

"Soul Food" from the Psalms (73-77)

Sunday Evening, April 19, 2026 – WOCC – Rich Howell

EVENING DEVOTION: Good to Be Near God! (Psalm 73:23-28)

I guess you could say that the 73rd Psalm is a classic example of "WHAT _____ I _____?!"

I. The SET-UP: *Psalm 73:1-22*

- 73:1 _____ ending, from the beginning
73:2-3 Looking back – _____ fallen
73:4-12 Looking around – Worldly _____
73:13-15 Looking inside – Faulty _____
73:16-17 Looking above – Back in his _____
73:18-22 Understanding the true _____ of the lost

II. "It is good to be near God"—The Blessings of being near God (Psalm 73:23-28)

- His _____ – "I am continually with you"
- His _____ – "You hold my right hand"
- His _____ – "You guide me with your counsel"
- His _____ – "God is the strength of my heart"
- His _____ – "the Lord God my refuge"
- A _____ future – "and afterward you will receive me to glory" (Psalm 23:6)

III. In contrast, it is not good to be _____ God (Psalm 73:27; Isa 59:1-2; Ps 5:4)

- _____ is the problem; _____ is the cause
- Spiritual _____ now → eternal _____ later (Rom 5:12; 6:23; John 8:24; 2 Thes 1:8-9)

IV. Let's double back to v23:

"Nevertheless, I am continually with You"

- This sounds a lot like promises God and Christ have made to us! (Josh 1:5-9; Mat 28:20; Heb 13:5)
 - 1) *The Psalmist is essentially saying, "In spite of my recent struggles, I'm not _____!"*
 - 2) *This is a _____ he made (73:23,26b,28), to be _____ to God.*
- Such a promise takes more than a sense of need, but also _____! (73:25,26b; 37:4)
It's not just about needing God, but _____ God!

THE APPEAL: So, if you need to make a change, take a step, close the gap, just remember this _____ (Acts 17:27) and this _____ (James 4:7-8), and make your move!