



# Before You Throw In The Towel

## Think About Something This Thanksgiving

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe email address is joe@southreno.com.

Psalm 73

### Asaph's Story

- Asaph was a musician King David appointed as music minister in Jerusalem.
- Asaph led the Jews in praise and worship when Israel's most sacred object—the Art of the Covenant—arrived in Jerusalem.
- Asaph and his family became one of the three Levite clans in charge of music after King Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem.
- A dozen Psalms bear his name. (Psalm 50, 73-83)
- Something happened in Asaph's life, but we don't know what.

### Lessons from Asaph's Psalm for those Thinking about Throwing in the Towel

Psalm 73

#### 1. Focusing on \_\_\_\_\_ will depress you.

**Psalm 73:1–12, HCSB** <sup>1</sup> God is indeed good to Israel, to the pure in heart. <sup>2</sup> But as for me, my feet almost slipped; my steps nearly went astray. <sup>3</sup> For I envied the arrogant; I saw the prosperity of the wicked. <sup>4</sup> They have an easy time until they die, and their bodies are well fed. <sup>5</sup> They are not in trouble like others; they are not afflicted like most people. <sup>6</sup> Therefore, pride is their necklace, and violence covers them like a garment. <sup>7</sup> Their eyes bulge out from fatness; the imaginations of their hearts run wild. <sup>8</sup> They mock, and they speak maliciously; they

arrogantly threaten oppression. <sup>9</sup> They set their mouths against heaven, and their tongues strut across the earth. <sup>10</sup> Therefore His people turn to them and drink in their overflowing words. <sup>11</sup> The wicked say, "How can God know? Does the Most High know everything?" <sup>12</sup> Look at them—the wicked! They are always at ease, and they increase their wealth.

#### 2. Focusing on \_\_\_\_\_ will disappoint you.

**Psalm 73:13–14, NLT** <sup>13</sup> Did I keep my heart pure for nothing? Did I keep myself innocent for no reason? <sup>14</sup> I get nothing but trouble all day long; every morning brings me pain.

#### 3. Focusing on \_\_\_\_\_ will deliver you.

##### A. It gives you an eternal perspective.

**Psalm 73:18–20, NLT** <sup>18</sup> Truly, you put them on a slippery path and send them sliding over the cliff to destruction. <sup>19</sup> In an instant they are destroyed, completely swept away by terrors. <sup>20</sup> When you arise, O Lord, you will laugh at their silly ideas as a person laughs at dreams in the morning.

##### B. It shows you who you really are.

**Psalm 73:21–22, NLT** <sup>21</sup> Then I realized that my heart was bitter, and I was all torn up inside. <sup>22</sup> I was so foolish and ignorant—I must have seemed like a senseless animal to you.

##### C. It shows you who God really is.

**Psalm 73:23–24, NLT** <sup>23</sup> Yet I still belong to you; You hold my right hand. <sup>24</sup> You guide me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny.

##### D. It shows you what you really have.

**Psalm 73:25–28, NCV** <sup>25</sup> I have no one in heaven but you; I want nothing on earth besides you. <sup>26</sup> My body and my mind may become weak, but God is my strength. He is mine forever. <sup>27</sup> Those who are far from God will die; you destroy those who are unfaithful. <sup>28</sup> But I am close to God, and that is good. The Lord GOD is my protection. I will tell all that you have done.

### Two Questions to Ponder this Thanksgiving

- Do you measure God's blessings by the prosperity in your life or your closeness to Him?  
(Is it "what you have from God" or "who you are in God" that moves you?)
- Do you focus on circumstances that lead you to want to "throw in the towel" or His Presence in you that leads you to "lift up praises" to God?