



Finding Good in Hard Times

Psalm 73

What if: You put your dollar in and you do not get your Dr. Pepper out?

- **Tension:** Life has plenty of ways in which things don't work, don't make sense, and leave us wondering why we are knocking ourselves out to live right.

What Asaph believes—his theological declaration: God is good to His people who are totally committed to Him. (v 1)

What Asaph actually experienced: Wicked people prosper and he was chastened despite his spiritual exertion. (vv 1-14)

- He nearly stumbled spiritually because he envied the wicked. (vv 2, 3)
- He had plenty of evidence that wicked people prosper. (vv 4-12)
- He was tempted to doubt the value of his own spiritual exertion. (vv 13, 14)

What happened to change Asaph's mind: He came into the presence of God—the one totally true and sane Being in the universe—and was recalibrated about the sudden destruction of the wicked. (vv 15-20)

- Recalibration #1 His bitterness nearly betrayed his fellow believers. (vv 15, 16)
- Recalibration #2 His mind and heart were changed in the presence of God. (v 17)
- Recalibration #3 He saw that the wicked are destroyed suddenly. (vv 18-20)

Asaph's Joyous Discovery: Even in his confusion, doubts, and bitterness God did not abandon him—He was continuously with him. (vv 21-24)

Asaph's Most Joyous Discovery: The essence of God is being near to God. (vv 25-28)

- **Please do not miss this:** The essence of good, no matter what is happening to me or around me, is the nearness of God.

The essence of good: An abandoned bus. A broken down car. A climbing plane.

