

An “Age Old” Problem, and an “Eternal” Solution

Jeremiah 12:1-2

Righteous are You, O LORD, that I would plead *my* case with You; Indeed I would discuss matters of justice with You: Why has the way of the wicked prospered? *Why* are all those who deal in treachery at ease? ²You have planted them, they have also taken root; they grow, they have even produced fruit. You are near to their lips but far from their mind.

Psalm 73:1-28

Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart! ²But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling, my steps had almost slipped. ³For I was envious of the arrogant *as* I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

⁴For there are no pains in their death, and their body is fat. ⁵They are not in trouble *as other* men, nor are they plagued like mankind. ⁶Therefore pride is their necklace; the garment of violence covers them. ⁷Their eye bulges from fatness; the imaginations of *their* heart run riot. ⁸They mock and wickedly speak of oppression; they speak from on high. ⁹They have set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue parades through the earth. ¹⁰Therefore his people return to this place, and waters of abundance are drunk by them. ¹¹They say, “How does God know?” And “Is there knowledge with the Most High?” ¹²Behold, these are the wicked; and always at ease, they have increased *in* wealth. ¹³Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and washed my hands in innocence; ¹⁴For I have been stricken all day long and chastened every morning. ¹⁵If I had said, “I will speak thus,” behold, I would have betrayed the generation of Your children. ¹⁶When I pondered to understand this, it was troublesome in my sight

¹⁷Until I came into the sanctuary of God; *Then* I perceived their end. ¹⁸Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. ¹⁹How they are destroyed in a moment! They are utterly swept away by sudden terrors! ²⁰Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when aroused, You will despise their form.

²¹When my heart was embittered and I was pierced within, ²²Then I was senseless and ignorant; I was *like* a beast before You. ²³Nevertheless I am continually with You; You have taken hold of my right hand. ²⁴With Your counsel You will guide me, and afterward receive me to glory. ²⁵Whom have I in heaven *but You?* And besides You, I desire nothing on earth. ²⁶My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. ²⁷For, behold, those who are far from You will perish; You have destroyed all those who are unfaithful to You. ²⁸But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all Your works.