

Psalm 73:24-28

24 You give me wise advice to guide me. And when I die, You will take me away into the glory of heaven. 25 I don't have anyone in heaven but You. I don't want anything on earth besides You. **26** My body and my heart may grow weak. God, You give strength to my heart. You are everything I will ever need. 27 Those who don't want anything to do with you will die. You destroy all those who aren't faithful to you. **28** But I am close to You. And that's good. Lord and King, I have made You my Place-of-Safety. I will talk about everything You have done .

The Now-What

Step one: Read Psalm 73:1-9

Step two: Look for words that let us know the believer really does see the challenges of life. **Underline them.**

Step three: God describes His good relationship with His stressed but trusting believer. **Circle those descriptions.** Asaph was ministered in God's house. Asaph was around God's Word all the time. But Satan's poison even there slithered into his heart...then comes that wonderful word:

UNTIL

UNTIL God blessed Asaph by reviewing His Word and promises, renewing and restoring His faith. Asaph started the psalm saying the words: **GOD IS TRULY GOOD....**then went to **IT DIDN'T DO ME ANY GOOD...** then God brought him back and he boldly said **I AM CLOSE TO YOU. AND THAT'S GOOD. LORD.** Then Asaph said he will talk about everything God has done.

Without Jesus' Word and promises, bad things look sweet and good; good things seem bitter and bad. Destructive feelings get top billing; patience and purity are hardly within sight.

God chose this man to write God's psalm. When God seems far, as He did to Asaph in the opening of the psalm, it is not God's fault. It's because of our sins and faulty and darkened perspective.

1 List reasons why it was important for Asaph to confess 73:16 & vv21-22.

2 What does God gift to you in 73:23 and v26 & v28?

**3 How does this truth shape your personal life?
your family life?
your interactions with friends?
our congregation?**



Psalm 73

JESUS AND ASAPH DUKE IT OUT

Spoiler alert: Jesus wins!

Psalm 73:1-16 1 A Psalm of Asaph. **God is truly good to Israel. He is good** to those

who have pure hearts. 2 But my feet had almost slipped. I had almost tripped and fallen. 3 I saw that proud and sinful people were doing well. And I began to long for what they had. 4 They don't have any troubles. Their bodies

are healthy and strong.

5 They don't have the problems others have.

They don't suffer as other people do. 6 Their pride is like a necklace.

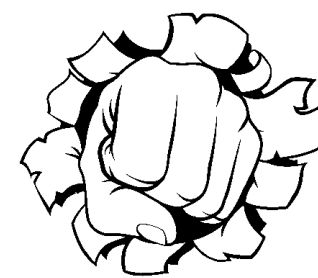
They put on meanness

as if it were their clothes. 7 Many sins

come out of their hard and stubborn hearts. There is no limit to their proud and evil thoughts.

8 They laugh at others

and speak words of hatred. They are proud. They warn others about the harm they can do to them. 9 They brag as if they owned heaven itself. They talk as if they controlled the earth.



TODAY,
I
TRIED TO
THINK POSITIVE
BUT IT DIDN'T WORK.



The What

Step one: Read Psalm 73:1-16

Step two: Look for :

A God reveals this believer's internal spiritual struggles.

Circle those words you see.

B God describes the wicked arrogance of unbelievers.

Underline those words.

After you've read and marked the Word, write down a couple of your thoughts to describe in your own words a Christian's heart and mind **just up to this point** in seeing what God has revealed.

Psalm 73:10-16

10 So people listen to them. They lap up their words like water. 11 They say, "How can God know what we're doing? Does the Most High God really know that much?" 12 Here is what sinful



people are like. They don't have a care in the world. They keep getting richer and richer. 13 It seems as if I have kept my heart pure without any reason. It didn't do me any good to wash my hands to show that I wasn't guilty of doing anything wrong. 14 Day after day I've

been in pain. God has punished me every morning. 15 What if I had said, "I will speak as evil people do"? Then I wouldn't have been faithful to God's children. **16** I tried to understand it all. But it was more than I could handle. It troubled me...



Psalm 73 Notes

The What

Step one: Read Psalm 73:10-16

Step two: Look for :

A God reveals this believer's internal spiritual struggles. **Circle those words** you see.

B God describes the wicked arrogance of unbelievers. **Underline those words.**

After you've read and marked the Word, write down a couple of your thoughts to describe in your own words a Christian's heart and mind **just up to this point** in seeing what God has revealed.

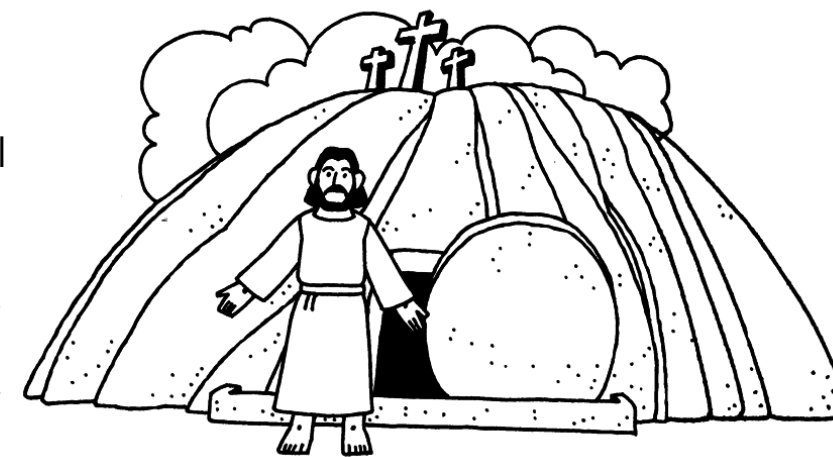
Psalm 73:17-24

17 It troubled me until I entered God's temple. Then I understood what will happen to bad people in the end. 18 God, I'm sure You will make them slip and fall. You will throw them down and destroy them. 19 It will happen very suddenly. A terrible death will take them away completely.



20 A dream goes away when a person wakes up. Lord, it will be like that when you rise up. It will be as if those people were only a dream. **21** At one time my heart was sad and my spirit was bitter. **22** I didn't have any sense. I

didn't know anything. I acted like a wild animal toward You. 23 But I am always with You. You hold me by my right hand.



Psalm 73 Notes

The So What

-Step one: Read Psalm 73:17-28 as God reveals and reminds us of His surprise.

-STEP TWO: **Draw a lightning bolt over the turning point**, the "until" point.

-STEP THREE: Write down what happened to this believer.

-Step four: Now look at this Christian's life after the "UNTIL" moment and look for these things:

A • Underline references to the wicked.

B • God reveals things that describe His relationship with His believer. **Circle those matters .**