REALISTIC CONTENTMENT

Finding Peace in Our Portion

"Nevertheless, I am continually with you…and there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." Psalm 73:23–26

1 A Testimony Born from Inner Conflict

Psalm 73 records a crisis of faith as Asaph struggled to reconcile God's goodness with the prosperity of the wicked.

- First psalm of Book 3, a.k.a. the "dark book"
- Song of instruction/wisdom psalm
- Written by Asaph, a gifted worship leader
- Goal: a call to wisdom in the midst of lamentation

2 Trouble: When Perception Fuels Perplexion

Like Asaph, we can feel discontent when our experiences seem out of step with God's promises.

> *"Truly God is good to Israel… But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled… for I was envious of the arrogant."* Ps. 73:1–3

Key Truth: Discontentment often grows when our perception of life challenges what we know or believe about God.

3 Turn: Discernment in Disillusionment

Asaph did not ignore his doubts. Instead, he sought God's wisdom to interpret his circumstances rightly.

> *"When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply until I entered the sanctuary of God."* Ps. 73:16–17 (NIV)

Key Truth: Inner conflict is productive when it drives us to seek God's wisdom in Christ.

4 Truth: Reorienting Our Hearts

Asaph remembered that his portion was not rooted in the *seen* and *temporal*, but in the *unseen* and *eternal*.

> *"You hold my right hand… you guide me with your counsel… whom have I in heaven but you?"* Ps. 73:23–26

Key Truth: Our true portion is found in God—who faithfully grasps, guides, and glorifies us in Christ.

5 Testimony: Wisdom Leads to Rest & Peace

Asaph finds peace not through changed circumstances, but through receiving God's rest and renewing his trust in God's goodness.

> *"It is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all of your works."* Ps. 73:28

Key Truth: Wisdom redeems inner conflict by deepening faith and fostering witness.

Additional Notes

- "Keyhole" Theology: Drawing conclusions about who God is based on perception, not truth.
- Christ is God's wisdom: Col. 2:3, 1 Cor. 1:24, 30
- Christ raises temple ruins: John 2:18–22, Matt. 27:38–40, Mark 14:58
- The redeemed are God's temple: 1 Cor. 3:16, 6:19, 2 Cor. 6:16, Eph. 2:21–22, 1 Pt. 2:5

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