

The God of All Comfort: Psalms
The Psalms for May 2 - 8, 2021
The Pilgrim Psalms: Set 2

All of life is to be lived in worship to the Lord. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 10:31, "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all for the glory of God." From the most important thing to the most seemingly mundane thing we do each day we are to do it in worship to God and for His glory. Because worship is so important the Lord set apart one very special day, the Lord's Day, when God's people are to gather locally in what Jesus taught was God's House which was to be a place of prayer for all nations. These Pilgrim Psalms we find in the Psalms are songs sung as worshipers ascended up to Jerusalem to worship God at the Temple. The actual service of corporate worship is prescribed by God with biblical elements of singing, prayer, an offering, prayers of confession of sin, the reading of God's Word, sacraments, and preaching. These songs of worship remind us of the importance of preparation. Lord's Day worship begins well in advance of our 8:30 am or 11:00 am worship service-where we are often hustling to get to on time. Reading and meditating on these Psalms in advance of Sunday can help put us in a better mindset of worship as we approach the Lord's Day. These "Pilgrim Psalms" encourage us to lift up our hearts to the Lord to rely on His power and trusting in His goodness to bless us as the Creator of Heaven and Earth.

- **Sunday – Psalm 127:** If God is not in what we do and we rely on our power, not God's, all human effort is worthless. (ESV Study Bible Psalm 127)

- **Monday – Psalm 128:** A continuation of the themes in Psalm 128. The family, as the basic building block of life, needs the blessing of God to prosper.

- **Tuesday – Psalm 129:** A Psalm descriptive of the suffering of God's people. The wicked are never victorious because God cuts the "cords of the wicked" and puts to shame those who hate the Lord and His people.

- **Wednesday – Psalm 131:** This short but intimate Psalm expresses deep trust in God's power and providence as it speaks of our limits and weakness. Our hope is only in the Lord.

- **Thursday – Psalm 133:** An expression of the blessing of unity among God's people as they worship the Lord with one voice and sing His praises as they ascend up to Jerusalem to worship.

- **Friday – Psalm 134:** This Psalm is at the end of these Songs of Ascents. It can be interpreted as a final blessing on the departing worshipers asking for the Maker of Heaven and Earth to bless His people.

- **Saturday – Psalm 73:** The problem of thinking the things of this world will satisfy our deepest longings and needs. Everything changes when we enter into the presence of God.

The God of All Comfort: Psalms
Psalm 73 Resources | April 25, 2021
“The Sanctuary of God”

Psalm 73

- ¹ Truly God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.
- ² But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled,
my steps had nearly slipped.
- ³ For I was envious of the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
- ⁴ For they have no pangs until death;
their bodies are fat and sleek.
- ⁵ They are not in trouble as others are;
they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.
- ⁶ Therefore pride is their necklace;
violence covers them as a garment.
- ⁷ Their eyes swell out through fatness;
their hearts overflow with follies.
- ⁸ They scoff and speak with malice;
loftily they threaten oppression.
- ⁹ They set their mouths against the heavens,
and their tongue struts through the earth.
- ¹⁰ Therefore his people turn back to them,
and find no fault in them.^[a]
- ¹¹ And they say, “How can God know?
Is there knowledge in the Most High?”
- ¹² Behold, these are the wicked;
always at ease, they increase in riches.
- ¹³ All in vain have I kept my heart clean
and washed my hands in innocence.
- ¹⁴ For all the day long I have been stricken
and rebuked every morning.
- ¹⁵ If I had said, “I will speak thus,”
I would have betrayed the generation of your children.
- ¹⁶ But when I thought how to understand this,
it seemed to me a wearisome task,
- ¹⁷ until I went into the sanctuary of God;
then I discerned their end.
- ¹⁸ Truly you set them in slippery places;
you make them fall to ruin.
- ¹⁹ How they are destroyed in a moment,
swept away utterly by terrors!
- ²⁰ Like a dream when one awakes,
O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as phantoms.
- ²¹ When my soul was embittered,
when I was pricked in heart,

²² I was brutish and ignorant;
I was like a beast toward you.
²³ Nevertheless, I am continually with you;
you hold my right hand.
²⁴ You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will receive me to glory.
²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you?
And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.
²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength^[b] of my heart and my portion forever.
²⁷ For behold, those who are far from you shall perish;
you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.
²⁸ 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.

Sermon Questions:

1. Can you share an experience when you felt as though you almost had fallen away from the faith as Asaph shares in verse 2?
2. Asaph is able to look back at his attitude and mindset because he entered into the “sanctuary of God.” What did he discover about himself? Can you make a list of what tempted him to come to such a place spiritually? Can you reflect on your own heart about how you may have been tempted to fall away?
3. Why do you think the Psalm begins with, “Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart”? Being pure in heart seems to go against everything in verses 3-16. What one thing may he have realized as he went through this journey?
4. Asaph had moments of almost convincing himself that personal holiness didn’t matter. How do we know it does? Is living for the glory of God alone really something done in vain? How might you make more progress to that end?
5. Entering into the Worship of God completely transformed Asaph’s world and life view. He realized it was “good to be near God” and to have the “Lord God my refuge.” Can you share how your perspective changed when you encountered God in worship?
6. Asaph even described himself as being “embittered” and “brutish and ignorant” before God. Do you have that kind of bold confession of sin when you see yourself as you really are apart from the insight the Holy Spirit gives to you in worship?