTOOD.

- A. Not in the thinking and reasoning of the carnal mind of the saved.
- B. In the presence of God...In God's sanctuary...In accepting God's Word in the matter. v.17
- C. In accepting what God says is the end of all things. v.17b-20
- D. In understanding that the life of the lost is like the end of a dream. v.20
- E. The lost are set in slippery places from which they shall slide off into destruction. v.18
- F. And in a moment they are utterly consumed with the terrors of an eternity without God. v.19

V. LEARN HOW THIS SOLUTION SHOULD AFFECT THE CHILDREN OF GOD. vs. 21-26

- A. It pricks the inner being of the saved and grieves our hearts. v.21
- B. It causes us to feel foolish and ignorant...Ignorant of the real worth of living for Jesus. v.22
- C. It causes us to feel that we have acted like beasts...we have not exercised our reasoning. v.22
- D. It causes us to restate our faith in God and in His promises. vs. 23-25

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- E. It causes us to see more clearly the end of all things and that God's will and way is best for us now and for eternity. vs. 26,27
- F. It causes right thinking people of God to draw the right conclusions for life on this earth. v.28
 - 1. It is good for me to draw near unto God.
 - 2. It is good for me to renew my trust in God.
 - 3. It is good for me to declare all the works of God.