



“When There’s Struggle in Providence”

Ps. 73 • part 8

I. Review

‘Wading into deep theological waters’ requires careful reflection on the character and nature of God.

- ~~ Cain — represents the seed of the wicked one
- ~~ David — represents the seed of the righteous

II. Proverbs 3:33-35

The clear contrast between the wicked and the righteous causes us to challenge the notion that God is *gracious* toward the wicked.

III. Understanding Asaph’s confusion:

- ~~ If it’s God’s grace that blesses the wicked, then what are we to make of the troubles and afflictions of believers?
- ~~ What is God doing when He buries the wicked in apparent prosperity?

IV. Old Testament testimony about the wicked

Ps. 11:5-7; Job 30:23; Proverbs 10:6-7; 15:9, 26; 16:4
Psalm 5:5-6; 145:20; Ezra 8:22

V. Viewing God’s mysterious providence *negatively*...

- ~~ Can lead one to question God’s goodness to us
- ~~ Can injure the spiritual life of God’s people
- ~~ Wonders if it isn’t better to be wicked than pure in heart?

VI. God’s *gracious* revelation about the wicked

- ~~ God’s grace and mercy would never allow the pure in heart to be consumed in terrors and cast down to destruction
- ~~ God’s providence sets the wicked up for _____

VII. Viewing God’s mysterious providence *carelessly*

- ~~ No man knows the intention of God’s heart toward him by the providence He demonstrates in their lives — Job
- ~~ God knows exactly what He is doing with His creatures
- ~~ The ‘overly righteous/overly wicked’ problem: Ecc. 7:13-18
- ~~ Why destroy yourself ‘second-guessing’ God’s providence?

VIII. More truths about the wicked

- ~~ The workers of iniquity flourish only to be _____ forever
Psalm 92:7
- ~~ God’s grace doesn’t teach the wicked _____
Isaiah 26:10-11
- ~~ The triumph of the wicked is _____ lived
Job 20:24

IX. Question: When is God enough for you?

- ~~ After all the ‘booty’ is apportioned ... is your God still good?
- ~~ If God is all of your portion, why worry about His providence to the wicked?