

The Wonder of a Believer's Life

Non Series - Psalm

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Bible Text: Psalm 73:21-28

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Well, thank you for all that music. Amen? I am sure you are aware, but it is good to be reminded that, you know, when you see all of these choirs, children's choirs, youth choir, even the adult choir, a lot of people are putting a lot of time into that. And I know they do it because they enjoy it, but they enjoy it because they love the Lord. And they do it for his name's sake and we appreciate it, don't we?

I am going to ask you, please, to look to the 73rd Psalm tonight, if you would, Psalm 73. We are going to focus on verses 21 through 28 tonight, but I want us to read beginning in the first verse. Psalm 73 verse one.

Truly God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.
But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled,
my steps had nearly slipped.
For I was envious of the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
For they have no pangs until death;
their bodies are fat and sleek.
They are not in trouble as others are;
they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.
Therefore pride is their necklace;
violence covers them as a garment.
Their eyes swell out through fatness;
their hearts overflow with follies.
They scoff and speak with malice;
loftily they threaten oppression.
They set their mouths against the heavens,
and their tongue struts through the earth.
Therefore his people turn back to them,
and find no fault in them.
And they say, "How can God know?
Is there knowledge in the Most High?"
Behold, these are the wicked;

always at ease, they increase in riches.
All in vain have I kept my heart clean
and washed my hands in innocence.
For all the day long I have been stricken
and rebuked every morning.

If I had said, "I will speak thus,"
I would have betrayed the generation of your children.
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.
Truly you set them in slippery places;
you make them fall to ruin.
How they are destroyed in a moment,
swept away utterly by terrors!
Like a dream when one awakes,
O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as phantoms.

When my soul was embittered,
when I was pricked in heart,
I was brutish and ignorant;
I was like a beast toward you.
Nevertheless, I am continually with you;
you hold my right hand.
You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will receive me to glory.
Whom have I in heaven but you?
And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.
My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
For behold, those who are far from you shall perish;
you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.
But for me it is good to be near God;
I have made the Lord GOD my refuge,
that I may tell of all your works.¹

Let's pray together.

Father in heaven, I thank you that the words we have just read are true. Everyone who makes you his or her refuge, Lord, we are blessed. And I ask you tonight to strengthen me that I might in a fitting way declare your glories from your Word to describe for us tonight, Lord, what we have been given when you gave us yourself by giving us your Son. I pray, Lord, that our hearts would be cured from any desire to run after the world and to

¹ Psalm 73:1-28.

find our satisfaction in that which will not satisfy and that our hearts would be made more and more hungry, that we would desire more and more to recognize and to find our satisfaction in you and you alone. I pray, Lord, for my brothers and sisters. I pray that you would work in us so that we would live upright and holy lives in the present age, that we would be looking for our Savior who is coming from heaven. And I pray for anyone in this room who doesn't know you, anyone who hears my voice who doesn't know you. My desire and my prayer is that they would be awakened in their dead condition and brought to a true saving faith in Jesus. We ask you of this in Jesus' name. Amen.

It is not often that I will preach from the same text of Scripture within the same calendar year. In fact, it is not often that I preach from the same text at all. But this weekend I traveled to Burleson, Texas and yesterday I preached the funeral service for a dear friend of mine and my family's, Charles Bullock.

I have known Charles, knew Charles for over 30 years. My father was converted under his ministry. He was my pastor when I was a teenager. I was converted in that church. I surrendered to preach in the church he pastored, preached my first sermon in the church he pastored. And as life went on and as time went on my relationship with him sort of evolved from him being my pastor to I served on staff with him at a church in Austin. I served as youth pastor at Christ Memorial Baptist Church in Austin, Texas. And then Charles and that church had a hand in planting the church that I pastored in Elgin for 10 years before I came here.

And so for over 30 years he has gone from pastor to older minister in my life to friend to co laborer in the gospel, he and his wife Marsha and their children. And I preached from this text yesterday and was prepared to preach on Anna tonight, but this has remained on my mind and on my heart throughout the weekend and so I thought I would just turn to it again tonight, because I think we do well to be reminded of what we are going to see in verses 21 through 28.

What I want to remind us of tonight is we know the Lord are blessed beyond our ability to conceive of it and blessed beyond our ability to express it. We are a blessed people. But the sad truth about us is that as blessed as we are, many, many times we become blinded to our blessings. We are blessed beyond imagination, but we don't always feel blessed.

