

**Psalms Handout  
Week Twenty-Seven**

**Ps. 73 A psalm of Asaph**

**1 Surely God (Elohim) is good to Israel, To those who are pure in heart (totally committed)!**

What is the good theology?

**2 But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling, My steps had almost slipped.**

What's the problem?

Theodicy

**3 For I was envious of the arrogant As I saw the prosperity (shalom) of the wicked.**

The problem isn't wealth, it's

Wealth is a

and it's a

Asaph's problem is

It's second only to pride. It is the churning pain caused by another's prosperity.

It is the only sin that brings no pleasure at all to the sinner but rather constant pain.

Elements

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**4 For there are no pains in their death, And their body is fat.**

**5 They are not in trouble as other men, Nor are they plagued like mankind.**

**6 Therefore pride is their necklace; The garment of violence covers them.**

**7 Their eye bulges from fatness; The imaginations of their heart run riot.**

They have more than they want

**8 They mock and wickedly speak of oppression; They speak from on high.**

They are bragging that they are above everyone.

**9 They have set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue parades through the earth.**

**10 Therefore his people return to this place, And waters of abundance are drunk by them.**

**11 They say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge with the Most High?"**

**12 Behold, these are the wicked; And always at ease, they have increased in wealth.**

Let's check our hearts

Other false conclusions of envy...

**13 Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure And washed my hands in innocence;**

**14 For I have been stricken all day long And chastened every morning.**

How old are these problems?

Gen 3:2 The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Gen. 4:3 So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the fruit of the ground. Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering; but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell. Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it." Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

Roots of the problem      How many I/me, they/their statements?

**15 If I had said, "I will speak thus," Behold, I would have betrayed the generation of Your children.**  
**16 When I pondered to understand this, It was troublesome** (miserable, sorrowful, painful, wearing me down) **in my sight**

What does this teach us?

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**17 Until I came into the sanctuary of God;**

Sanctuary is

Does the "church building" / a "structured gathering" matter for revelation?

No

Heb. 10:19 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

But, also yes.

Who He is, who we are, what we are supposed to be doing.

**17b Then I perceived their end.**

**18 Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction.**

**19 How they are destroyed in a moment! They are utterly swept away by sudden terrors!**

**20 Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when aroused, You will despise their form.**

Asaph's perspective of self shifts.

His perspective of

shifts.

He comes to a place of r\_\_\_\_\_.

**21 When my heart was embittered And I was pierced within,  
22 Then I was senseless and ignorant; I was like a beast before You.**

What brought about this monumental shifting?

1 Cor. 2:6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; but just as it is written,  
"Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And which have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him."

Eph. 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

**23 Nevertheless I am continually with You;**

Isa. 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God;

Deut. 31:8 It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.

Isa. 49 says we are engraved on the palms of His hands. Christ Jesus is in us and we are in Him. There can be no separation.

**You have taken hold of my right hand.**

**24 With Your counsel You will guide me, And afterward receive/carry me to glory.**

The whole gospel and the whole of the Christian life...

Salvation—

Sanctification—

Glorification—

**25 Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth.**

**26 My flesh and my heart may fail,**

**But God is the strength (rock) of my heart and my portion forever.**

**27 For, behold, those who are far from You will perish** (wander off into the void);

**You have destroyed all those who (go whoring) are unfaithful to You.**

**28 But as for me, the nearness of God is my good;**

The answer: 1. I am  
What is ultimate good?

2. Good is not

The key:

## Portion

Deut. 18:1 The Levitical priests, the whole tribe of Levi, shall have no portion or inheritance with Israel; they shall eat the LORD'S offerings by fire and His portion. They shall have no inheritance among their countrymen; *the LORD is their inheritance*, as He promised them.

1 Pt. 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

\*The interesting thing.

Mat. 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Jn. 14:3 Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

It's not a mansion.

Real worship is not leaving our life behind, it is bringing

**28b I have made the Lord God my refuge, That I may tell of all Your works.**

One more take-away

Asaph is like Peter...

Lk. 22:31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

Rom. 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this *grace in which we stand*; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because *the love of God has been poured out within our hearts* through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

A very sad psalm. Why?

Job 7:17 What is man that You magnify him, and that You are concerned about him, that You examine him every morning and try him every moment?

Will You never turn Your gaze away from me, nor let me alone until I swallow my spittle?

**Ps.88 A Song. A Psalm of the sons of Korah. For the choir director; according to Mahalath Leannoth (tune). A Maskil of Heman the Ezrahite.**

**1 O LORD, the God of my salvation, I have cried out by day and in the night before You.**

**2 Let my prayer come before You; Incline Your ear to my cry!**

**3 For my soul has had enough troubles, and my life has drawn near to Sheol.**

**4 I am reckoned among those who go down to the pit; I have become like a man without strength,**

**5 Forsaken (free) among the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave,  
Whom You remember no more, and they are cut off from Your hand.  
6 You have put me in the lowest pit, in dark places, in the depths.  
7 Your wrath has rested upon me, and You have afflicted me with all Your waves. Selah.  
8 You have removed my acquaintances far from me; You have made me an object of loathing to  
them; I am shut up and cannot go out.  
9 My eye has wasted away because of affliction; I have called upon You every day, O LORD; I have  
spread out my hands to You.  
10 Will You perform wonders for the dead? Will the departed spirits rise and praise You? Selah.  
11 Will Your lovingkindness be declared in the grave, Your faithfulness in Abaddon?  
12 Will Your wonders be made known in the darkness?  
And Your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?  
13 But I, O LORD, have cried out to You for help, and in the morning my prayer comes before You.  
14 O LORD, why do You reject my soul? Why do You hide Your face from me?  
15 I was afflicted and about to die from my youth on; I suffer Your terrors; I am overcome.  
16 Your burning anger has passed over me; Your terrors have destroyed me.  
17 They have surrounded me like water all day long; they have encompassed me altogether.  
18 You have removed lover and friend far from me; my acquaintances are darkness.**

The likely immediate problem-

His argument—

The language of sheol: This is not definitive language. It is poetic/evocative.

Truth:

What purpose does this cruddy ending serve?

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Rom. 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

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Job. 1:9 Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing?...11 But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face."

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## Discussion

1. How are you doing with these lament psalms? Are they helpful or discouraging?
2. If you have time, read the second half of ps. 39, the only other one that ends on a down note. What is David discouraged by? What is he, in his exhaustion, asking for?

### Psalm 39:7-13

- 7 “But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in You.
- 8 Save me from all my transgressions; do not make me the scorn of fools.
- 9 I was silent; I would not open my mouth, for You are the one who has done this.
- 10 Remove Your scourge from me; I am overcome by the blow of Your hand.
- 11 When You rebuke and discipline anyone for their sin, You consume their wealth like a moth—surely everyone is but a breath.
- 12 “Hear my prayer, LORD, listen to my cry for help; do not be deaf to my weeping. I dwell with You as a foreigner, a stranger, as all my ancestors were.
- 13 Look away from me, that I may enjoy life again before I depart and am no more.”