

BLESSED HOPE

BHBC



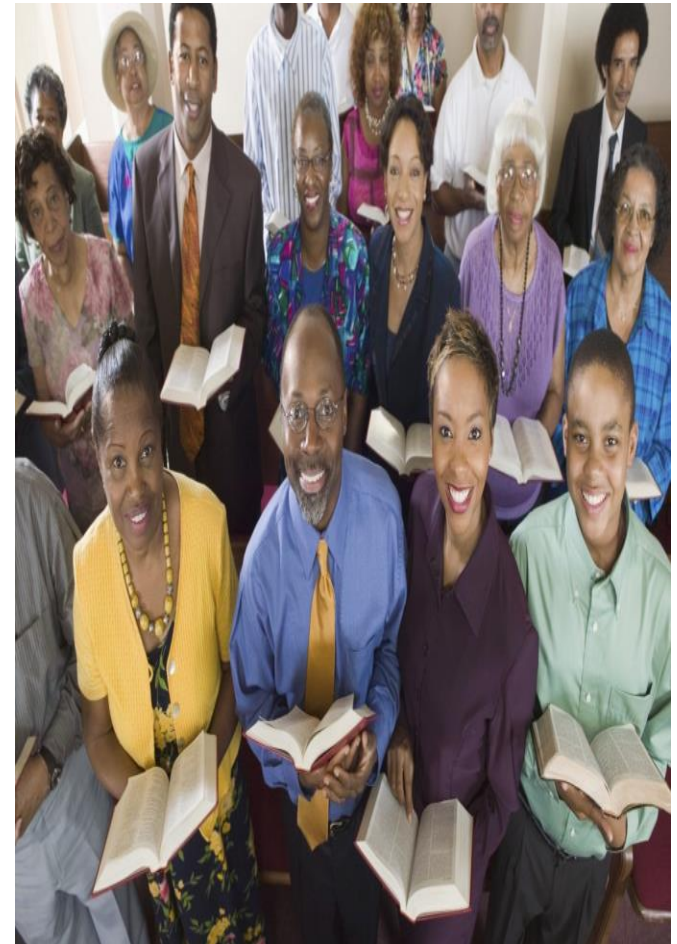
BIBLE CHURCH

# Blessed Hope Bible Church

[www.bhbcbstl.org](http://www.bhbcbstl.org)



