

This is the key to appreciating the goodness of God and maintaining personal purity, especially when the world uses temporary circumstances to try to create doubt (Psa. 73:1-2). Now more than ever, we become aware of the wealth, power, and pleasures many in the world enjoy (Psa. 73:3-5) due to the interconnectedness of society through various media. Thus, people who would otherwise be content find new reasons to envy, sometimes just through a simple post on Facebook or Twitter. However, while the material wealth of the wicked may have an appeal, we too easily forget about the character many have used to procure it (Psa. 73:6-9). Christians marvel at their worldly friends who seem to have everything they could possibly desire. It would be easy, if divorced from eternity, to fall into the trap of accepting their philosophy and worldview in justification (Psa. 73:10-11). Such a snare, dependent upon a short-term view of man's existence, has great spiritual consequences. When people concentrate solely on the material (Psa. 73:12), they also cease to appreciate the spiritual (Psa. 73:13), including the rebuke that God offers to such self-absorption (Psa. 73:14). It is thus this realization of the true consequences of worldliness and separation from the godly that provides a needed course correction to our thinking (Psa. 73:15). However, as Asaph found, the recognition of this conflict can be difficult, even after the decision to remain faithful to God (Psa. 73:16). But his next statement powerfully points all who follow back to righteousness: "Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end" (Psa. 73:17). Bowing down before God, bringing eternity into view, and listening to His Word brought all the perspective and answers he needed. God will judge the wicked (Psa. 73:18) and their wealth and power has an end (Psa. 73:19-20). The world presents itself as permanent, when it is the most temporary of all. Therefore, it is essential to remind ourselves daily of the value of the soul, the value of forgiveness, and the value of eternal life. These have lasting value with which material benefit cannot compare.

It is easy to fall under the spell of materialism and worldliness, and coming to your senses to see their folly can be a humbling experience (Psa. 73:21-22). But this can produce great growth as well, because we learn to trust the wisdom of God as the only sure Guide into eternity (Psa. 73:23-24). From this we learn true devotion and the true nature of this world (Psa. 73:25-27). And from this we gain a purpose that transcends the physical universe (Psa. 73:28). God does not condone wickedness, nor does He ignore it. He allows it today, and it tests us in the present. But the key is following God's revealed will regardless, so that the eternal is what we follow into eternity.

Order of Service

Opening Remarks		Clay Bond
Song Leader		Tom Barr
Song #732	<i>We Praise Thee, O God</i>	
Song #473	<i>O How I Love Jesus</i>	
Prayer		Leonard Meredith
Song #645	<i>The Old Rugged Cross</i>	
Communion		Russell Haydon Sam Tabet
Song #190	<i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i>	
Song #68	<i>Because He Lives</i>	
Sermon		Clay Bond
Song #208	<i>He Is Able to Deliver Thee</i>	
Offering		
Closing Remarks		Clay Bond
Song #231	<i>Hilltops of Glory</i>	
Dismissal Prayer		Don Petrosky, Jr.

Upcoming Events:

- Dec. 16th Holiday Dinner at the Bond's home after evening worship

Special Note: Joyce Lyda remains in Seton Round Rock ICU Rm. 202 on a ventilator. Joyce is being treated for double pneumonia, sepsis and several other conditions. Please keep Joyce, Warren and their children in your prayers.

Wednesday Devotional

- Dec. 12th Chris Windham
- Dec. 19th Don Petrosky, Sr.
- Dec. 26th Don Petrosky, Jr.

...Prayer List...

Gay Kyle, Eugene & Barbara Haydon, Don Walker, Gary Schneider, Kathy Ivanciw's mother Shirley, Butch Crownover, Chris' cousin Tyler, Melvin Wright

Remember our college students who are away at school: Jarrett & Luke Haydon, Courtney Meredith, and Dylan Petrosky

Shut-Ins: Robbi George

Attendance: Sunday AM: 43 PM: 26 Wednesday: 24 Contribution: \$2396.95