Christian people are a people who are rich, but we are also blinded to our true riches. We have been favored by God and yet we allow our flesh and we allow the world around us and we allow sin to convince us that somehow we are disadvantaged.

Did you ever just stop and reflect on your life and think about how good and how gracious God has been to you? I am talking now to Christians. Did you ever stop and reflect—I know you do, but how often do you and when have you done it lately—do you reflect on the fact that God's grace was extended to you from all eternity. I mean, from all eternity God purposed to save you and make you his own, right? We are those who

are chosen before the foundation of the world for salvation. That means God set his grace and love, mercy upon us and his eternal counsels. That is amazing.

And then think about all that the grace of God accomplished before you were ever born. You know, this morning and throughout the gospel of Luke we are talking about things that were done to accomplish your salvation and those things were done thousands of years before you ever arrived on this planet. And the Bible tells us that Christ came into the world to give himself for us, to save us.

Paul spoke about that in a very personal way. He spoke of Christ as the one who gave himself for me, Paul said. And the same can be said for each one of us. So that 2000 years ago when Christ came into the world, he was coming into the world for you, Christian. And when he was living, he was living for you. And when he died on the cross, he was dying for you and he was raised for you so that everything needed to save you was accomplished before you ever made your entrance into this world.

And then do you reflect on your life before you were converted? Now even though you were chosen for salvation we need to recognize, I know you do, but I want to remind you election doesn't equal salvation. Election guarantees salvation, because God doesn't purpose something that he doesn't bring to pass. But election doesn't equal salvation.

We were saved in time. We were saved in history. We were brought to the Lord. And so if we had perished before we came to know the Lord, if we died before we came to know Christ, we would have perished forever.

Are you able to look back at the time before your conversion and can you see the hand of God upon your life? Can you see how he watched over you, guided you, gave you common grace blessings before he ever brought you to his Son? And, in fact, all of the things from a human point of view, all of those threads that run through your life that actually led you to the place of seeing your sin and seeing your need before God and breaking your heart so that you were receptive to the gospel. God in his grace worked all of that.

And then think about your actual conversion, how the Lord brought you to the place where you received the gospel, who it was that witnessed to you, where you were when you first heard the gospel, when it was that the truth of the gospel actually dawned upon your mind and heart and became clear to your understanding.

You know, I loved hearing the testimony tonight. I knew about Jesus, but didn't really have an understanding of the gospel. My mom sat down and talked with me and then I understood and I believed on the Lord and I want to be baptized. Isn't that great?

Well, when was it for you? How did it happen?

And then think about what the Lord has done in your life since conversion. All the paths we have traveled, all the things that have come our way, all of the battles that have been

fought, all of the trials that have been endured. And when we think about those trials, you know, we are not just thinking about things that have come our way that we didn't have anything to do with. Some of the trials that we have walked through were self imposed, weren't they?

I mean, since conversion we have failed many times. We have stumbled as the book of James says in many ways. And yet God has remained faithful every step of the way.

And then think about, contemplate what the end of you life will be if the Lord Jesus doesn't come in your lifetime. We will all go to be with the Lord through death if Jesus doesn't come in our lifetime. Can we trust the Lord for that? Can we walk through the valley of the shadow of death and not be afraid knowing that our God is faithful?

I think about it sometimes. You know, there is no way to capture it. There is no way to convey it. I think about not only the things I have mentioned, but all the human elements that run through that. I think about how I met my wife and I think about the fact we have been married 28 years and I think about the birth of our children and now a grandchild on the way and I think about all the things we have gone through together and how God has been faithful in so many little thing that you will never even talk about to other people, built God has remained faithful in all those things.

And yet so enormously blessed it is true that many believers, we have all done it, walk through the same kind of disobedient thinking that the psalmist did.

Listen to his confession. He is an honest man. We need to be honest with ourselves. Look at what he says in verse one.

“Truly God is good to Israel.”²

That is the truth. That is how he begins the psalm. He has realized this now. He begins the psalm where he finishes, but he is going to tell us about his journey. He knows that God is good to Israel. He knows that God is good to those who are pure in heart. But now he is going to be honest and in being honest he is going to help us because we struggle with this, too. He says in verse two:

“But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped.”³

I was on shaky ground for a time.

