

## COME NEAR

There is a lot of nonsense going on these days. It probably isn't unique to these days, but sometimes it sure feels like it. While it is pretty serious, we can describe it as clowning, buffoonery, tomfoolery, monkey business, and shenanigans for a cathartic laugh. All the carryings-on don't reconcile with what we know is right, and we scratch our heads. As it continues, we become weary and fed up. Trying to discern and wrap our minds around what it all means and existing in its midst is discouraging. We desperately long for the wisdom to live faithfully today. But where can you find wisdom among all the voices and all the noise?

Psalm 73:16-17

But when I thought how to understand this,  
it seemed to me a wearisome task,  
until I went into the sanctuary of God;  
then I discerned their end.

I take comfort in the fact that Asaph of long ago felt the same way. When it came time to deal with all of it, there was one place he went. It wasn't the library or the internet. It wasn't Netflix or Stitcher. Nor was it the coffee shop or FaceTime. Asaph said he went into the presence of God, into his sanctuary. What is beautiful is his humble and worshipful spirit led him to an encounter with God that led to wisdom.

Proverbs 9:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

Asaph concludes with this:

Psalm 73:23-28

Nevertheless, I am continually with you;  
you hold my right hand.  
You guide me with your counsel,  
and afterward you will receive me to glory.  
Whom have I in heaven but you?  
And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.  
My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.  
For behold, those who are far from you shall perish;  
you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.  
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.

I pray you are blessed as you enter the presence of God today. May all your weariness be cast off by his goodness. May the Lord be your portion always. May his strength give you comfort and peace.

God is greater! Come near to him.

Matthew 11:28

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Shalom,  
Ryan