

# The Nearness of God is My Good

Proclamation Wednesday Gathering; Psalm 73:1-28; Week of Sunday, August 19, 2018; Steve Thiel

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Sermon Theme: Possessing Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord is all that we should ever want or need, because only in Him is the nearness of God our good. And when He is the only thing that we desire, our hearts are filled with an overwhelming joy and a zeal to share with others.

## I. A Struggling Faith – Read Psalm 73:1-15

- A. What in these verses gives us confidence that Asaph truly has saving faith in Christ?
- B. How does verse 3 help us identify why Asaph is struggling in his faith? What evidence does he give us in verses 4-5? List all the different things that are causing him to struggle.
- C. Why do you think Asaph says in verse 13, “*All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence?*” Have you ever been tempted to feel like that? When and why?
- D. As you look around you, what causes you to struggle the most in your faith?

## II. An Eternal Perspective – Read Psalm 73:16-20

- A. What event in Asaph’s life causes him to have a right understanding of the world around him? Why do you think that is? What is so significant about the sanctuary of God?
- B. If you could explain exactly what it is that Asaph came to understand in verses 16-20, how would you describe it? What is the significant shift in his orientation and understanding?
- C. From a theological point of view, what does the sanctuary represent? How is that helpful?
- D. Asaph shifts from thinking about all of life from a temporary earthly perspective to an eternal heavenly perspective. How would that same shift be helpful and encouraging in your life?

## III. A Transforming Truth – Read Psalm 73:21-28

- A. As you think about God’s response in verses 23 and 24 in light of Asaph’s wrong thinking in verses 21 and 22, how and why is that so encouraging to us as believers in Christ?
- B. Do you truly desire nothing on earth, but God? If not, how do we recognize the idols of our heart and start the process of tearing them down and worshiping Christ alone in all that we do?
- C. How do verses 27 and 28 serve as a summary for the entire Psalm? What are Asaph’s conclusions and convictions? How would you like to grow in those same areas in your life?