

WHEN YOU REALLY WANT TO QUIT

Psalms 73:1-28

February 22, 2009 Sunday pm

INTRODUCTION

- A. Scott Peck's opening line in his book called, "The Road Less Traveled" is "Life is Hard".
- B. At least it seems hard for those of us who try to do what's right. On the other hand, it seems easy for those who don't care whether they do what's right.
- C. That's the conclusion the Psalmist reached in 73:2-5 & 12.

I. WHY SHOULD WE BE GOOD IF THE WICKED ARE THE ONES WHO PROSPER?

- A. This is a question as old as history. The wicked prosper while the good suffer. So why be good?
- B. This is the question the Psalmist asked himself—73:13-14.
 - 1. We do too.
 - 2. Years ago, Kris Kristofferson made a hit record with a song called, "Why Me". The song began, "Why me Lord? What have I ever done to deserve even one of the pleasures I have known?"
 - 3. We ask this question the opposite way. "Why me Lord? Why should I be good when the wicked get rewarded?"

II. WHY SHOULD WE GO TO CHURCH IF THERE'S NOTHING IN IT FOR US?

- A. The Psalmist didn't understand why good people suffer, but he went to church anyway—73:16-17a.
- B. What did he find at church?
 - 1. First, he found out that God gets last bats. The wicked may seem to have it good today, but tomorrow's coming, if not in this life then in the next--73:17b-18.
 - 2. Second, he found out that despite his suffering, God still loved him—73:23-24a.
 - 3. Third, he found out that what happens in this life can't compare to what's waiting for us in the next—73:24b.

III. SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO IN THE MEANTIME?

- A. First, trust God—73:28a.

A young small-town boy was sent on an errand by his mother: *Walk down the street and mail this letter at the Post Office.*

On the way, the boy got confused and couldn't quite locate the Post Office. He stopped a kind-looking gentleman and asked him for directions.

The gentleman—who happened to be the new pastor of a local church—replied, "Son, I'm new in town myself, so I'm not quite sure where the Post Office is."

He continued: "However, son, would you mind if I told you how you can get to heaven?"

The boy paused for a minute, then replied: "*Mister, I'm not sure if I trust you to tell me how to get to heaven, if you don't even know how to get to the Post Office...*"
- B. Second, never give up on God—73:26.

A few years ago during a Monday night football game between the Chicago Bears and the New York Giants, one of the announcers observed that Walter Payton, the Bears' running back, had accumulated over nine miles in career rushing yardage. The other announcer remarked, "Yeah, and that's with somebody knocking him down every 4.6 yards!"

He never quits. He keeps getting up every time he's knocked down, and so should we.

CONCLUSION

- A. Scott Peck is right! Life is hard!
- B. But keep trusting God and never give up.