

Recently, the US held elections, with Donald Trump being overwhelmingly chosen as the next president. People will have different opinions about that. Personally, I am deeply saddened at the state of the church in America. Everything seems to be coming up trumps for Trump. He is set to be the most powerful man in the US, and one of the most powerful men in the world. Everything has gone his way. Trump gets things done. Trump succeeds.

Yes, he has cheated, and lied, and been unfaithful, and refuses to apologise, and misused the Bible, and enacted some frankly horribly unjust policies. But none of that seems to matter. Trump prospers, and America wants to prosper too. Donald Trump isn't unique. But the evidence of his actions doesn't suggest he is someone trying to live apprenticed to Jesus. Let us pray for him, as for all rulers!

But he does raise a perennial question: why does it seem like the ungodly thrive, while God's people suffer? This doesn't just play out on the world stage. All of us, I'm sure, could look around us, and see how those who reject God seem to be doing well. What, we might wonder, is the point of us keeping ourselves pure? Why would we seek first the kingdom of God, when it seems that the kingdom of this world seems to work so well?

This weekend, we're looking at Psalm 73, written by a temple musician. Asaph found himself asking exactly the same sort of questions as those we've been asking above. He set out to live a godly life - but saw how the wicked around him seemed to be doing so well. And it didn't make sense. After all, doesn't God cause the *righteous* to prosper? If the wicked prosper, does it mean that God doesn't care? Could it mean that God doesn't *know* what is happening? Could our insistence on living a holy life be making our lives harder, for nothing?

As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15, "if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world."

Does it really make sense for us to put God first in our lives?

Today's text: Psalm 73