***Learning ...  
Loving ...  
Leaning ...  
Living ...  
Leading ...  
By the Word  
of God***





# **LESSONS FROM THE WISDOM PSALMS**

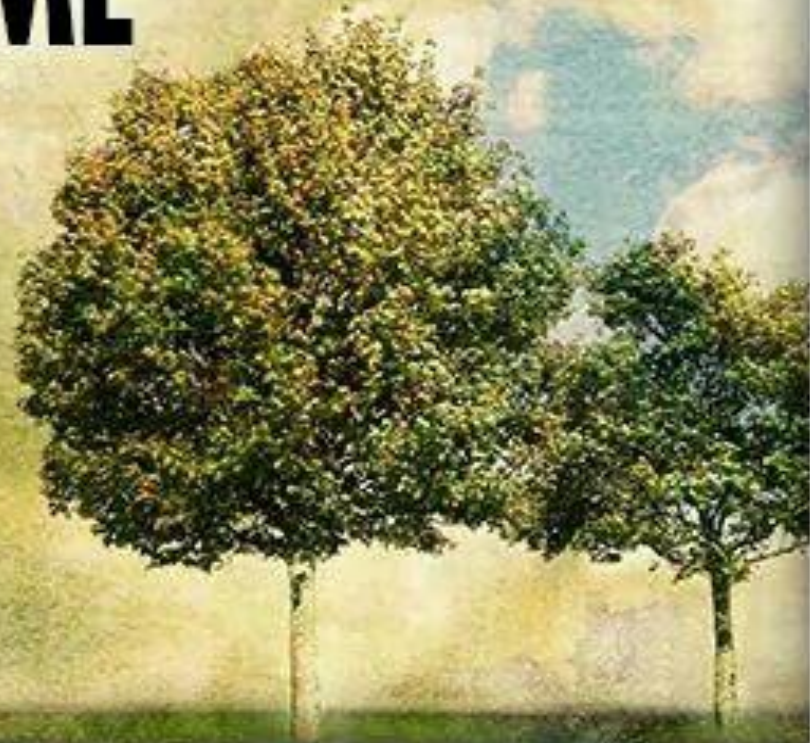


# **IS GOD REALLY GOOD?**

## **PSALM 73**



**GOD IS GOOD  
ALL THE TIME  
AND ALL THE TIME  
GOD IS  
GOOD.**



# INTRODUCTION

- Psalm 73 is a wisdom psalm
  - Wisdom psalms are not prayers to God for praise or protection
  - Wisdom psalms are lessons that teach us to trust in the Lord in all circumstances.
- Psalm 73 was written by Asaph, a leader of one of the temple choirs, who lived during the time of David and was famous for his skills as a musician.
- In Psalm 73, Asaph is helping us to deal with a real moral paradox in life.

# A Question that people keep asking

- How can an infinitely powerful God be good, and yet allow the **wicked** (i.e., evil, malicious and immoral people) to prosper, and the **righteous** (i.e., people who believe in God) to suffer?
  - It seems that those who believe that they don't need God are doing just fine in their lives without Him.
  - It seems that those who believe in God, who love the Lord and trust in the Lord, suffer greatly in life.



- In Psalm 73, Asaph will help us consider the goodness of God in light of the moral paradox that we all see in life.
- **Sermon Lesson:** How we really look at the **goodness** of God will determine how faithful we will be to the Lord, regardless of our difficulties or circumstances.
  - From Asaph's observation in Psalm 73 we will look at TWO major contrasting perspectives on the goodness of God.
  - The perspective you follow will determine your faithfulness to God.



# THE GOODNESS OF GOD FROM A GODLESS PERSPECTIVE 73:1-14

- **The Theological Problem:** If God is good, why does it seem like the wicked get a way with their deeds?



– **Evidence #1:** It seems that the wicked live good lives without God. 73:4-9

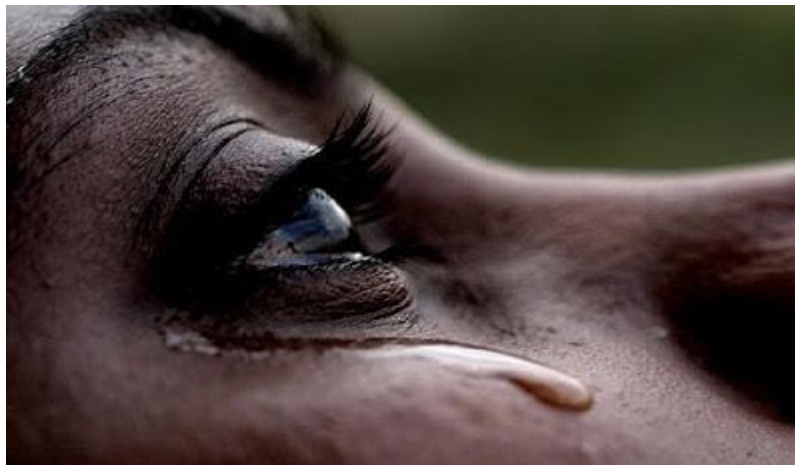
- The wicked **seem** to have good health, a long life, and a painless death (v.4).
- The wicked **seem** to be exempt from trouble as other men, i.e., they seem to live a comfortable, peaceful, trouble-free life (v.5).
- The wicked **seem** to be very successful in life, that is why they display an air of public arrogance, shameless violence (i.e., cruelty and injustice to others with the assumption that they will get away with it), and gluttony (vs.6-7).
- The wicked **seem** to get away with being disrespectful because they brag about their security (i.e., nothing is going to happen to me), and they mocking shoot off their mouth against God and spiritual things as they boast and brag before men everywhere (vs.8-9).

