

**“How to Overcome Our Doubts About God’s Goodness” 11/28/10**

**Psalm 73:1-28**

**Studies in the Psalms- Finding Comfort for Life**

**LIFE ISN’T FAIR!!**

**Woman Anne Steele**

Asaph- 1 Chron 15:16-19; 16:4-7, 37-42; 2 Chron 5:12-14; 29:13; 35:15

**POINT 1-** We overcome doubt when we recognize the limits of our SIGHT

- A. Our sight reveals the peace, prosperity, and pride of the WICKED
- B. Our sight tempts us to become ENVIOUS of the wicked  
(Psalm 37:1 Proverbs 3:31; 23:17; 24:19; Regret, Self-pity)

*Going* God wants us to not be so near sighted! (2 Corinthians 5:7)  
*Deeper*

**POINT 2-** We overcome doubt when we recognize the need for God’s Sanctuary

- A. The sanctuary of God brings to us UNDERSTANDING  
(We must first GO to Him; then we understand “their” end; **to destruction**)

**WHAT IS THEIR END? Jonathan Edwards QUOTE**

*Going* God wants us to keep our eyes on Him and not on the wicked!  
*Deeper*

**POINT 3-** We overcome doubt when we recognize our STATUS

- A. Our status recognizes that we can be foolish and IGNORANT  
(Isaiah 55:8-9; like a beast- always looking down, irrational, instinctive )
- B. Our status recognizes that we an amazing DESTINY  
(**to glory**; God is our portion and our strength; John 6:47)

*Going* God wants us to dwell on what we know about Him and to trust!  
*Deeper*

**Application points:**

1. Verses 1-12 is about **THEY** the wicked and prosperous
2. Verses 13-17 is about comparing **THEM** with **I**
3. Verses 18-22 is about **YOU (GOD)**
4. Verses 23-28 is about **YOU (GOD)** and **I** (James Boice Commentary on Psalms, pg. 615)

*A young woman named Anne Steele had encountered one trial and disappointment after another. Being a devout Christian, she continuously sought to praise God—even in sorrow. She was engaged to be married, and had looked forward to her wedding day with eagerness. The big day finally arrived and so did the guests—but the groom was missing. After about an hour of waiting, a messenger brought the tragic news that Anne’s fiancé had drowned. The sudden shock was almost too much for her, but after a while she regained her spiritual composure.*

*Later Anne Steele penned the song that is still found in many hymnbooks:*

*Father, whate’er of earthly bliss Thy sovereign will denies,  
Accepted at Thy throne of grace, let this petition rise:  
Give me a calm, a thankful heart, from every murmur free!  
The blessings of Thy grace impart, and make me live to Thee.*

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Jonathon Edwards, in his classic sermon, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God,” on Deuteronomy 32:35:

“Their foot shall slide in due time.” “The God that holds you over the pit of hell, much in the same way as one holds a spider, or some loathsome insect, over the fire...is dreadfully provoked; His wrath towards you burns like fire; He looks upon you as worthy of nothing else but to be cast into the fire; He is of purer eyes than to bear to have you in His sight; you are ten thousand times more abominable in His eyes than the most hateful venomous serpent is in ours...It is to be ascribed to nothing else, that you did not go to hell the last night...and there is no other reason to be given why you have not dropped into hell since you arose in the morning, but that God’s hand has held you up...O sinner, consider the fearful danger you are in! It is a great furnace of wrath, a wide and bottomless pit, full of the fire of wrath...You hang by a slender thread, with the flames of divine wrath flashing about it and ready every moment to singe it, and burn it asunder...”