

## **Psalm 73 (The confession of Asaph)**

### ***I envied the wicked - they appeared to have it so good***

<sup>1</sup> God is always good to His children, those who have received Jesus Christ as savior from sin and are attempting to live a good and godly life inside and out. These are men and women who fear the LORD enough to avoid or abandon every sinful practice. <sup>2</sup> For most of my life I was pure and clean on the inside like that, but there was a time when I was not. It hurts for me to admit it, but some time ago I almost abandoned the faith. Yes, I almost joined the wicked in order to gain the good life I thought they enjoyed. <sup>3</sup> You might wonder why I would do such a stupid thing. Well, to put it bluntly, I envied them. I knew they were proud, arrogant, and guilty of doing all sorts of bad things to both good and wicked people, but the thing that really bothered me was the fact that they appeared to prosper in everything they did. <sup>4</sup> Then too, I had always thought that it was normal for wicked people to experience pain and anguish when they die, but they appear to die an easy death. On top of all that, they grew fat by eating from all the excess they had taken from others while I was struggling just to get along. <sup>5</sup> I was jealous of the way they appeared to be free from the hurts, heartaches, and discouragements I was experiencing, and I was impressed with the way they weren't harassed or oppressed like other men.

### ***The wicked seemed to get away with all their evil***

<sup>6</sup> Since wicked people appeared to be so successful and unhindered in what they did, they strutted around flaunting their pride like one would an expensive necklace. Their reputation for doing bad things to innocent people followed them wherever they went, and others knew not to harass them for fear of their own lives. <sup>7</sup> Since these wicked people had gained so much so easily, they had their eyes fixed upon gaining more and more wealth and all the things money can buy. In fact, their imaginations ran wild and unrestrained as they planned bigger and more daring jobs, and they were prepared to do whatever it took to get what they wanted.

### ***The wicked thought they would not be called into account by God or the law***

<sup>8</sup> Now, I will admit that these people were harsh and cruel in their ridicule of those they oppressed or planned to oppress, and they bragged about all of the things they were going to do to innocent people as though they were above being caught and punished by the law. <sup>9</sup> They not only thought they were above the law, but they thought they were above being called into account by God. They were so sure of themselves that they went all over the country bragging about how they were going to beat the odds and avoid getting caught by either God or the law. <sup>10</sup> You see, because evil men are not apprehended and punished quickly for their evil deeds, sooner or later every one of them becomes proud and arrogant. In that condition they proceed to pour out violence, hurts, and destruction upon innocent people like a flash flood rushing down a mountain canyon. Unfortunately, it works the same in every generation where justice is not

administered swiftly. <sup>11</sup> They brag about how easily they get away with their wickedness and proudly say, “God doesn’t see or care about what we do. Besides, if there really was a God in heaven like the Bible claims, how could He possibly know what we do?” <sup>12</sup> Folks, listen to me! Be assured that everyone who makes this kind of claim is among the wicked. They are the ones who appear to simply lean back and enjoy life without all the problems the average person experiences, and they seem to be so successful at increasing their wealth by doing bad things to both good people and those of their own kind. <sup>13</sup> Yes, they seem to have it so good, but what about me? I have disciplined myself to abstain from sinful practices, and when I do sin, I confess and forsake it right away. Doing so sounds admirable, but what good has it done for me? I don’t see how it has made life any easier. <sup>14</sup> After all, I am plagued with hurts and heartaches all day long, day after day. On top of that, I am convicted and disciplined every morning for the sins I know I have committed.

