

**"For all the day long have I
been plagued, and
chastened every morning."**

Psa. 73:14.

**John Trapp: "God's best-loved are most
afflicted, neither have any out of hell ever
suffered more than the heirs of heaven. See
my treatise called God's Love-tokens. I am
no sooner awake than some new misery
seizeth me, as if it had laid wait for me."**

Sunday, January 7, 2007.

**Acts 9:15-16: "For he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles,
and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will show him how great things he must
suffer for my name's sake."**

**Acts 5:41: "And when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they
commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. And
they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted
worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the temple, and in every house,
they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."**

**Phil. 1:28-29: "And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an
evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God. For unto you it
is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his
sake."**

**Rom. 8:16-18: "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the
children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;
if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon
that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory
which shall be revealed in us."**

**2 Tim. 3:10-12: "But thou hast fully known my...persecutions, afflictions, which came
unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of
them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall
suffer persecutions."**

Heb. 11:24-26: “By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.”

1 Pet. 4:12-13: “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings, that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.”

2 Cor. 4:17: “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

Psa. 34:17-19: “The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all. He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.”

2 Tim. 2:12: “If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us.”

Col. 1:23-24: “I Paul am made a minister; Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body’s sake, which is the church.”

2 Tim. 4:5-7: “And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”

1 Thess. 1:6: “And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to Godward is spread abroad.”

2 Thess. 1:4-7: “So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer: Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; And to you who are troubled

rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.”

Psalm 73 describes a great soul-battle of the Elect – a spiritual Marathon – in which the very-nearly-defeated soul becomes in the end completely, gloriously victorious; to-wit:

From Psa. 73:2-3: *“But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.”*

To Psa. 73:23-28: *“Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.*

For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee. But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works.”

God’s beloved people on earth must often drain the bitter cup of sorrow, even as their corrupt oppressors appear to prosper:

Psa. 73:10: *“Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them.”* **Spurgeon:** Their sorrows are as full as the wicked man’s prosperity. It grieves them greatly to see the enemies of God so high, and themselves so low, yet the Lord does not alter his dispensations, but continues still to chasten his children, and indulge his foes. The medicine cup is not for rebels, but for those whom Jehovah Rophi loves.” And remember, *“Truly God is good to Israel (His Elect).”* Psa. 73:1.

Psa. 73:12: *“Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches (or, strength).”* **Spurgeon:** “Behold! Look! See! Consider! Here is the standing enigma! The crux of Providence! The stumbling-block of faith! Here are the unjust rewarded and indulged, and that not for a day or an hour, but in perpetuity. From their youth up these men, who deserve perdition, revel in prosperity. They deserve to be hung in chains, and chains are hung about their necks; they are worthy to be chased from the world, and yet the world becomes all their own. Poor purblind sense cries, Behold this! Wonder, and be amazed, and make this square with providential justice, if you can. Lord, how is this? Thy poor servants, who become yet poorer, and groan under their burdens, are made to wonder at thy mysterious ways.” *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”* Rom. 8:28.

“And our hope of you is steadfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation. For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life.” 2 Cor. 1:7-8.

“But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver; in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us.” 2 Cor. 1:9-10. Gill: “It seems to be rather some other very sore affliction...that is not recorded in the Acts of the Apostles; the greatness of this trouble is set forth in very strong expressions, as that we were pressed out of measure. The affliction was as a heavy burden upon them, too heavy to bear; it was exceeding heavy, even to an hyperbole, beyond expression; and above strength, that is human strength, the strength of nature; but not above the strength of grace...they were at the utmost loss, and in the greatest perplexity how to escape the danger of life; they greatly doubted of it; they saw no probability nor possibility, humanly speaking, of preserving it (human life). And to this extremity they were suffered to be brought by the wise counsel of God...to learn to lay aside all self-trust and confidence.”

Matthew Henry: “These are truths which cannot be shaken and which we must resolve to live and die by. Though we may not be able to reconcile all the disposals of Providence with them, we must believe they are reconcilable. Note, Good thoughts of God will fortify us against Satan’s temptations. *‘Truly God is good.’*” Psal. 73:1.

“But as for me, my feet were almost gone.”

Psal. 73:2.

A.R. Fausset: “The ‘as for me’ is emphatic. I say this not without personal experience of the difficulties which assail one’s faith; nay, I was so shaken by temptations to doubt as to the righteousness and goodness of God, because of the prosperity of the wicked and the trials of the godly, that I had almost given up faith altogether.”

Gill: “‘My feet were almost gone,’ out of the good ways of God, the ways of truth and holiness; ready to forsake them, and give up all religion as a vain thing...standing on wet and slippery ground, where a man can scarcely keep upon his feet. It may be observed, that good men are liable to slips and falls, to fall into sin, snares, and temptations, but not totally and finally; feet may be *almost*, but not *altogether*, gone; steps may *well nigh* slip, but not *quite*; they may fall, but not utterly cast down; at least they rise again, and are made to stand; for God is able to keep them, and does keep them, from a total and final falling away.” 1 Cor. 10:12 and Rom. 14:4.

“No bands (even up to and including) in their death.” Psal. 73:4.
(Bands: fetter, pain, threshing sledge, sharp teeth, cut, slice, harrow, sharp points).