

spent 30 chapters attacking God, blaming God, and accusing God. In 9:24 He said the land is filled with dishonest judges; told God he did it, and if not Him, who did?"

Jesus died peacefully, quoting Psalm 31:5, the prayer Jewish mothers taught their children to pray at bedtime, "Father into your hand I commit my spirit."

But an hour or two earlier He quoted, Psalm 22 where a man a thousand years before him cried out to God, "My God my God why have you forsaken me?"

The important thing is they were both honest. I like to call the psalms a prayer book for honest Christians. If we are not honest with God he cannot help us just as a doctor can't when we are not honest with him.

WE ARE ALL DIFFERENT

Jesus nicknamed two of his disciples, James and John "sons of Thunder" (Mark 3:17) because of their hot tempers. They were nothing like Nathaniel, who loved sitting under a tree reading the Bible. (Jn.1)

I told a pastor friend that if one of my children died, I think I would be like Dwight Eisenhower, who lost a child and said he spent two years on the edge of insanity.

He said he wouldn't because he and his wife had given all their children to God and He could take them if that was his will. They just trusted in Romans 8:28 - that it would work out for the good.

The truth is Mar Ann and I had also given our children to God, and I too would find peace in Romans 8:28 - but I might have to spend two years on the edge of insanity, to get there.

This does not mean one of us is wrong and one is right or one of us is the better

Christian. It means we are different because that is how God made us.

WHY DO BAD PEOPLE HAVE IT SO GOOD

Read Psalm 73 The Psalms are special. They are largely words spoken *to* God but in the miracle of inspiration they are God's words spoken *to* and *for* us. They rise up from every situation, good and bad; high and low, from the hill tops and in the vallies.

Psalmists, can feel close to God and in no time wonder where God is. To me the book of psalms is "the honest Christians' prayer book". Early on I learned that we have to walk with God by faith, not feelings. I put this in one of my first sermons:

"I love the song, "My God is real for I can feel Him in my soul", but remember this - my God is real when I can't feel Him in my soul."

In Psalm 73 the writer says he knows God is good, but sometimes it doesn't look like it. He saw God's people having hard times - maybe financial, maybe disease, etc. The list is endless. And at the same time saw bad ungodly people having a far better life. He said he was about to fall off God's road. He could have been a preacherer because he said He did not want to share it because it might hurt God's people.

He found peace when he went to church and God told him to think about what happens to these people after they die. What I learned from this was: life is hard for us all and this is as close to heaven as an unsaved person will ever get and as close to hell as a saved person will ever get. Don't envy the wicked who prosper, Jesus said, "they have their reward". (Matt. 6)