

Till I Entered the Sanctuary of God (Psalm 73:17)

Adapted from:

www.sermonseeds.org/Master%20Index.htm

For more downloadable teachings see:

www.altogetherlovely.org (FREE TEACHINGS)

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®.

Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 Biblica. Used by permission of Zondervan.

All rights reserved. The "NIV" and "New International Version" trademarks are registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica. Use of either trademark requires the permission of Biblica.

Till I entered the sanctuary of God

A psalm of Asaph.

Surely God is good to Israel,

- God is good. His essence is GOOD. This verse reaffirms it by saying, “SURELY, God is good to Israel”.
to those who are pure in heart. (73:1)

Till I entered the sanctuary of God

- This reminds us of Matthew 5:8, **“Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God.”**
- Yet, it is impossible to have a pure heart!!
- So by faith we can trust in Christ’s pure heart – Christ living His life “in” us and “through” us!!

Till I entered the sanctuary of God

But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. (73:2)

- **The Psalmist becomes honest. Honesty is still the best policy!!**
- **He recognizes that he had struggled and put himself on slippery, dangerous ground in his walk with God.**
- **The Holy Spirit leads us into “all truth” – sometimes the truth of “who He is” and sometimes “of our sin”.**

Till I entered the sanctuary of God

For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. (73:3)

- Envy and jealousy can get us into much trouble.
- We are to be “content” in all circumstances – whether good or bad.

Till I entered the sanctuary of God

They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. (73:4)

- The Psalmist begins to think more and more about those not walking with God.
- He sees they have few struggles and their bodies are healthy and strong.

Till I entered the sanctuary of God

They are free from the burdens common to man; they are not plagued by human ills. (73:5)

- **He sees those not walking with God are living a good life and not struggling.**

Till I entered the sanctuary of God

**Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves
with violence. (73:6)**

- **He recognizes though, their pride and violence.**

Till I entered the sanctuary of God

**From their callous hearts comes iniquity; the evil
conceits of their minds know no limits. (73:7)**

- **He sees their “callous hearts” and “evil minds”.**

Till I entered the sanctuary of God

They scoff, and speak with malice; in their arrogance they threaten oppression.

Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth.

Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance.

They say, "How can God know? Does the Most High have knowledge?"

This is what the wicked are like— always carefree, they increase in wealth. (73:8-12)

- This is what the wicked are like to the Psalmist. They have everything and no discomfort.

Till I entered the sanctuary of God

Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence. (73:13)

- **The Psalmist begins thinking about all the trouble he has gone through keeping his heart pure and his life innocent of evil doings.**

Till I entered the sanctuary of God

All day long I have been plagued; I have been punished every morning.

If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed your children.

When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me (73:14-16)

- **As the Psalmist tries to understand his life it became “oppressive” to him. Until.....**

Till I entered the sanctuary of God

till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood
their final destiny.

- This is our “key verse”.
- He stops using his own reasoning
he enters the “sanctuary of God”
God’s presence.
- In God’s sanctuary he sees things as they really are.

Till I entered the sanctuary of God

- **We can not trust our own thinking but must line our thinking up with God's**
- **We must enter God's wonderful, amazing presence and allow God to show us "truth".**
- **The truth is that the "wicked" have a destiny "apart from God."**
- **What looks so good really is nothingthis life is temporary, short, "but a breath".**

Till I entered the sanctuary of God

Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin.

How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors!

As a dream when one awakes, so when you arise, O Lord, you will despise them as fantasies. (73:18-20)

- We continue to see their true condition without God.

Till I entered the sanctuary of God

When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered,
I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.
(73:21-22)

- The Psalmist recognizes how foolish his thinking was.
- His heart had been grieved and spirit embittered for no good reason.

Till I entered the sanctuary of God

**Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand.
(73:23)**

- **The wonderful truth.....God is always with us!!**
- **The wonderful truth..... God holds us by His right hand!!**

Till I entered the sanctuary of God

You guide me with your counsel, (73:24)

- We are guided by the counsel of God. He is **“WONDERFUL COUNSELOR”**.

Till I entered the sanctuary of God

and afterward you will take me into glory. (73:24)

- **Oh, to be in God's glory. Someone asked me what "heaven" is like. I replied, "It is the unrestricted presence of God". God, fully filling our spirit, soul, mind, emotions, and body. Unrestricted and "without limit".....forever and ever and ever and ever and ever and ever.**

Till I entered the sanctuary of God

Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. (73:25)

- **There will be nobody greater in heaven than God.**
- **And can we truly say, “And earth has nothing I desire besides you.” We truly need to allow God to “give us the desires of our heartHimself”.**

Till I entered the sanctuary of God

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. (73:26)

- **We may have physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual struggles.**
- **but God is the strength of my heart**
- **and God is my portion forever.....and ever, and ever.....**

Till I entered the sanctuary of God

Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you. (73:27)

- **This is the true condition of those who don't know God.**

Till I entered the sanctuary of God

But as for me, it is good to be near God. (73:28)

- Ah, the Psalmist is not talking nonsense anymore.
- He says, “But as for me”.....as declaration about himself “only” not about others but “his” declaration.
- He declares, “it is good to be near God.” Isn’t it good to be near God!!!

Till I entered the sanctuary of God

I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds. (73:29)

- Many put their trust in “things” that are not eternal. But the Psalmist declares he has made the Sovereign Lord “his refuge”. Is God “your refuge”?
- Finally, what else is there to do but declare, **“I WILL TELL OF ALL YOUR DEEDS.”**

Till I entered the sanctuary of God

- **LET'S PRAY:**