

C. When Things Don't Go Right.. Psalm 73.

(A fitting third step since it soon becomes apparent to the Christian that there are many perplexing events in life. Learning to meet them and be victorious in them is what the Psalmist teaches us in this Psalm.)

1. Introductory notes on the Psalm:

- a. Outline: The Psalm has two major divisions; each of which is sub-divided into a number of minor divisions. We must be content to enumerate these without a lengthy annotation.

Division I...vss. 1-17, The Problem or, as we are saying it, What went wrong.

- introduction, vs. 1
- the trials that trouble, vs. 2
- the cause of the fall, vss 3-12
- the feeling of self-pity, vss 13-15
- the clue to the problem, vs. 17

Division II, the resolution and outcome.

- the place of answers, vs. 17
- the answer to the immediate trial, vss 18-22
- the answer to self-pity, vss 23-26
- the resolution to living, vss 27-28

What goes wrong for us may be different from the trials of the Psalmist. But the pattern is about the same. You may analyze yourself and discover that when things don't go right for you, the same help is available. It may be applied to many varied circumstances and, when utilized with faith, will produce equal results.

c. Significant features in the Psalm:

- (1) note the contrast in vss 1-2 so far as action and understanding are concerned.
- (2) This Psalm, more perhaps than any other, shows the perplexity one feels when the unrighteous fare better than the righteous and when there seems to be no understanding for their apparent success.
- (3) But after vs. 18, no Psalm shows the false security of the unrighteous with greater clarity. It becomes plain that things are often not what they seem. Note that the Psalm carries their future to eternity.
- (4) Likewise it becomes plain that real security is with the Lord.