What do you mean, Asaph? What had your steps stumbling? What had your feet nearly slipping?

Well, he says in verse three:

² Psalm 73:1.

³ Psalm 73:2.

“I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.”⁴

And he goes on to describe it. We read it earlier. But he says, “I look at how people who have no regard for God seem to get along, seem to prosper. It seems like everything goes their way. And then I look at godly people and I see them suffer and it makes me wonder. It makes me think to myself,” if you read the psalm,” he says, “It makes me wonder if serving God is vanity.” I mean he says, “There was a time there at actually...” When he talks about his feet, you know, almost swerving off the path.

I think he came to actually feel a sense of apostasy. I mean, in fact, notice what he says that if he had given voice to what was going on in his head, verse 15:

If I had said, “I will speak thus,”
I would have betrayed the generation of your children.
But when I thought how to understand this,
it seemed to me a wearisome task,
until I went into the sanctuary of God.⁵

God brought me to my senses. God gave me the right perspective.

And notice what helped him. He says:

“...then I discerned their end.”⁶

Do you see? He says, “I looked to the end of the road. I considered the end of the matter.”

And when you really understand the end it properly puts into perspective the present. You can't understand the blessing of walking with God if you lose sight of the end. So he looked at the end, he discerned therein and he saw that all of that which they value and all of that which the wicked consider to be life, he saw how truly transient and fragile it all is.

Verse 18.

Truly you set them in slippery places;
you make them fall to ruin.
How they are destroyed in a moment,
swept away utterly by terrors!⁷

You see, they seem so confident. But in the end they have no assurance.

⁴ Psalm 73:3.

⁵ Psalm 73:15-17.

⁶ Psalm 73:17.

⁷ Psalm 73:18-19.

“Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as phantoms.”⁸

And out of that awakening, out of that being brought to his senses, he closes this psalm, verses 21 through 28, by describing the blessing of what it means to really know the Lord and walk with the Lord.

If you want to ask what is the blessing of a Christian’s life, no matter your current circumstances, no matter what you are facing, you may be deathly ill, on a death bed, facing death, this will still be true of you. You may be going through the worst trial of your life tonight. This is still true of you. If you look to the end, this is a description of what it means, the blessing of what it means to belong to the Lord.

We are going to look at these verses under three basic headings. What is the blessing of being a believer?

The first thing we can say is this. The Christian’s life or the believer’s life in this case an Old Testament saint, the believer’s life is a secure life. It is a secure life.

Verse 21.

When my soul was embittered,
when I was pricked in heart,
I was brutish and ignorant;
I was like a beast toward you.⁹

What is the psalmist telling us? He is telling us here, you know what? My thinking was all messed up. I didn’t have my head on straight. I wasn’t looking at things the right way. I was thinking in an ignorant fashion. I was thinking in a beastly fashion, like an unreasoning animal.

But do you notice the next word of verse 23? What is the next word. What is the first word of verse 23? If you have the ESV what is it?

Nevertheless. Do you see? Despite my ignorance, I am continually with you.

Here is the first thought. God keeps us—talking now only about true believers—God keeps us despite our ignorance. Though our broodish moments, through our times of thinking in an ignorant fashion, when our head is not in the right place, when our heart is drifting, we get to the end of that, God has brought us to our senses and guess what we discover? He never left. He is continually with us.

Isn’t it a wonderful truth to recognize that the Christian life, though we believe in the perseverance of the saints, and though it is true to say that in some sense we embrace

⁸ Psalm 73:20.

⁹ Psalm 73:21-22.

Christ and hold on to Christ, at the end of the day, the explanation for our assurance and our security is this. He holds on to us. He has taken hold of us and he won't let go so that even when we go through broodish times, we come to our senses and recognize he never let go. He never let go.

Philippians 3:12 Paul writes:

“Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.”¹⁰

Jesus took hold of me and he took hold of me that I might take hold of life eternal. I am grasping for that for which he took hold of me.

Not only does he keep us despite our ignorance, this is also our security. He guides us despite our childishness. He says, “I am continually with you.” And then he says this.

“...you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel.”¹¹

Isn't that a picture? God taking us by the hand and guiding us, taking us by the hand and directing us.

