



# Before You Throw In The Towel

Think About Something This Thanksgiving

Psalm 73

DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NV • NOVEMBER 20, 2016  
All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe email address is joe@southreno.com.

## 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

**A. 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?)

**B. 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?**