



First Baptist Church of Cypress
THE ROAD TO RECOVERY
PSALM 73

Pastor Trevor Cooper
September 6, 2020

Good evening Church! Turn to your Bibles to the center and find the book of Psalms. We are going to read the 73rd psalm together and talk about what it takes to make Christ the center of our lives. There are certainly a lot of things to gain that the world has to offer. Pleasurable, comfortable, self-satisfying, and quick & easy-type things that we consume until it runs out and then we consume more and more. The worldly well has run dry, but Jesus offers “living water” that will never run dry! When we get caught up in culture and consumerism, where do we turn to? How can we recover? Is there a way to get on the right road, the Road to Recovery...? Every time Jesus spoke to a crowd, He looked at it as a multiplied opportunity for individual conquest. The psalm begins with praising God for His goodness, which comes after a long struggle with what is observed in the world, especially the prosperity of the wicked. Today, may God’s word gently persuade all believers, our church, but also you as an individual.

Listen to the theme verse of this message today and consider how God speaks to you personally: “Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. ²⁶My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” **Psalm 73:25-26**

1. The UNCERTAINTY Over the PROSPERITY of the Wicked (v. 1-14)

A. Their PROSPERITY v. 1-5

- Reaching SUCCESS in this physical world is losing ACCESS to the eternal world to come.

*A novelist Jack Higgins is author of his best-known book *The Eagle has Landed*. Someone asked him, “What is it that you now know that you wished you knew as a young man?” Jack Higgins said, “I wish somebody had told me then, when you get to the top, there is nothing there.”*

B. Their PRIDE v. 6-9

- PRIDE allows us to become INSENSITIVE to others and God by overindulgence.

*“For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.” **1 John 2:16***

C. Their PRESUMPTION v. 10-14

2. The PROCLAMATION of the JUSTICE of God (v. 15-28)

A. His PERSPECTIVE v. 15-17

- In order to understand God's PERSPECTIVE on the fate of the wicked we must enter the PRESENCE of God.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels."

Matthew 25:35-41

B. His JUDGMENTS v. 18-20

C. His GUIDANCE v. 21-28

- There is a sin to CONFESS.
- There is a relationship to RESTORE.
- There is a truth to UNDERSTAND.
- There is a God to DESIRE.

*"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39** neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." **Romans 8:38-39***

Dallas Cowboys player was interviewed by a reporter, after their Super Bowl victory of '96 and said, "Something has happened to you in recent times, What is it?" The man looked at the report and said that I have committed my life to Jesus Christ. "When did this happen?" the reporter asked. He said, "I remember exactly when it happened. It was the night we won the Super Bowl a couple of years ago. I went back home and laid in bed thinking 'I have won every coveted award I had ever set for myself and yet I am lonelier and emptier than ever before. I knew I needed something more than a Super Bowl ring, I needed God."