

LESSON AIM: Doing right is always worth while.

KEY SCRIPTURES: Psalm 73

REVIEW QUESTIONS: (“Ok, who remembers from last week’s lesson...”)

- 1) Who remembers what the word “omniscient” means?
- 2) What about omnipresent?
- 3) Can someone explain last week’s Bible verse in their own words?

I. INTRODUCTION

How do you feel when kids around you seem to be having a good time doing something wrong? (Discuss situations of negative peer pressure). Does it make you want to join in at times? Why should I tell the truth and get in trouble when my friend can lie and get away with it? Sometimes it is very hard to keep on doing right when you seem to be the only one who loves the Lord and wants to please Him. But if you know the Lord Jesus as your Savior, **God will help you to keep on doing tight no matter what others do.** Asaph felt that same struggle we do when he wrote about it in **Psalm 73**. [Asaph was the head of a musical family in Israel who provided the music for worship during David's time and later.]

II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

A. Asaph realized that God was good to others who obeyed Him (**v. 1-2**).

[Still, he almost gave up living for God because it didn't seem to be working for him. Also, he had begun to look at the wicked who seemed to be better off than he was (**v. 3**).]

B. Asaph became envious because it seemed that God treated bad people better than God treated him (**v. 3-7**). [It seemed that the people who did wrong were in better health and that they even suffered less when they were dying (**v. 4**). The people who did wrong didn't seem to have as many troubles as he did (**v. 5**). Life was going so well for them that they even became proud and often abused other people (**v. 6**). They didn't even try to cover their pride, but displayed it as boldly as someone would display a fine gold chain or nice clothes. Many of them had more money than they could ever want or use (**v. 7**).]

- *At this point you might want to refer to **Genesis 6**. There is another man in the Old Testament who loved God and stood up for what was right even though everyone else was doing wrong. **When God saw how wicked people had become, He was sorry He had made them.** God was grieved (filled with pain) that the people He had created had become so sinful and no longer loved Him.*
- ***Noah was the only man in this society that walked with God.** Noah's life shone with righteousness when others were sinning against God.*
- ***God warned Noah that He would destroy the world and instructed him to build an ark.** (Genesis 3:19-21) How sad and shocked Noah must have been when God gave him the news. Everyone on earth would die because of their sinful ways—everyone but Noah and his family. In spite of how bad other people were, Noah continued doing right to please God. It wasn't easy. If you have trusted Jesus as your Savior, **God will help you to keep on doing right no matter what others do.** It may seem easier to copy someone's homework like a lot of kids do, but what would be the right thing for you to do? Why? It may seem easier to do a halfway job on your chores to get them done faster, especially if your friends do, but what would be the right thing for you to do? Why? God's Word says, **“Let us not grow weary while doing good” (Gal 6:9)** Others around you may not be doing what is right, and they may think you are foolish. But God says keep doing right and not give up. Noah did just that! People no doubt made fun of him and even hated him, but he continued to be faithful to God by doing right.*
- ***Noah obeyed God, doing all He commanded (Gen 6:22)** Some believe it took Noah and his sons 120 years to build the ark. Apparently while he worked on the ark, Noah warned the people about*

God's judgment (**2 Peter 2:5** "and did not spare the ancient world, but saved **Noah**, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly") God was giving them a chance to turn from their sins and trust Him. It must have been hard for Noah to stand alone during this time. God gave them 120 years to turn from their sins, but they refused.

- **There was only one place of safety.** Those in the ark were safe from God's punishment for sin. Today there is only one place for you to be safe from God's punishment of sin. That place of safety is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is God's perfect Son who took the punishment for your sin and mine when He died on the cross. The Lord Jesus is the One "in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins" (Colossian 1:14) Jesus died, but He didn't stay dead. He came alive. You can believe in Him and ask Him to forgive your sins today. He is the only place of safety so that you will be saved from the punishment you deserve for your sin.
- **What happened? God sent a flood destroying every living thing on the earth.** God had kept His word, but Noah and his family and two of every kind of animal who entered the ark as God commanded were saved. God had reward Noah for staying true to Him in spite of everyone's sinfulness. Noah kept doing right in spite of what others thought. How about you? If Jesus is your Savior, **God will give you the strength to keep doing what's right no matter what others do.**
 - First you must find out what's right and you won't really know what is right until you surrender your life to Jesus to show you. Then as you read God's Word and listen to those who love God, you will know God wants you to do.
 - Second, pray, asking God to help you.
 - Third, depend on God to give you strength to keep doing right no matter what. Although it is hard to keep on doing what is right when others are constantly doing wrong things, God is with you every minute of the day. He will give you strength to do the right thing.

C. Asaph was miserable inside, struggling to decide what he should do (**v. 16**).

D. He went to God with his questions (v. 17). Asaph did the thing all of us should do. Though he felt he couldn't talk to anyone else about his doubts, he knew he could talk to God about them. So he did. Then he began to see things the way God sees them. There may be times when you feel as if you don't have anyone who can really understand the frustration you feel about what is fair and what isn't. But God understands and cares about you very much (**1 Peter 5:7**).

No matter what others may do, God wants you, as His child, to remember that doing right is always worthwhile. When it seems easier to cheat on a test or steal something from a store, talk to the Lord about how you feel. He understands and will give you the strength to do what is right. Then in His time He will reward your obedience to Him. Ask God to help you begin to see things the way He sees them. When Asaph talked to the Lord, he began to realize it was better to do what was right than to be like those who despised God.

Finally Asaph decided that doing right really is worthwhile; he saw that his relationship with God was his most valuable possession (v. 25). Asaph learned that God would help him with his frustrations (**v. 25-26**). He decided that he would share with others all the wonderful things that he had learned by coming to God with his secret questions (**v. 28**).

Will you choose to do the right thing this week—even when others are doing wrong? Sometimes you will be tempted to think it isn't worth it to do right. When Satan tempts you with those foolish thoughts, remember **Galatians 6:9** and say it to yourself. At the moment, it may seem better to do wrong as others do. But doing right is always worthwhile. God is pleased when His children obey Him. You will receive special good things that He has planned for you in this life as well as future rewards in heaven. Talk to the Lord about your struggles to obey. He wants us to talk to Him; even when we are frustrated! Thank Him that He is with you, and ask Him to give you His strength to keep doing what is right.

MEMORY VERSE:

"And let us not get weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

Galatians 6:9