

The Secret to a Godly Devotion

January 7 & 8, 2017

Psalm 73:25-26

*“Whom Have I in heaven but You?
And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides You.
My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”*

Asaph learned the secret to a Godly Devotion

- ❖ About 12 Psalms are ascribed to Asaph!
- ❖ During the reign of King David, Asaph was one of the directors of praise and worship that was established in the House of The Lord.
1 Chronicles 25:1-6
- ❖ In Psalm 73, Asaph is describing the struggling that took place in his life, to the point that he almost stumbled in his walk with God.
Psalm 73:2 “But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped.”
- ❖ Asaph saw that the wicked were prospering and life was going a lot better for them than for him; even though he was serving God.
Psalm 73:13-14 “All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence. For all the day long I have been stricken and rebuked every morning.”
- ❖ Asaph testifies of a moment of clarity as he was seeking for answers in the midst of his conflict. When he found God, he was able to trust and worship the Lord with great confidence.

Experiencing God’s “life”

- ❖ God’s answer in the midst of the struggle...
Psalm 73:16-17 “But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.”
↳ God often does not answer every question or explain in detail the reason for our challenges, but when we sincerely seek Him, He always brings the satisfaction that our hearts long for.
Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”
John 16:24b “... Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”
- ❖ God’s “life” is the source of our direction.
Psalm 73:24 “You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.”
- ❖ God’s “life” clarifies and gives us purpose.
John 1:1-4 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”
John 10:10 “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

Being Captivated by God's love

- ❖ God's love is our motivation!
 - ↳ We live in an age of business demands and entertainment that consumes our time, and all this "noise" takes our focus away from God's heart.
- ❖ We are captivated by God's goodness!
 - Psalm 73:25 "Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides You."*
- ❖ When we are captivated by God's love, we are enslaved to Christ and to doing God's will from the heart.
 - Ephesians 6:6 "not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart."*
- ❖ When we are captivated by God's love, we delight in the Lord and His commandments.
 - Psalm 37:4 "Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart."*
 - 1 John 5:3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome."*

Having a Passion for God's Character

- "But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all Your works."*
- ↳ Asaph passionately praises and worships God.
 - ↳ Asaph commits to seek God above all else.

Philippians 3:7-10 "But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith — that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death."

- ❖ We need to have a "big picture of God" to be passionate for Him and this passion for God leads us to a Godly devotion!

Endnotes:

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