

Sunday, January 3, 2021

Text: Psalm 73

Preacher: Clifton Stewart

Title: A Welcoming Perspective of the Wicked's Prosperity

Proposition:

Psalm 73 assures believers of God's justice and nearness, no matter what occurs in our present reality

Outline:

1. Struggling Through Earthly Observations (1-16)
 - a. The Prosperity of the Wicked (2-12)
 - b. The Pondering of the Psalmist (13-16)
2. Resting In Divine Insight (17-28)
 - a. Insight into God's Justice (17-20)
 - b. Insight into Psalmist's Thinking (21-22)
 - c. Insight into God's Nearness (23-28)

*I won't be phrasing the sub-points this way in the sermon, but it might help people break down the text easier for themselves

Questions:

1. Can you sympathise with Asaph's struggle? Is it difficult to watch the success of sinful people when you are struggling while trying to live in a righteous way?
2. Have you ever, amidst a difficult period in life, struggled with leaving the faith because of persecution or wanting what the world had? What truths have kept you from falling into this temptation?
3. Is Asaph right in assuming such a black and white view of wicked people excelling and righteous people constantly suffering? If not, how can we balance this view based on scriptures? (PS. Proverbs will be especially helpful here)
4. Is it strange that part of Asaph's comfort is knowing wicked people will go to hell? What is encouraging about this? In what ways could this thinking (for us) be comforting in the wrong way? How should this view be comforting in the right way?
5. Consider the wealth of ways that Asaph meditates upon the nearness of God to His people. How is this truth especially sweet to the New testament church? In what ways can we consider resting in this truth, and actively "draw near" (v. 28) to God? (consider other specific actions other than "read my bible" or "pray")