

LIFE IS HARD ... BUT GOD IS GOOD

WHY DO THE WICKED PROSPER?

Psalm 73:1-28 Jeff Schreve

*Why do You look with favor On those who deal treacherously?
Habakkuk. 1:13*

LORD, if I argue with you, you are always right. But I want to ask you about some things that don't seem right. Why are wicked people successful? Why do people you cannot trust have such easy lives? Jeremiah 12:1 ERV

What does God want to teach us concerning this question?

1. Beware of falling into the trap of comparison.

*Surely God is good to Israel, To those who are pure in heart! But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling, My steps had almost slipped. For I was envious of the arrogant As I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
Psalm 73:1-3*

A. Comparison always leads to pride or envy.

*I was so stupid. I thought about such people and became upset.
God, I was upset and angry with you! I acted like a senseless animal. Psalm 73:21-22 ERV*

B. Comparison means you have taken your eyes off the Lord.

2. Beware of falling into the trap of fantasy.

*For I was envious of the arrogant, As I saw the prosperity of the wicked. For there are no pains in their death; And their body is fat. They are not in trouble as other men; Nor are they plagued like mankind. Therefore pride is their necklace; The garment of violence covers them. Their eye bulges from fatness; The imaginations of their heart run riot. They mock, and wickedly speak of oppression; They speak from on high. They have set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue parades through the earth. Therefore his people return to this place; And waters of abundance are drunk by them.
And they say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge with the Most High?" Behold, these are the wicked; And always at ease, they have increased in wealth. Psalm 73:3-12*

A. Are the wicked really at peace?

B. Are the wicked really satisfied?

He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income. This too is vanity. Ecclesiastes 5:10



"I don't enjoy being single. It's not something I wanted. There's nothing nice about it. It's just hard. Sometimes maybe it appears I am pulling it all together. But really I am just trying to get through my days."

--Angelina Jolie

3. Beware of falling into the trap of a skewed perspective.

Behold, these are the wicked; And always at ease, they have increased in wealth. Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure, And washed my hands in innocence; For I have been stricken all day long, And chastened every morning. If I had said, "I will speak thus," Behold, I should have betrayed the generation of Thy children. When I pondered to understand this, It was troublesome in my sight until I came into the sanctuary of God. Psalm 73:12-17

A. The wicked prosper because God loves sinners.

"But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men." Luke 6:35

B. The wicked prosper because God is patient.

*The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.
2 Peter 3:9*

C. The wicked prosper because the world is their realm.

"If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also." John 15:19-20

D. The wicked prosper until they face God.

Until I came into the sanctuary of God; Then I perceived their end. Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. How they are destroyed in a moment! They are utterly swept away by sudden terrors! Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when aroused, You will despise their form. Psalm 73:17-20

No one who stays faithful to the LORD will ever regret it.

In heaven, God, I have only you. And if I am with you, what on earth could I want? Maybe my mind and body will become weak, but God is my source of strength. He is mine forever! God, people who leave you will be lost. You will destroy all who are not faithful to you. As for me, all I need is to be close to

*God. I have made the Lord GOD my place of safety. And, God, I will tell about
all that you have done. Psalm 73:25-28 ERV*