

## Studies in Psalms by [John T Polk II](#) For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalm 73

12/26/12

Vs. 1 states the conviction of believers that blessings have come from God;  
Vs. 2-14 state the difficulty for the believer when the wicked are blessed;  
Vs. 15-22 resolve the troubling conflict in faith;  
Vs. 23-28 show renewed confidence in the Lord God.

Asaph was "the seer" (prophet), and with David's words ([2 Chronicles 29:30](#)), wrote 12 [Psalms \(50, 73-83\)](#). When Israel was restored to their land, they were reminded of these Psalms ([Nehemiah 12:46](#)). A major stumbling-block for believers is: "Why to the wicked prosper?" This Psalm answers that question. Please re-read my study of [Psalm 37](#).

**Verse 1:** The only other time this expression ("pure in heart") is used is by Jesus ([Matthew 5:8](#)), and to "see God" ([Hebrews 12:14](#)) is to be aware of His "good" that He does ([Ephesians 1:17-18](#)).

**Verses 2-14:** It is a slippery slope for a believer to "envy" the "prosperity of the wicked" ([verses 2-3](#)). David covered this subject ([Psalm 37:1-6](#)), Solomon echoed it ([Proverbs 23:17](#)), and Paul damned it ([Galatians 5:19-21](#)). But it appears the wicked have it easy, even in death ([verse 4](#); [Job 21:7, 13](#)). Obviously the believer is incorrect at overlooking all the wicked who die horrible deaths (Jezebel, King Saul, Absalom, Ahithophel, Hitler, Mussolini, *ad nauseum*). The worldly-minded are always looking out for themselves ([verse 5](#); [Luke 16:8](#)), while the righteous are trying to love God and man ([Mark 12:29-31](#)). Believers must take a look at the dark side of the wicked's life: "pride" and "violence" ([verse 6](#)); covetousness ([verse 7](#)); their perverse language ([verses 8-9](#)) cannot be trusted.

In the words of Edward Parry: "Their tongue walketh through the earth, and leaves nothing unspoken of. If men be *poor*, they talk of oppressing and mastering of them; if they *oppose*, they discourse of violence and suppressing... If in this perambulation they meet with *truth*, they darken it with lies and home made inventions; if with *innocence*, they brand it with false accusations and bitter aspersions; if with a strict government and *good laws*, then they cry, 'Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us;' if with *religion*, they term it *heresy*, or superstition; if with *patience*, they term it obstinacy and perverseness; if with the *church*, they think of nothing less than devouring it, and cry, 'Let us take the houses of God in possession;' if with the thoughts of a resurrection, and of future hopes, 'Let us eat and drink,' cry they, 'for tomorrow we shall die.' Thus no corner is left unsearched by their *abusive tongue, which walks through the earth*." Even the ungodly are emboldened by this one-sided thinking, for they: drink his cup of sins ([verse 10](#)); falsely assume that God doesn't know of their sins ([verse 11](#)); seem to have it easy and are rich ([verse 12](#)). Meanwhile, the righteous begin thinking, "Why am I knocking myself out to be right?" ([verse 13](#)), and "Why do I question the right-ness of everything I do?" ([verse 14](#)).

**All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.**



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**Verses 15-22:** If the believer voiced these doubts, it could undermine the faith of others (**verse 15**), because just the thought of it is "too painful" for one (**verse 16**). The answer is found by going to church (**verse 17**)! When Moses built the tabernacle, God said, "And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them" (**Exodus 25:8**). That "sanctuary" then was the gathering place for God's People to worship God. Today, the temple of God is the church of Christ (**2 Corinthians 1:1; 6:16**), which no church building actually is (**Hebrews 8:2**)! Since "church" means "assembly," THEN CHRISTIANS WHO ASSEMBLE TO HEAR BIBLE PREACHING WILL BE TAUGHT THE ANSWER TO THIS MOST TROUBLING QUESTION! Bible lessons include the destruction of the wicked (**verses 18-20**), and the foolishness and ignorance of believers who forget these lessons (**verses 21-22**)!

**Verses 23-28:** The believer must resolve to be led by faith (**verse 23**) and saved by God (**verse 24**). Faith revolves around these truths: (1) God is faithful in Heaven (**verse 25; 2 Corinthians 1:18**); (2) we must be faithful on earth (**verse 26; 2 Timothy 2:11-13**); (3) God destroys those who "desert" Him (**verse 27; Proverbs 13:9; Matthew 7:21-23**); (4) our lives are best when we "draw near to God" (**verse 28; James 4:7-8**).

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