

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

"BUT GOD" SERIES

These questions are for the **October 22, 2017** sermon, "But God is the Strength." Please read the sermon passage (Psalm 73:21-28) together out loud.

SERMON OUTLINE

WHEN FEELING DEFEATED, BEGIN TO . . .

1. Assess the condition of the soul (21-24)
 - a. We easily look back on dark and hard days, when we were embittered toward God.
 - i. We get rid of bitterness by surrendering it to the Lord,
 - ii. And not surrendering to it (bitterness).
 - iii. PAST: embittered
 - iv. PRESENT: the presence of the LORD which produces protection and guidance.
 - v. FUTURE: received by the LORD to glory.
 - b. Though there "was" darkness (vv 21-22), there IS a good and loving God (23-24)
2. Assess the characteristics of the LORD (25-26)
 - a. In having the LORD, I have everything--every provision--that I need.
 - b. The person of the LORD is the provision of the LORD.
 - c. If _____ is my substitute for God, then when I lose _____, I lose everything.
 - d. God himself is the strength of my heart (internal) and flesh (external).
3. Assess the contrasts of the world (27-28)
 - a. "Behold" is a visual word: "Look at this, those far from God will perish . . ."
 - b. Those far from the LORD may appear to win short-term victories.
 - c. The point of living is to tell of the excellencies of living in close proximity to God.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Are you, in any way, bitter toward God for past disappointments? How have you processed past disappointments?
2. Based on #1, above: Though there WAS darkness, there IS a good and loving God. How does God's "present" presence protect you, guide you and satisfy of your soul?
3. Based on #2, above: When we substitute anything (money, significance or even our family) for the preeminent place reserved for God, we are setting ourselves up for great and sorrowful loss. Is there any good thing in your life that you sometimes make the main thing? What practical steps can you take in order to make sure that God remains "the main thing" in your life?
4. Based on #3, above: Those who live far from God will perish. What "visuals" ("behold!") can you put in front of your eyes to remind you that you want to live in close proximity to God.
5. Based on #3, above: You remain in this world after you are converted to Jesus Christ for the purpose of telling of all of his works. Who is listening to you right now? Are you actively telling about God's works? Where are you bold? Where are you timid? How can we pray for you?