How many of you realize we are living in a dangerous place? Is the world a dangerous place? Is there not sin all around us? Are we not taught to pray the in the disciples prayer: Keep us from the, literally, the evil one?

Oh, this is a dangerous place and yet we are safe, because God keeps us and he guards us. He takes us by the hand. He leads us through this world, despite all of its dangers. We have God holding us by the hand and leading us through.

Psalm 32:8 the Lord says:

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.”¹²

Psalm 48:12 says:

Walk about Zion, go around her,
number her towers,
consider well her ramparts,
go through her citadels,
that you may tell the next generation
that this is God,
our God forever and ever.

¹⁰ Philippians 3:12.

¹¹ Psalm 73:23-24.

¹² Psalm 32:8.

He will guide us forever.¹³

This is our God. He guides us forever. He keeps us despite our ignorance. And when you are like Asaph and you are thinking in a childish manner or you are attracted by the world's wares, all of the offers as you look at the arrogant and you look at the wicked and you think, maybe there is satisfaction out there and you are thinking like a foolish child, even then God has you by the hand and he guides you through this dangerous world.

Thank God that includes his discipline, too, doesn't it?

So that finally, talking about security, he ultimately takes us to himself despite our weakness.

The psalmist writes, verse 23:

“Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward...”¹⁴

After I have walked through this life:

“...afterward you will receive me to glory.”¹⁵

You are going to take me all the way home.

If left to our own strength, we would perish. If left to our own strength we would apostatize, guaranteed. But we are kept in faith not by our own power and strength. We are kept in faith by the power of God.

1 Peter 1:3:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.¹⁶

God's people don't wander away. They don't leave him, walk away from Christ in a permanent fashion. They don't apostatize. But it is not explained by them. Their perseverance is explained by God, God's power. He guards us and keeps us through faith for that salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

¹³ Psalm 48:12-14.

¹⁴ Psalm 73:23-24.

¹⁵ Psalm 73:24.

¹⁶ 1 Peter 1:3-5.

What does it mean to be a believer? What is the blessing that we enjoy tonight? We are secure. We have not been saved for a day or a month or a year or a few years. We have been saved forever. It is permanent.

Notice the second blessing that we enjoy. Not only do we have a secure life, but in verse 25 he tells us we have a satisfying life.

“Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.”¹⁷

It is technically possible, philosophically possible to be safe, but not be satisfied. I think about it just as an analogy. I think about it if you had parents who watched over you very well, right? I mean, they watched out for your safety. They don't let you play on the street. They keep you away from the burners on the stove. I mean, they really watch out for you, but they never share themselves with you. You don't really know them. You don't really have a relationship with them. You don't really enjoy them. You are safe, but there is no real satisfaction in the relationship.

I thank God that is not what it is like to know the Lord. It is not I am going to take you to heaven. I am going to keep you safe until then, but until then you are going to really have an empty heart, an empty soul, there is no satisfaction to know in this life.

No, that is not what it means to know the Lord. To know God is not just a life of security. To know God is also a life of a satisfaction.

And notice how he describes it in that verse. He begins by saying, “I don't have anybody in heaven but you. In heaven there is no one else for me.”

What does he mean by that? He means that God has brought him into the true knowledge that there is no other god but God.

When I look into the heavens I just see one. There is no one in heaven for me but you. There is no other God who exists.

Now that is not natural revelation. That is special revelation. It is God who has told us that he alone is God. He has revealed that. And, by the way, if you can't trust God when he tells you that his existence is a unique one, then you can't trust about anything. If he has lied to us. If he is not the only God who exists, then he has told us a lie about everything else. He declares, the God who has given us this Bible, he declares that there is one and only one God.

Deuteronomy 4:39.

“...know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.”¹⁸

¹⁷ Psalm 73:25.

Isaiah 46:9.

“...remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.”¹⁹

You say, “Well, what does that have to do with satisfaction?”

What a satisfying thing it is to the human soul when we come to know our creator. I mean, we know him and we recognize and we believe that he is the only one. We have come to know the true God.

Folks, don't take that for granted. You do know there is a world all around you that doesn't have the knowledge that there is only one true God. There are people living all around you who may even acknowledge that there is just one God, but they don't really know in their heart that there is just one God. They don't know him, they don't have fellowship with him.

