

The Lord is...Good!

Aron Osborne

AW Tozer, The Attributes of God

“Why would God forgive me when I’ve sinned and then forgive me again and again?
Because God out of his goodness acts according to that goodness and does what His loving
heart dictates that he do...God is not revolted by anything about you.”

Psalm 73:1-27

Truly God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.

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

³ For I was envious of the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

⁴ For they have no pangs until death;
their bodies are fat and sleek.

⁵ They are not in trouble as others are;
they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.

⁶ Therefore pride is their necklace;
violence covers them as a garment.

⁷ Their eyes swell out through fatness;
their hearts overflow with follies.

⁸ They scoff and speak with malice;
loftily they threaten oppression.

⁹ They set their mouths against the heavens,
and their tongue struts through the earth.

¹⁰ Therefore his people turn back to them,
and find no fault in them.

¹¹ And they say, “How can God know?
Is there knowledge in the Most High?”

¹² Behold, these are the wicked;
always at ease, they increase in riches.

¹³ All in vain have I kept my heart clean
and washed my hands in innocence.

¹⁴ For all the day long I have been stricken
and rebuked every morning.

¹⁵ If I had said, “I will speak thus,”
I would have betrayed the generation of your children.

¹⁶ But when I thought how to understand this,
it seemed to me a wearisome task,

¹⁷ until I went into the sanctuary of God;
then I discerned their end.

¹⁸ Truly you set them in slippery places;

you make them fall to ruin.

¹⁹ How they are destroyed in a moment,
swept away utterly by terrors!

²⁰ Like a dream when one awakes,

O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as phantoms.

²¹ When my soul was embittered,
when I was pricked in heart,

²² I was brutish and ignorant;
I was like a beast toward you.

²³ Nevertheless, I am continually with you;
you hold my right hand.

²⁴ You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will receive me to glory.

²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you?

And there is nothing on earth that 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 For behold, those who are far from you shall perish;
you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.

Charles Spurgeon

“Here begins the narrative of a great soul battle, a spiritual Marathon, a hard and well fought field, in which the half defeated became in the end wholly victorious. But as for me. He contrasts himself with his God who is ever good. The Lord is good to his saints, *but as for me*, am I one of them? Can I expect to share his grace? Yes, I do share it; but I have acted an unworthy part, very unlike one who is truly pure in heart. My feet were almost gone. When men doubt the righteousness of God, their own integrity begins to waver.”

Psalm 73:3

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

Exodus 20:17

“You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.”

Psalm 73:4-12

For **they have no pangs** until death;
their bodies are fat and sleek.

⁵ **They are not in trouble** as others are;
they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.

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

⁷ Their eyes swell out through fatness;

their hearts overflow with follies.

⁸ They scoff and speak with malice;
loftily they threaten oppression.

**⁹ They set their mouths against the heavens,
and their tongue struts through the earth.**

**¹⁰ Therefore his people turn back to them,
and find no fault in them.**

**¹¹ And they say, "How can God know?
Is there knowledge in the Most High?"**

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

Lloyd Stillely, Pastor

Can you relate to Asaph? Have you ever thought, "Why do I lack when I try to do good, but the wicked prosper? Does it pay to serve God?"

Psalm 73:13-15

"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."

Charles Spurgeon

"There were crowns for the reprobates and crosses for the elect. Strange that the saints should sigh and the sinners sing. Rest was given to the disturbers, and yet peace was denied to the peace makers...
...but it is not always wise to speak one's thoughts; if they remain within, they will only injure ourselves; but once uttered, their mischief may be great. From such a man as the psalmist, the utterance which his discontent suggested would have been a heavy blow and deep discouragement to the whole brotherhood...Rash, undigested, ill-considered speech, is responsible for much of the heart burning and trouble in the churches. Would to God that, like Asaph, men would bridle their tongues. Where we have any suspicion of being wrong, it is better to be silent; it can do no harm to be quiet, and it may do serious damage to spread abroad our hastily formed opinions."

Psalm 73:16-17

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.

Psalm 73:21-22

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

Psalm 73:21-23

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.

Charles Spurgeon

“Sin may distress us, and yet we may be in communion with God. Our double nature, as it always causes conflict, so is it a continuous paradox: the flesh allies us with the brutes, and the spirit affiliates us to God. He had almost fallen, and yet was always upheld. This verse contains the two precious mercies of communion and upholding, and as they were both given to one who confessed himself a fool, we also may hope to enjoy them.”

Psalm 73:26-28

“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.

Psalm 34:8

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!

Psalm 34:3

Magnify the Lord with me!

Galatians 6:10

“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”