

## Home group notes - w/b 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014 – A re-ordered life

*Use as much or as little as you wish. Allow time for prayer even if you cut short some of the study. You don't have to use all of these notes, and it doesn't matter if you get diverted into something else the group needs to study.*

Last time we looked at Psalms of 'order' – Eg Psalm 1, and Psalms of 'disorder' – Eg Ps 55 and Ps 35.

This week, we will look at Psalm 73. Here, the psalmist seems to have gained some different insights, and is perhaps on the way to being 're-ordered'.

**Read Ps 73:1-12.** The wicked are thriving again here, like Ps 55 (see last week's notes). List the ways in which the wicked prosper. Any similarities in today's world? In your life?

**Read verses 13-14.** How would you describe the writer's frame of mind?

What new insight into his *own* condition does the writer gain – see verses 2-3 and 21-22? When are you tempted to feel like this? Can you suggest ways in which we can live in the real world, where bad people do seem to flourish, while not harming ourselves with these kinds of thoughts and attitudes?

**Read verses 15-20** What is it that enabled the writer to have insight and some degree of peace? See especially verse 17. What is your equivalent of 'the sanctuary of God'? *Remember that in the OT the sanctuary was seen as the place where God's presence was most real.*

**Read verses 23-28** So, having new insight, what peace does the writer receive? List the promises of God here.

**If there is time (leave time for prayer) read Philippians 1:27–30** (one of Sunday's readings). Paul is under house arrest not knowing his future but having a pretty good idea it won't be rosy... How does Paul's advice about living in the real world compare with that of the Psalmist?

**Read Phil 2:1-4** Use this as a basis for your prayers, rejoicing in the gifts of Christian fellow-travellers, and asking for more of the qualities Paul urges his readers to share.