### ***I almost told my godly friends what I was thinking***

<sup>15</sup> I can get away with thinking this way in private if I choose. Oh, but if I were to actually tell other believers what I was really thinking and that I was seriously considering joining the wicked, I would offend every child of God in my generation. They would feel like I had betrayed both them and the cause of Christ. They would be right, especially since I am a leader in the church. <sup>16</sup> I seriously pondered my situation and tried to understand the struggle that was going on inside of me, but all the while the pain was nearly too much for me to bear. It was particularly hard for me because I wanted the prosperity and ease the wicked seemed to enjoy, but I also wanted the closeness and blessing I experienced on a regular basis at the hand of God. This conflict kept eating away at me <sup>17</sup> until I went to church and heard teaching and preaching about wickedness from the Word of God. It was then that I gained insight and understanding about the tragic end that awaits the wicked.

### ***The wicked die a dreadful death and are completely destroyed***

<sup>18</sup> LORD Jesus<sup>1</sup>,

“As surely as You love the pure in heart, You will allow the sin of the wicked to lead them down slippery pathways where it is difficult or impossible to maintain a solid footing. While they are on that pathway, You will cause results of their own sinful devices to make them fall down and be killed. <sup>19</sup> Their destruction will happen so quickly that they will not have the privilege of preparing for death like the godly man. In fact, they will not only die a sudden death, but it will be a dreadful experience filled with all sorts of intense fears and anxieties. Before I learned this truth from the Bible I thought the wicked died a painless and peaceful death. Boy, feeling sorry for myself really blinded my eyes to the truth until now. <sup>20</sup> LORD, when they are dead and gone You will discard the very thought of them from Your memory like one who awakens from a bad dream and puts it out of his mind so that he won’t ever remember it again.”

## ***I was bitter, but You were faithful - You never let go of me***

<sup>21</sup> I'll admit that all of this really bothered me before I learned the truth. In fact, I was downright bitter about the way the wicked had it so easy while I was experiencing so many trials and hardships. I was full of anguish and turmoil inside, and to make matters worse, my guilty conscience kept stabbing my heart prompting me to wake up and see the whole situation for what it really was and not what I wanted it to be. Deep down inside I knew the truth, but I was not willing to accept it. <sup>22</sup> In reality, I was foolish, stubborn, and willingly ignorant. I showed no more ability to make good, logical decisions based upon sound morals than a cow being led to slaughter. Yes, I was foolish, but thank You, LORD, that in spite of my bad attitude You kept on loving me unconditionally. <sup>23</sup> I am so glad that You never gave up on me or let go of my hand. The whole time You held onto me as Your valued possession. <sup>24</sup> In actuality, You guided me with counsel from Your Word, and because You did, I can be sure that You will do so for me in the future. Then, when life here on earth is over, I know that You will receive me into glory to be with You in heaven forever and ever. I can count on it. Thank you!"

## ***You are all I desire and all I need***

<sup>25</sup> Who is there in in heaven or on earth who really cares about my welfare except for You? Because You love me, there is nothing in this world that I desire more than to know and love You in return. <sup>26</sup> I may end up being completely worn down physically and emotionally, but I know that You will give me the kind of spiritual strength that uplifts and strengthens my heart and soul so that I can go on. I now see that You are not only my strength, but You are also my share of the inheritance that the Father has waiting for His children when they die. Yes, and praise God, You are all I will ever need! <sup>27</sup> I can have such a strong confidence in You because those who have turned their backs on You and practice wicked deeds are far from You. They will be exterminated in time, and they will die a premature death because that's the way the principle of sowing and reaping works. They will learn soon enough that their own sinful deeds will come back upon their heads to destroy them in the same way they have destroyed others. In fact, in Your eyes this has already happened. <sup>28</sup> You may be far from them, but You are very close to me. In fact, You are intimate with me. I am grateful too, because that closeness is the one thing that I benefit from the most. This is the very reason I have chosen You, Jesus Christ the Messiah<sup>1</sup>, as my source of security and safety. By trusting in Your name I find refuge from dangers, and my whole life will be blessed. As a result, long after the wicked man has passed off the scene I will still be alive to tell others about all of the wonderful things the LORD has done for me."

<sup>1</sup> In John 14:6 Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father, but by me." Therefore, the name "Jesus Christ, the Messiah" has been used.