

Westwood Baptist Church Grounded. Growing. Going.

Worship Guide for May 31, 2020

Sermon Notes

Questions from a Struggling Heart – Answers from Our Good God

Psalm 73 (pew Bible pgs. 485-486)

Last Sunday Pastor Jason led us through Psalm 84 and helped us see the blessings that come to those who trust in the Lord. The psalm concludes by declaring “blessed is the one who trusts in you!” (Ps 84:12)

In Psalm 73, the author begins and ends with this same confident statement of faith: “God is good, and it is good to be near him! We often repeat it this way: “God is good...all the time! And all the time....God is good!”

But is that always the case? Is that usually the case? Can that statement be confirmed by what we see going on around us? Asaph, the author of Psalm 73, deals with these tough questions as he recounts a dark discouraging period in his life when he couldn’t make sense of what he saw in this broken world filled with wickedness, injustice and suffering.

Psalm 73 takes us inside the secret thoughts of a struggling saint, but it doesn’t leave us in the darkness of doubt. When Asaph gets his eyes off of the world, and turns his attention to God, his perspective is changed temporal to eternal - from here and now to then and there. He rests in the reminders of God’s eternal justice. He rejoices in the reality of God’s presence and guidance here on earth, and the promise of eternal glory.

Like Asaph, our faith is renewed and his hope is revived as we declare, “...*there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever*”. Ps 73:25-26

What I know to be true: God is good and it is good for me to be near him. vv 1 & 28

What I sometimes ask: In light of what I see, is there any benefit to being godly? vv 2-15

Where I get an answer: In God’s presence I get His perspective. vv 16-17

What I constantly need to be reminded of: The long-term perspective, a daily promise vv 18-28

Weekly Discipleship Guide

Sunday

In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

Know

Monday

Spend some time today doing the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day.

Know > Be

Tuesday

In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Write your selected portion of the Scripture several times to aid in memorization.

Be

Wednesday

Think about this week's questions for group discussion:

In what areas of your life are you most tempted to envy others? How does this Psalm speak to that tendency?

What questions have you, or are you currently, wrestling with in relation to your faith? How does Psalm 73 instruct us in the best way to do this?

Does living a godly life ever seem pointless to you? What does this reveal about (a) your perspective, and (b) your faith in God's promises?

Be > Do

Thursday

In your journal, spend some time considering the following:

What insights have you had while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

Do

*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's passage & message.

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