Is It Worth IT?

4/09/18

Psalm 73

Psalm 73 causes us to consider what I think we all sometimes struggle with. Is following Christ really worth it? It seems like so often the wicked prosper and we continue to struggle even while we try and follow Christ. On the surface that seems so apparent. As he considered what he observed, he begins by looking at the problem. His focus is on the "unfairness" or seeming inequity of life.

However, in the middle of the Psalm, the Psalmist's perspective changes. In verses 16-17 he says, "But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end." In the middle of the Psalm as he observes the mess, his perspective shifts as he considers God. He also notices that as he focused on what seemed like inequity his attitude went south. Look at verses 21 and 22. "When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart, I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you. Isn't it true that when we focus on the problems we see; we get frustrated with God. We become ignorant and brutish.

At the end of the Psalm the author refocuses on God who is charge. It is God who holds him, and guides him, and He will get the glory when all is done. He reminds himself and remembers that life is not ultimately about us. It is about Him, and God will accomplish His purposes.

The conclusion is found in verses 25-28. He has nothing that matters other than God. If God is indeed the focus of the universe and of life, then only He is our portion forever. God and God alone is our refuge and our portion. We indeed have nothing that is not from Him or is not about Him that will last.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Can you relate to the things that the psalmist is saying in the first half of the psalm? Do you ever feel like it might not be worth it to try and continue to follow God? What things tend to get our attention off of God? How and why?

2. Does it ever get to the place where you get embittered?

3. What do you think the psalmist means when he said it was a wearisome task to try and understand the situation? Have you ever felt that way?

4. What does it mean to refocus on the ultimate realities of life? How can we do that?

5. What is the result of focusing on the God of our circumstances rather than focusing on our circumstances?

6. What can you do this week regarding admitting if we might be fighting against God and submitting to His will?