

Psalm 37 - The Sinner's Superficial Success

March 5, 2020

Comparing the Saint and the Sinner

Psalm 37:1-2 ESV Of David.

1 **Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!**

2 **For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.**

The Superficial Success of the Sinner

Psalm 73:1-28 ESV A Psalm of Asaph.

1 Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped.

3 For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

4 For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek.

5 They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.

6 Therefore pride is their necklace; violence covers them as a garment.

7 Their eyes swell out through fatness; their hearts overflow with follies.

8 They scoff and speak with malice; loftily they threaten oppression.

9 They set their mouths against the heavens, and their tongue struts through the earth.

The Seduction of the Saints

Psalm 73:1-28 ESV A Psalm of Asaph.

10 Therefore his people turn back to them, and find no fault in them.

11 And they say, "How can God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?"

12 Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches.

13 All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence.

14 For all the day long I have been stricken and rebuked every morning.

15 If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed the generation of your children.

The Light of God's Presence

Psalm 73:1-28 ESV A Psalm of Asaph.

16 But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task,

17 until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.

Psalm 36:9 ESV

9 ...in your light do we see light.

Romans 3:4 ESV

4 Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, "That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged."

"Wrong is wrong, even if everybody is doing it, and right is right, even if nobody is doing it."

—Augustine

The Certain and Imminent Destruction of the Sinner

Psalm 73:1-28 ESV A Psalm of Asaph.

18 Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin.

19 How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors!

20 Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as phantoms.

Matthew 16:26 ESV

26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?

Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 ESV

10 And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil.

11 Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

Romans 1:18 ESV

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

The Saint's Godly Sorrow and Safety

21 When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart,

22 I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you.

23 Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.

24 You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.

25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

27 For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.

28 But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.