In fact, we need to be reminded that we are Gentiles. I mean, the vast majority of this congregation, we are Gentiles and for thousands of years the Gentile world was living in absolute darkness with respect to the true God.

There is Paul in Athens in Acts chapter 17 and he is declaring the most simple truth. But for them it was earth shaking that there was a God that they didn't know about. And he is the only one who exists.

Acts 17 verse 22.

“So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: ‘Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious.’”²⁰

Because they had altars to gods all over the city. And they wanted to cover all their bases. I mean, they had an altar for every god they could imagine. In fact, they wanted to be so sure that they covered every god, that they even had an altar to the what? Unknown god. If there is one we have missed, we have got one for you, too.

He says:

For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he

¹⁸ Deuteronomy 4:39.

¹⁹ Isaiah 46:9.

²⁰ Acts 17:22.

needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind.²¹

Can I just reemphasize that? Did you hear what just said? Paul is declaring the one true God, right? And what does he say about this one true God? He made from one man... What does that tell you? You cannot really believe this one true God unless you believe his account of how everything came into being, because didn't he tell us that the whole human race descended from one man and one woman? Paul declares that as absolute fact. That means you have got to believe Genesis. You have got to believe the creation account.

And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for

“In him we live and move and have our being’;
as even some of your own poets have said,
“For we are indeed his offspring.’

Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.²²

Do you want to know who the true God is? He is the one who gave us his only Son and after he died for our sins, God raised him from the dead. That is the true God. That is the God who was unknown to the citizens of Athens. This is the God whom we have come to know.

Do you have the satisfied heart of knowing the one, true, living God? Have you come to know your creator? Does this affect how we live on earth? Listen. If we really know the God who is in heaven, will it affect how you live on earth?

Because notice his next statement, the psalmist.

“Whom have I in heaven but you?”²³

I recognize that you are the only God, but what does this mean for earth?

²¹ Acts 17:23-26.

²² Acts 17:26-31.

²³ Psalm 73:25.

“And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.”²⁴

You see, to really know the true God is to know the satisfaction of the human heart for the rest of life lived on this planet. You have come to realize that there is no one, there is nothing that will ever satisfy your heart but him. You have been cured, you have been weaned from the idea that this world has something to offer you that is finally, eternally satisfying. You have given up on all the earth’s promises and hopes and you have fixed your hope on the living God and you have recognized that he alone fills the void of the human soul. You look for your satisfaction in him.

I am going to tell you. The world will never understand that. And the pseudo believer will never understand that. For so many people who profess to know Jesus it is really true to say that Jesus Christ is just on the edge of their life. He is just an addendum to their life. He is just something to sort of supplement their life. And everything the world has to offer, this is what they live for. And then they add a little Jesus in for some eternal security. And I say to you that is not what it means to know Christ and to walk with Christ.

Augustine in his *Confessions* wrote this. “Great are you, oh Lord, and exceedingly worthy of praise. Your power is immense and your wisdom beyond reckoning and so we men who are a due part of our creation long to praise you. We also carry our mortality about with us carrying the evidence of our sin and with it the proof that you thwart the proud. You arouse us so that praising you may bring us joy because you have made us and drawn us to yourself and our heart is unquiet until it rests in you.”

Did you get that? The human heart is such that it will always be empty and without quiet until it finds its rest in God. But you come to know the Lord in truth, you come to know his Son in truth and you will find your heart is satisfied.

Is there someone tonight in this place? You claim to know Jesus, you claim to be a Christian, but you are looking for your satisfaction in all the empty wells of this world, all the empty cisterns that don’t hold water. And so you just remain thirsty.

I want to say to you the only one who will ever satisfy you is God. But you have to know him for real.

I found you are the only one in heaven. And the result is you are the only one I want on earth.

“Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.”²⁵

And I say to you that when you get there, that is liberty. That is freedom. When you can really say that and mean that. You then know what it is to be free, what life really is.

²⁴ Psalm 73:25.

²⁵ Ibid.

So it is a secure life, this life of blessing we have been introduced to. It is a satisfying life. Finally, it is an all sufficient life.

To know the Lord is sufficient for any and every circumstance, for anything we face in life. In fact, what the psalmist does is he actually takes into account what his life may be like at the end. And he says in verse 26:

“My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”²⁶

My flesh, that is your physical strength. You live long enough, one day your physical strength is going to be gone. One day your flesh is going to fail.

