

IT'S NOT FAIR

Psalm 73

One's perspective will affect their conclusions

I. AN OUTWARD PERSPECTIVE ON PROSPERITY (3-16)

A. THE CHARACTER OF THE PROSPEROUS (4-11)

1. His Rich Blessings (4-5, 7)
 - a. They do not endure difficulty in death (4)
 - b. They do not have the problems that others have (5)
 - c. They continually get more wealth (7a)
2. His Rotten Behavior (6-11)
 - a. Proud and violent (6)
 - b. Wickedness (7b) > Constantly and creatively looking for some new evil
 - c. Rudeness (8a) > They mock and speak with malice
 - d. Oppressiveness (8b) > Dictatorial demands
 - e. Arrogance (9)
 - f. Corruption (10)
 - g. Blasphemy (11)

B. THE CONFUSION OF THE PIOUS (3, 12-16)

- Note: We see here an honest transparency to which most of us would not admit

1. His Covetousness (3) > He envied the arrogant
2. His Complaint (12) > Look at this! Do you see this! "Behold!"
3. His Conclusion (13) > There is no value in maintaining purity
4. His Condition (14) > Rather than blessings; he has burdens
5. His Concern (15) > I can't say what I think
6. His Collapse (16) > Suffering in silence!
7. His Character (12-16) > Self-absorbed and therefore focusing only upon himself

Asaph looked out at the prosperous and *became covetous* !

II. AN UPWARD PERSPECTIVE ON PROSPERITY (17-20)

A. FOR THE PIOUS (17)

1. A New Position (17a)
 - He was envious (v.3) until he changed positions and got a new perspective
2. A New Perception (17b)
 - a. His understanding > "Then I understood"
 - He can now understand what had previously frustrated him (16)
 - b. Their undoing > Their end Over please >

B. FOR THE PROSPEROUS (18-20)

1. Their Position (18a)
2. Their Peril (18b-20)
 - Severe (18b), sudden (19a), scary (19b) and certain (20)

As Asaph looked up and got God's perspective on the prosperous *he gained correction*

III. AN INWARD PERSPECTIVE ON PROSPERITY (21-28)

A. ASAPH'S CONVICTION FROM GOD (21-22)

1. His Situation (21)
 - a. He was grieved > he became heavy hearted (embittered) when he realized his sin
 - b. He was groaning > "pierced within (NASV) or "pricked in my reins" (KJV)
2. His Sentence (22)
 - a. I was senseless > Only a fool would envy a fool!
 - b. His conviction was leading him to confession

B. ASAPH'S CONFIDENCE IN GOD (23-26)

- Note: These indicate real prosperity
- 1. God's Presence (23a)
- 2. God's Protection (23b)
- 3. God's Paths (24a)
- 4. God's Prize (24b)
- 5. God's Peace (25)
- 6. God's Power (26)

C. ASAPH'S COMPREHENSION OF GOD (27-28)

1. Those far from God are doomed (27)
2. Those in fellowship with God are delivered (28)

As Asaph looked within he *gained conviction and confidence in his God*

CONCLUSION:

When Asaph looked out at the prosperous he became covetous

When Asaph looked up and got God's perspective on the prosperous, he gained correction

When Asaph looked within he gained conviction and confidence in his God

Where are you looking? What do you see?

Is God fair in all He does? Has He been faithful to you?