

Noticeboard

<p>Church Members Meeting on Tues April 17th at 7.30pm to consider any recommendations from the shortlisting and interview panel. Please make every effort to be there</p>	<p>Next Eco team meeting THIS Mon 16 April 6pm in the Locker at Hotel St Michaels. New members welcome!</p>	<p>Food for Thought Thursday 19th April. Guest speaker is Laurence Taylor. Starts 2.30pm</p>
<p>B:Beautiful Next Sat 21st April at the Royal Duchy Hotel 10.30–Midday Tickets (£10) available from Sue Misselbrook</p>	<p>Craftea meeting this Tuesday 17th April 1–3pm See Alison Hodges or Sue Misselbrook for</p>	<p>Foodbank needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruit Juice • Longlife Whole Milk • Pasta Sauce • Boxed Soups • Tin Tomatoes • Tin Pasta • Tin Veg • Tin Fruit • Jam / Marmalade • Biscuits • Sweets • Tin Meat eg, Ham/ Spam • Tin Pulses • Flavoured Pasta Bags • Dry Rice • Washing up Liquid
<p>Alpha course Wed Evenings Apr 18, 21 (Sat), 25; May 2nd, 9th, 16 & 23rd. Bring a friend, meal included at 6pm followed by course at 7pm. Contact Nigel Bird for more info 01209 822270</p>		
<p>OASIS meeting this coming Fri 20th April Scavenger Hunt. Please see Duncan or Amy for more information</p>		

Sunday 22nd April

10.30am	Coming together to praise, learn and encourage.
7pm	Prayer & Praise in the Lounge
Main Door	Rob Wood
Inner Door	Ingram & Anne Bright
Easy Worship	Sue Misselbrook
Coffees Before Service	Terry & Lynne Pellow
After Service	Chris & Wendy Tabb

Sunday 15th April 2018

10.30am	Coming together to praise, learn and encourage. A warm welcome to you all. We would love to get to know each other better, so please introduce yourself. If you can, join us for refreshments after the service.
11am	Children and youth groups leave Nippers: 2-4 years Buzz: Reception - Year Five Salt: Year Six - Year 13
7pm	Prayer & Praise in the Lounge Prayer Ministry Members of the Prayer Ministry Team wear ministry badges. Please speak to one of them if you would like prayer for any reason.

The Church office

	Open Monday–Friday, 9.30am–12.30pm
Telephone	01326 315249
Email	mail@emmanuelbaptist.co.uk
Website	www.emmanuelbaptist.co.uk
Minister	Rev'd Charles Blizzard

Sermon outline notes: Psalm 73 Dealing with Doubt!

Introduction

Every Christian some time or other questions his or her faith. In the psalm we read today we have a 'classic example' of a believer wrestling with doubt. The psalmist tells us in verse 2 that he came close to abandoning his faith altogether, and yet the testimony of the psalmist at the end of the psalm is that he felt closer to God than ever before. We will trace that transformation.

1) Identifying the problem

- a) The particular problem arose out of the contradiction he observed between theological theory and observed fact. The theological theory is stated in verse 1, however as the psalmist looked around at his world it was the wicked who seemed to prosper!
- b) There is a note of cynicism and bitterness flowing through verses 3 to 11. This comes to a climax in verse 12 where the psalmist writes 'This is what the wicked are like—always carefree, they increase in wealth.'
- c) But why did this suddenly become a problem? Surely the fact had been obvious for years. The answer is that difficult circumstances were affecting directly the psalmist—he was the one suffering!

2) The Solution he Discovered

- a) Look to the Lord—verse 17
 - He discovered a new perspective on human destiny. The primary thing that worship does is to put God at the centre of our vision. Worship is an exercise in God centred thinking. Once the psalmist understood things from God's perspective—an eternal perspective - the destiny of the wicked looked altogether different. (verses 17-18). The prosperity of the wicked is not real because it is not eternal, and the wicked will face judgement.
- b) A new perspective on himself –verses 21–24
 - The psalmist saw himself as he really was– he saw the sulkiness of his behaviour; he saw the childishness of his resentment; he

saw how pathetic his self pity was.

- The psalmist realised that he had to deal with the fact that he was a believer and that his faith was just as much a real part of his life as those doubts that troubled him.
- c) The Psalmist got a true perspective on what are real values
 - He understood the absolute blessing of knowing God. Using one of Jesus parables we can describe the final verses of the psalm as the man discovering the pearl of great price for which a man sells all he has. When he came into God's presence to worship and realised afresh the beauty of God all his envy about the prosperity of others dissolved away. 'Yes God is good to Israel, but I'm going to define what I mean by good—as for me it is good to be near God'.

Points to Ponder

- 1) Was anything said in the sermon with which you disagreed? Why?
- 2) Did the psalm 'speak to you'? Have you gone through times of doubt? How did you get through these times?
- 3) Have you had a sanctuary experience? When. Where, what happened?
- 4) How would you explain to a child why God does not knock down bullies and troublemakers at school?

NOTES