

Crossway Life Group, Week of July 28

See sermon notes on [CMC's webpage](#) for background information

Community

Take time to share and pray for each other's concerns and joys.

Scripture: Psalm 73 "Awakening to Reality"

Reading & Discussing Scripture

- **Read Psalm 73:1-16:** Asaph describes his crisis
 - How would you describe the crisis that Asaph was in?
- **Read Psalm 73:17-26:** Asaph describes the resolution to his crisis
 - What brought about the change for good in Asaph?
 - What did he realize that he had a hard time seeing before?
 - What kept Asaph from falling (see especially verses 23-26)?
- **Read Psalm 73:27-28.** Asaph states His restored confidence in God and His ways
 - In his crisis, Asaph said he couldn't share what was on his heart. Yet, in the end, he says he will tell of God's good deeds. What does Asaph want people to know about following God?

The Big Idea

**True prosperity
is being near to God in His grace
which we can only see
when we are near to God**

Application & Reflection Questions

1. **Read 1 Corinthians 13:12.** In what ways do we have a hard time seeing clearly in this life?
2. In what ways are you tempted to envy the lives of people who seem prosperous yet they live without reference to God, or may even live in direct disobedience to Him?
3. Consider this statement: "We cannot live well in this life without understanding the deeper reality of our lives in God's presence." (For a sense of "the deeper reality of our lives in God's presence", **read Ephesians 1:3-6.**) What might be examples of how we cannot live well without understanding this deeper reality? How might knowing the deeper reality of our lives in God's presence help us live well in this life?
4. **Read again Psalm 73:26.** How does this verse give you hope?
5. What practices help you to enter the presence of God? Consider both the things that you might do on your own or with a few friends, as well as things you might do with the church?

Growing in Cultural Understanding

Worship services are an important part of the lives of Christians. While we can and should worship God anywhere and anytime, it is also important to gather for focused times of worship together.

In different (sub)cultures, worship services have very different practices and can have a very different feel. In a worship service, what is most helpful for you so that you are aware of the presence of God? For example, it might be through certain songs or kinds of songs, or prayer, or communion, or Scripture reading, or preaching, or rich sharing with others about God and His work in our lives, or something else.

Serving beyond ourselves

What are ways that your group can be for the benefit of people beyond yourselves?

Psalm 73 New International Version (NIV)

A psalm of Asaph.

¹ Surely God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.
² But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;
I had nearly lost my foothold.
³ For I envied the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
⁴ They have no struggles;
their bodies are healthy and strong.
⁵ They are free from common human burdens;
they are not plagued by human ills.
⁶ Therefore pride is their necklace;
they clothe themselves with violence.
⁷ From their callous hearts comes iniquity;
their evil imaginations have no limits.
⁸ They scoff, and speak with malice;
with arrogance they threaten oppression.
⁹ Their mouths lay claim to heaven,
and their tongues take possession of the
earth.
¹⁰ Therefore their people turn to them
and drink up waters in abundance.
¹¹ They say, "How would God know?
Does the Most High know anything?"
¹² This is what the wicked are like—
always free of care, they go on amassing
wealth.
¹³ Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure
and have washed my hands in innocence.
¹⁴ All day long I have been afflicted,
and every morning brings new
punishments.

¹⁵ If I had spoken out like that,
I would have betrayed your children.
¹⁶ When I tried to understand all this,
it troubled me deeply
¹⁷ till I entered the sanctuary of God;
then I understood their final destiny.
¹⁸ Surely you place them on slippery ground;
you cast them down to ruin.
¹⁹ How suddenly are they destroyed,
completely swept away by terrors!
²⁰ They are like a dream when one awakes;
when you arise, Lord,
you will despise them as fantasies.
²¹ When my heart was grieved
and my spirit embittered,
²² I was senseless and ignorant;
I was a brute beast before you.
²³ Yet I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.
²⁴ You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will take me into glory.
²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you?
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.
²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.
²⁷ Those who are far from you will perish;
you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.
²⁸ But as for me, it is good to be near God.
I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge;
I will tell of all your deeds.

Ephesians 1:3-6

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

1 Corinthians 13:12

For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.