- **Evidence #2:** It seems like the wicked are approved by men for the way they live (I.e., God's judgment seems non-existent). 73:10-12
  - The wicked **seem** to have many followers who want to imitate their lifestyle (e.g., many of our young people want to imitate the ghetto thug) v.10a
  - The wicked **seem** to have many people listening to everything they say (i.e., they drink in everything they say) v.10b
  - The wicked **seem** to be wise and logical with their ridicule and skepticism about God (e.g., this is because they do not experience the immediate judgment of God for their deeds—thus they conclude that either God does not know or care) v.11
  - The wicked **seem** to have a life of luxury and wealth that is pleasing to most men. Vs.12



– **Evidence #3:** It seems that living the godly life is a waste of time and energy, and that it is foolishness of the mind. 73:13-14

- It **seems** like it is a waste of time to cleanse one's heart (i.e., to go to God with the confession of personal sin with a contrite heart), because it does not seem change one's outward miserable circumstances. (vs.13)
- It **seems** like it is a waste of time living for the Lord, because all the godly have nothing to look forward to but suffering, frustration, pain, and depression. (vs.14)



- **The Negative Conclusion:** God does not know or care about what men do, therefore, if God exist, He is not good or fair!
  - **Three kinds of people come up with this conclusion:**
    - **The atheist:** “I don’t believe that God even exist”
    - **The agnostic:** “I am not sure that God exist, since no one can really prove the existence of God or know for sure that a God even exist”
    - **The pagan:** “I don’t care if God exist, I live my life as if God does not exist, because I don’t believe He cares one way or the other.”
  - **The result of this conclusion:** Doubt, uncertainty, insecurity, unbelief, ungodliness, a life of self-centeredness.

- **QUESTION: IS THIS YOUR CONCLUSION??**
  - Your answer will determine if you will live for God.
  - Your answer will determine if you will be faithful to God, no matter what your outward circumstances look like.



**No One Can  
Know  
The Good Life  
Without  
God.**



# THE GOODNESS OF GOD FROM A GODLY PERSPECTIVE 73:15-28

- **The Statement Of Faith:** God is good to His people, in spite of the inequalities, abuses, oppression, and sufferings of all kinds in the world (i.e., these are caused by the sinfulness of man NOT the goodness of God).



LIFE IS MEANINGLESS  
WITHOUT GOD

- **Basis #1:** This conviction of faith does not come from **human speculations** about God. 73:15-16
  - Human speculation leads to a false, misguided view of God (i.e., “I would have untrue to the generation of Your children”)
  - Human speculation only feeds doubt, fear, emotional turmoil (i.e., “it was too painful for me”), and even ungodly and immoral living (e.g., if you are not living right, it is because you are not thinking right!!!)



- **Basis #2:** This conviction of faith comes from an **attitude** of worship of God, which leads to right thinking about God. 73:17-20
  - When one goes to the house of the Lord (i.e., the house of worship), the worship of God will help us see the inequalities of life from God's perspective.
    - We are reminded of who God is and what He is like
    - We are reminded of what God has done
    - We are reminded of His promises to those who trust in Him
  - When one goes to the house of the Lord, the worship of God will help us see that God will make all wrongs right (i.e., He will vindicate those who trust in Him; He will hold all men responsible and accountable for their actions here on earth)



- **Basis #3:** This conviction of faith comes from an **attitude** of worship which leads to personal confidence in God, in spite of difficult times and circumstances. 73:21-26
  - With this confidence, we will begin to realize that thinking like the world is ignorant and shortsighted (vs.21-22)
  - With this confidence, we will begin to realize what we really have in the Lord (vs. 23-24)
    - “I am continually with You” (i.e., the Lord is always with me)
    - “You hold me by my right hand” (i.e., You lead me in the right way in which I should be going personally).
    - “You will guide me with Your counsel” (i.e., You give me wisdom to make sound, moral, and good decisions)
    - “You will receive me to glory” (i.e., You give me the hope of eternal life with You in heaven)

- With this confidence, we will begin to realize our dependency upon God (vs.25-26)
  - “Whom have I in heaven but You?”
  - “There is none upon earth that I desire besides You.”
  - “My flesh and my heart fail; but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”
- With this confidence, we will begin to realize the value of living for the Lord (vs.27-28)
  - “Those who are far from You shall perish” (i.e., those who attempt to live without God in their lives)
  - “You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry (i.e., idolatry, false religion, and false worship)
  - “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’ (i.e., God is so good that I want to tell every one every where about how good He is).

