

Friday

Please read Psalm 73:21–28. What an amazing passage this is! Slowly read through it at least three times. What promises and phrases stand out to you?

How do these reminders encourage you?

Think honestly about this question: What is your big picture? How is that influencing your present?

Thank God today for the reminders you read in this passage today. Talk to Him about your “big picture”. Pray that God’s truth will increasingly be your confidence and your big picture.

Saturday

Please read Psalm 95, the psalm we’ll be studying this weekend. What initially strikes you as you read this psalm? In what way can you relate to the psalmist?

Thank God today for His love for you. Please pray for the services this weekend. Pray that people come with hearts ready to learn from God.



TWIN LAKES
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WEEK 5

When the Bad Guys Win

MARCH 26 & 27, 2011 • RENÉ SCHLAEFFER • PSALM 73

1. THE QUESTION: Why be _____ if bad guys _____ ?

Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. For I envied the arrogant when I saw **the prosperity of the wicked**. They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. They are free from common human burdens; they are not plagued by human ills. *Psalm 73:1–5*

- _____ **bad guys**

Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with **violence**. *v. 6*

- _____ **bad guys**

From their callous hearts comes iniquity; their **evil imaginations** have no limits. *v. 7*

- _____ **bad guys**

They scoff, and speak with malice; with arrogance they threaten **oppression**. *v. 8*

- _____ **bad guys**

Their **mouths lay claim to heaven**, and their tongues take possession of the earth. Therefore their **people turn to them** and drink up waters in abundance. They say, “How would God know? Does the Most High know **anything?**” *v. 9–11*

This is what the **wicked** are like — always **free of care**, they go on **amassing wealth**. Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence. All day long I have been afflicted, and every morning brings new punishments. *v. 12–14*

2. THE ANSWER: Get _____

If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children. When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their **final destiny**. *v. 15–17*

- We are often swayed by _____ definitions of happiness

- We need an _____, _____ view

Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin. How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors! They are like a dream when one awakes; when you arise, Lord, you will despise them as fantasies. *v. 18–20*

Why does God wait to judge the bad guys?

God waits because he has _____ even for the _____

“Do I take any pleasure in the **death** of the **wicked**?” declares the Sovereign LORD. “Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?”
Ezekiel 18:23

“Say to them, ‘As surely as I live,’ declares the Sovereign LORD, ‘I take no pleasure in the **death** of the **wicked**, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?’” *Ezekiel 33:11*

“If He satisfied our immediate desire for justice, He would be settling for a _____” – George MacDonald

3. THE REMINDERS:

- _____ makes me _____ to _____

When my heart was grieved and my spirit **embittered**, I was **senseless** and **ignorant**; I was a **brute beast** before you. *v. 21–22*

- **God is** _____ **even when** _____

Yet **I am always with you**; you **hold me** by my right hand. You **guide me** with your counsel, and afterward you will **take me** into glory. *v. 23–24*

Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has **nothing I desire besides you**. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. *v. 25–26*

Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you. 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. *v. 27–28*

Bottom Line:

What is my _____ ?

Daily Meditations

Monday

Please read Psalm 73. What key phrases do you see in this passage?

What is something you learned about God’s character in last weekend’s sermon?

When you think about the emotions (or reality) of the bad guys winning, what is most difficult for you to accept?

How did last weekend’s sermon encourage you?

continued 

Thank God today that He has an eternal perspective. Thank Him for His love and patience with everyone! Pray that God will use your study of Psalm 73 this week to help you grow in your faith and relationship with Him.

Tuesday

Please read Psalm 73:1–14. In what way do you relate to the psalmist’s lament? What bad guys are you currently dealing with?

In what area of your life are you tempted to give up because “being good” doesn’t seem to be working?

What is something that you know to be true about God that could encourage you to continue to “keep your heart pure”?

Thank God today that you can be honest with Him. Talk to Him about the areas of life where you feel like being good isn’t worth it. Pray that you’ll find motivation from an eternal perspective more appealing than present gratification.

Wednesday

Please read Psalm 73:15–20. In what area of your life is it easier for you to take the “long view”? In what area is it more difficult?

How has your perspective impacted your emotions toward your life right now?

In what way does your perspective need to line up more with God’s?

Thank God today that He can see from the beginning to the end. Pray that you will be encouraged by God’s perspective on life. Pray that as your perspective increasingly matches God’s perspective, that you will be an encouragement to those around you.

Thursday

Please read Ezekiel 18:23 & 33:11. How do you balance the tension between Psalm 73:18–20 and today’s verses?

In what way(s) do you feel like one of the bad guys?

What do these verses tell you about God’s love for people?

How does that challenge you?

How does that encourage you?

Thank God today for His amazing love. Pray that you will view people from His perspective and seek to show the same love and patience.



Whom have I in heaven but you?
And earth has nothing I desire
besides you. My flesh and my heart
may fail but God is the strength of my life and
my portion forever. *Psalm 73:25–26 NIV*