

Comparing Yourself To the World is a

DANGEROUS TRAP

How do you stay out of it?

Psalm 73 – a Psalm by Asaph who was a Worship Leader for Israel. He almost spoke out against God and almost walked away from God because he was envying the good lives of wicked people.

CONFESSION OF DOUBTING GOD AND WHY

1 Truly God is good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart. 2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped. 3 For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

LOOK HOW AWESOME UNBELIEVERS' LIVES ARE!

4 For there are no pangs in their death, But their strength is firm. 5 They are not in trouble as other men, Nor are they plagued like other men. 6 Therefore pride serves as their necklace; Violence covers them like a garment. 7 Their eyes bulge with abundance; They have more than heart could wish. 8 They scoff and speak wickedly concerning oppression; They speak loftily. 9 They set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue walks through the earth. 10 Therefore his people return here, And waters of a full cup are drained by them. 11 And they say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?" 12 Behold, these are the ungodly, Who are always at ease; They increase in riches.

MY LIFE STINKS COMPARED TO THEM! IS BEING A CHRISTIAN EVEN WORTH IT?

13 Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain, And washed my hands in innocence. 14 For all day long I have been plagued, And chastened every morning. 15 If I had said, "I will speak thus," Behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children. 16 When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me—

THE TURNING POINT!

17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end.

THE FUTURE OF UNBELIEVERS IS TERRIBLE AND CERTAIN AND MY CONFESSION OF SIN FOR WANTING TO BE LIKE THEM.

18 Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. 19 Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors. 20 As a dream when one awakes, So, Lord, when You awake, You shall despise their image. 21 Thus my heart was grieved, And I was vexed in my mind. 22 I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You.

REMINDING MYSELF OF TRUTH ABOUT GOD'S GRACE AND LOVE AND CARE IN WORSHIP/PRAISE

23 Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand. 24 You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory. 25 Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. 26 My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. 27 For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry.

PERSONAL COURSE OF ACTION – WHAT DO I HAVE CONTROL OVER? WHAT CAN I DO? (SEE VERSE 25 AND 26 ALSO)

28 But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, That I may declare all Your works.

