

BELPRES CHURCH

Sermon Title: In The Sanctuary

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Scripture: Psalm 73:1-7, 12-14, 16-26

- ¹Surely God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.
- ²But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;
I had nearly lost my foothold.
- ³For I envied the arrogant
When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
- ⁴They have no struggles;
their bodies are healthy and strong.
- ⁵They are free from common human burdens;
they are not plagued by human ills.
- ⁶Therefore pride is their necklace;
they clothe themselves with violence.
- ⁷From their callous hearts comes iniquity
their evil imaginations have no limits.
- ¹²This is what the wicked are like—
Always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.
- ¹³Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure
and have washed my hands in innocence.
- ¹⁴All day long I have been afflicted,
and every morning brings new punishments.
- ¹⁶When I tried to understand all this,
it troubled me deeply
- ¹⁷Till I entered the sanctuary of God;
then I understood their final destiny.
- ¹⁸Surely you place them on slippery ground;
you cast them down to ruin.
- ¹⁹How suddenly are they destroyed,
completely swept away by terrors!
- ²⁰They are like a dream when one awakes;
when you arise, Lord,
you will despise them as fantasies.

- 21 When my heart was grieved
and my spirit embittered,
22 I was senseless and ignorant;
I was a brute beast before you.
23 Yet I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.
24 You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will take me into glory.
25 Whom have I in heaven but you?
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.
26 My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.

Discussion Questions:

Opening Question

- Icebreaker: What is one thing that is on your "bucket list"?
- Looking back, were you able to apply any of the things we talked about last time to your life this week? What did you do? How did it go?

Scripture Reflection Questions - Read this week's scripture together and discuss the following:

- What do we learn about God (e.g., traits, personality, what matters, priorities) in this passage and sermon?
- What do we learn about people, and ourselves in particular, this week?

Sermon Reflection Questions

- To what might the "Sanctuary of God" refer?
- What specifically changes once the Psalmist enters God's Sanctuary?
How would you fill in the blanks in this sentence: In God's Sanctuary the Psalmist goes from _____ to _____? Why the change?

Closing Question and Application

- Given what we've discussed together today, how might God want you to apply these learnings to your life or in the life of your community this next week?
- Who might you share this with?

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