I saw someone at the funeral yesterday that I hadn't seen in over 20 years. People are so gifted with words. This woman walked up to me and said, “My you have aged.” But she says, “But my son was saved when you were preaching one night.”

And I said, “Well, praise God for that.”

Yeah, our flesh is giving out. I am reminded every day. Death is at work in my body. Death is at work in you body, too. Teenager, don't be fooled. Death is at work in your body, too.

Oh, one day our flesh is going to fail. But get this. He says, “My heart may fail...”

See, we don't reckon on that, that even as a true child of God, we can go through times when our inner strength seems to go.

Is it possible for a true believer to doubt their salvation? What do you think? Absolutely. Can I give you some good gifts tonight? Your salvation isn't depending on your assurance. Your salvation is depending on God. You may go through a time where you are afraid. You may go through a time where you have doubts. You may go through a time when that inner sense of confidence that you have carried all your life absolutely goes away. But he says:

“God is the strength of my heart.”²⁷

He will strengthen me. He will hold on to me. He will see me through.

Sooner or later you are going to meet with genuine believers who literally lose their mind. I mean due to disease, due to the working of death in the body, they lose their memory. They don't recognize people anymore. You could ask them what has happened

²⁶ Psalm 73:26.

²⁷ Ibid.

in their life, ask them about their conversion and they can't remember any of the details. But God hasn't forgotten.

No, when the Lord purposed to save them he saved them. He is our strength.

And in terms of the physical realm, he is our portion. If we lose everything, if we go to our death as an old person living in a little bitty room with nothing to our name, we will be as rich on the day of our death as we were in our greatest times of prosperity because our true riches can't be touched.

You see, he is our inheritance. He is our portion. You will understand what the Lord has done for you when you recognize that the greatest treasure God ever gave you was God gave you God. When God gave you himself, when God gave you his Son, you became infinitely rich. He is sufficient for our future even if your future means the failing of our body and the failing of our heart. He will be sufficient.

So notice how someone blessed like this finally ends a psalm like this. Notice his confession, what he sees, what he believes, what he acknowledges.

Verse 27.

“For behold, those who are far from you shall perish.”²⁸

They have their riches right now. They have their standing in the world right now. They have their fame right now. They look so healthy. They look so much like they are getting ahead. But guess what? If they are far from you, they perish in the end.

“...you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you or unbelieving towards you. But for me it is good to be near God. I have made the Lord GOD my refuge.”²⁹

Where is my safety found, my security? It is in him. Where is my satisfaction found? It is in him.

When I look to the future and I have all these doubts that might plague me or all these fears, where is my confidence. It is in him. Here is why I exist. The last words of the Psalm.

“...that I may tell of all your works.”³⁰

We exist to tell his story. We exist to make him known. What a blessing that we have been chosen by God to make his glory known in a willing way. You see, one day everything is going to glorify God, isn't it, both in heaven and in hell. God will be shown

²⁸ Psalm 73:27.

²⁹ Psalm 73:27-28.

³⁰ Psalm 73:28.

to be God, but you and I get to tell willingly, joyfully as redeemed ones, we get to tell of his works. What a blessing.

If you don't know Jesus seek him. I mean with desperation. Ask the Lord to help you understand the gospel that he has revealed. Ask the Lord to grant you a broken heart that with true penitence would look in faith to God's Son who came and lived and died and was raised to save sinners.

That is the best news we could ever have. He didn't come to save good people. There aren't any. But he did come to save sinners. And if you know yourself to be a sinner and will cry out as a bankrupted pauper to receive as a gift all the riches of God that are found in his Son, you will be saved. And if you are saved do you realize how blessed you are?

What a weird thing it is that blessed people wouldn't feel blessed, that rich people wouldn't feel rich, that favored people wouldn't feel favored. May God save us from that. May we recognize how blessed we are and may we tell of his works.

And the Church would say amen.

Let's pray together.

Father, we are blessed and we bless your name. I pray that we would encourage each other with these kinds of words, that we would remind one another of how good you have been to us. Truly, God, you are good to Israel and truly you have been good to all who belong to your Church. Lord, you are good. And we bless your name. In Jesus' name. Amen.