

Why do the wicked Prosper  
Psalm 73  
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show the importance of understanding the right view of the wicked.

- Intro:
1. There is no doubt that at times it seems the wicked prosper while the righteous struggle.
  2. However, we want to always remember what God and His Word tell us about such things.

I. Asaph and the wicked (v.1-20)

A. The Trouble

1. The prosperity of the godless (v.3-12)
  - a. They enjoy health and wealth (v.3-4)
  - b. They have no worries or problems (v.5)
  - c. They are proud and cruel (v.6)
  - d. They have seemingly everything (v.7)
  - e. They are arrogant toward God and people (v.8-12)
2. The pain of the godly (v.1-2, 13-16)
  - a. He feels like he is about to fall off a cliff (v.1-2)
  - b. His life of purity seems unrewarded (v.13)
  - c. He is constantly plagued with problems (v.14-16)

B. The Clarification (v.17-20)

1. Where he found understanding (v.17)
2. What he understood (v.18-20)
  - a. The wicked are on a slippery path to destruction
  - b. The present life of the wicked is but a dream (v.20): They will vanish from the earth when the Lord arises.

II. Asaph and God (v.21-28)

A. God is guiding him (v.21-24)

1. Asaph's foolishness (v.21-22)
2. God's guidance (v.23-24)

B. God watched over him (v.25-28)

1. God is all that He has (v.25)
2. Asaph will fail without God (v.26)
3. The wicked will be punished by God (v.27), but not the righteous.
4. The righteous however do well by drawing near to God (v.28)
  - a. The righteous will declare or boast about God and His works, specially His guidance.

III. Lessons for us today.

A. The wicked do not go unpunished (v.18-20)

1. **Ecc 3:16-17**
2. Appearances are not always what they seem.

- a. God is not slack on His promises (**2 Pt 3:9**)
- B. The righteous do not go unrewarded
  - 1. Man can rest in hope knowing God rewards the faithful (**Ps 16:6-9**)

**Application & Conclusion:**

- 1. The compassions of God never fail for the faithful.
- 2. The mercies of God are every morning, they are always present & available.
- 3. Though the righteous seem to suffer while the wicked prosper only the faithful follower of God has true hope.
  - a. Because their hope is in God (**Lam 3:22-25**)
- 3. Full Invitation

**Non-Christians must:**

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

**Christians must:**

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9