

WHEN LIFE SEEMS UNFAIR
PSALM 73

1 Truly God *is* good to Israel, to such as are pure in heart.

How does God treat His people who are living for Him?

2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; my steps had nearly slipped.

3 For I *was* envious of the boastful, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

What almost tripped this godly person up? _____
evil men and saw the prosperity of the _____

cp. Proverbs 24:1 – Do not be envious of evil men nor desire to be with them.

What 2 things are we warned about? _____ evil
men or _____ to be with them.

4 For *there are* no pangs in their death, but their strength *is* firm.

5 They *are* not in trouble *as other* men, nor are they plagued like *other* men.

Many of the wicked have no _____ when they die.
They don't experience _____ or _____
like other men.

6 Therefore pride serves as their necklace; violence covers them *like* a garment.

What characterizes many of the wicked who don't suffer in
this life? _____ and _____

7 Their eyes bulge with abundance; they have more than heart could wish.

What characterizes their material condition?
_____ and _____ than the heart could wish.

- ⁸ They scoff and speak wickedly *concerning* oppression; they speak loftily.
⁹ They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walks through the earth.

What characterizes their speech?

_____ = **mocking or discounting God's values;**
_____ = **using or abusing others selfishly;**
speak _____ = **pridefully;**
set their _____ **against the** _____ = **God;**
Their speech shows off by walking or parading through
the _____

- ¹⁰ Therefore his people return here, and waters of a full *cup* are drained by them.

They are having a great life as pictured by the full _____

- ¹¹ And they say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?"

They basically disregard God by treating Him as though He didn't _____ **what was happening.**

- ¹² Behold, these *are* the ungodly, who are always at ease; they increase *in* riches.

They are consistently at _____ **and increase in** _____

Cp. Romans 2:4 – Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance.

Why is God so good to the wicked? To lead them to

- ¹³ Surely I have cleansed my heart *in* vain, and washed my hands in innocence.

The tempting conclusion: A godly thought life and actions
are _____ **(= worthless)**

¹⁴ For all day long I have been plagued, and chastened every morning.

**What describes even the godly believer? Daily _____
(=troubles) and daily _____ (=discipline)**

cp. 1 Peter 4:17 – For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God, and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

Cp. 1 Corinthians 11:32 – But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

Before God judges the unsaved world, he judges believers by _____ them.

¹⁵ If I had said, “I will speak thus,”
Behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children.

For us to voice the idea godliness is worthless would be to be _____ to God’s people.

¹⁶ When I thought *how* to understand this, it *was* too painful for me—

When the godly look at their present condition compared to the present condition of the wicked, what hinders their understanding? _____

¹⁷ Until I went into the sanctuary of God; *then* I understood their end.

Comparing this verse with verse 4, how do we see this life is not the end? _____

What was the turning point in this godly person’s way of seeing the truth? _____

Cp. Hebrews 10:19, 20, 22 – Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ...let us draw near with a true heart...

**How do we believers living now under the New Covenant enter the true sanctuary in heaven for fellowship?
Through the _____ of Jesus.**

Note: As we pray, we talk to God. As we read and study His word, He talks to us.

¹⁸ Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction.

The life of the unsaved is like walking across a _____ surface.

cp. Deuteronomy 32:35 – Vengeance is Mine and recompense; their foot shall slip in due time.

In _____ time their foot will slip.

¹⁹ Oh, how they are *brought* to desolation, as in a moment!
They are utterly consumed with terrors.

**What 2 words describe the judgment of the ungodly?
_____ and _____**

²⁰ As a dream when *one* awakes, *so*, Lord, when You awake,
You shall despise their image.

**The time of God's judgment will be as though God had
_____ from a dream.**

²¹ Thus my heart was grieved, and I was vexed in my mind.

²² I *was* so foolish and ignorant; I was *like* a beast before You.

What attitudes characterize the believer who fails to see the unfairness of life from the viewpoint of God found in scripture?

**His heart is _____, His mind is _____,
_____ (=know truth but does not let it shape his thinking and behavior)**

**_____ (=failure to know the truth of God's word)
like a _____ (=instinctive in thought and behavior)**

²³ Nevertheless I *am* continually with You; You hold *me* by my right hand.

²⁴ You will guide me with Your counsel, and afterward receive me *to* glory.

²⁵ Whom have I in heaven *but* You?

And *there is* none upon earth *that* I desire besides You.

²⁶ My flesh and my heart fail;

But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

How is our walk with God changed when we see life from a scriptural perspective instead of a human perspective?

_____ with God (=stayed in fellowship with God)

God _____ him by the right hand (=stability)

_____ with the counsel of God's word

afterward be received into _____

cp. Colossians 3:4 – When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

_____ becomes our total life whether in heaven or on earth.

Cp. Philippians 1:21 – For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Our _____ (=outer man, body) and

_____ (=inner man) will fail.

God is our inner _____ and our _____

_____ (=all we will ever need)

²⁷ For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish;

You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry.

²⁸ But *it is* good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord GOD,
That I may declare all Your works.

Notice the contrast in destinies:

The unsaved (=far from God) will _____

The carnal believer (spiritual harlotry=unfaithfulness) will be _____ (=brought to ruin).

The committed believer finds it _____ to draw near to God for fellowship, to put his _____ in God, for the purpose of testifying of God's _____.

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