- **The Positive Conclusion:** God knows and God cares about what men do, therefore, God is good!!
  - **Note this very carefully:** No one can give you this attitude of worship and confidence in the Lord.
    - We can be taught how to worship
    - We can be forced to attend a worship service
    - Only God through His Spirit can give us this proper attitude—which comes from personal trust in Him.
  - **The real issue:** It is not that pain, suffering, affliction, sorrow, frustration, depression, inequalities, abuses, and oppression exist (these exist because of the sinfulness of man); it is that God is good no matter what we must face in this life.

# **A CHALLENGE FOR YOU**

## **IS GOD GOOD?**

- Your belief will determine your faithfulness to God.
- Your belief will determine the way you even worship God



**God is good all  
the time.**

**All the time  
God is good.**



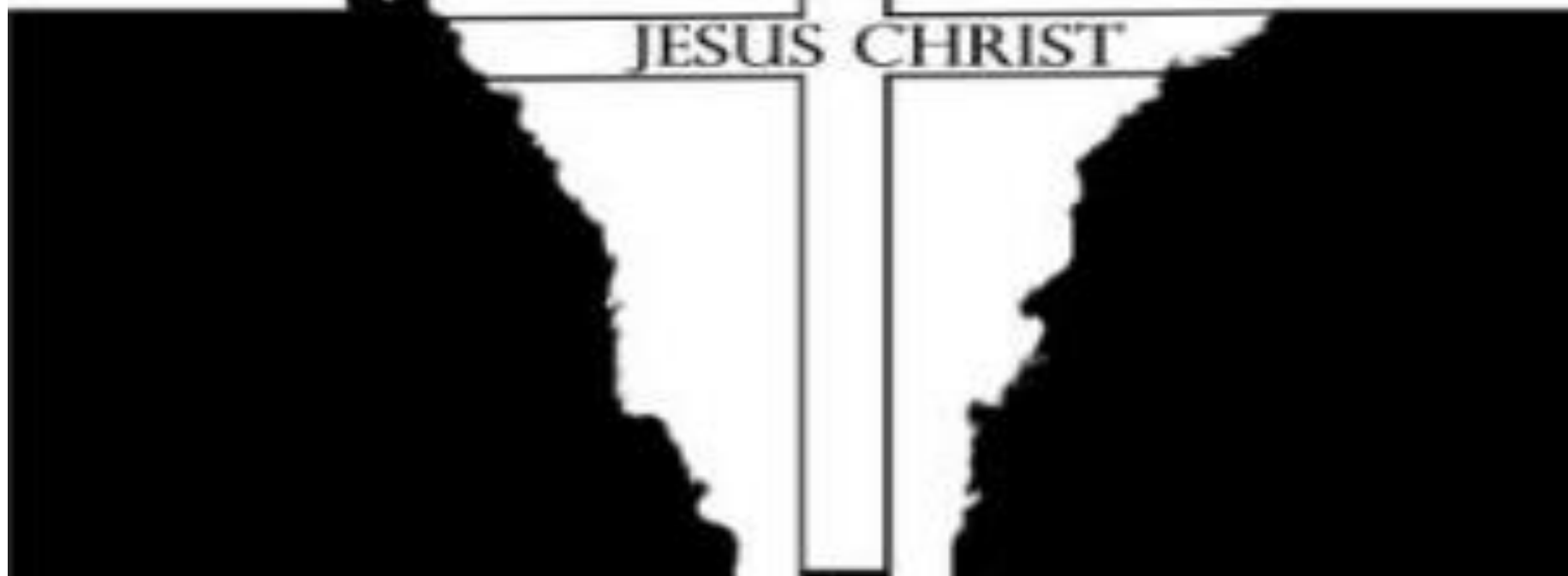
RECEIVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR  
SAVIOUR TODAY!!



GOD HAS PROVIDED THE  
ONLY WAY...WE MUST MAKE  
THE CHOICE



JESUS CHRIST



1. **Acknowledge** that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died on the cross for your sin, and that He arose again from the dead on the third day.
2. **Admit** that you are a sinner, **guilty** of sin and **responsible** and **accountable** to a holy God for your sin, and that you are under His just condemnation and eternal punishment for your sin.
3. **Affirm** that the Lord Jesus Christ is your Lord and Saviour by **receiving** His provision of salvation through your faith in Him alone.