**Main Thought** – Every Christian must look at the big picture during times of doubt and struggle knowing God can keep you from slipping (Jude 24).

**INTRODUCTION** – This wisdom psalm was written by Asaph (Psa. 50, 73-83) and/or his descendants. He was a priest during David’s reign.

**STANDING – YOUR BELIEFS (1).**

- Asaph was a THEIST (“God is”). He believed that God was GOOD (1 Chron. 16:34, 37; Matt. 7:9-11).
- Though not perfect, Asaph was PURE IN HEART – good intentions fully committed to God as God was fully committed to him.

**SLIPPING – YOUR DOUBTS (2-3).**

- My feet almost SLIPPED (37:31; 121:3; Jer. 20:10). It is not a sin to have DOUBTS – it is human (Matt. 9:24; 14:28-32; John 20:27).
- It is a sin to refuse to BELIEVE (Acts 14:2; 19:9; 2 Thess. 2:11; Heb. 12:25).
- Asaph got his eyes off the Lord and on the prosperity of the wicked. He was not the only one to do so (49:16-17; Jer. 12:1; Hab. 1:13).
- It is a sin to envy the wicked (37:1; Prov. 3:31; 24:1, 19).

**STRUGGLING – YOUR CONFLICTS (4-14).**

- When we take our eyes off God and start comparing ourselves with others we FEEL unloved by God. This was Job’s difficulty (Job 21:7-15).
- The wicked lay claim to heaven but they are wrong (9; 1 John 2:19). They tell themselves that God doesn’t know what they are doing (11; 10:11). But God does know what we all are doing (1 Cor. 15:58; Heb. 6:10).

**SEEING – YOUR PANORAMA (15-22).**

- These were his inner thoughts that he did not express to others to discourage them. He could not publically turn his back upon God. He loathed himself for thinking this way (21-22).
- The pivotal verse in the psalm is “till I entered the sanctuary of God” (17). It was then that he saw the BIG PICTURE. It was the wicked who were on SLIPPERY ground and would be destroyed, not the righteous.

**SUMMING UP – YOUR VICTORY (23-28).**

- Now he affirms his conclusions and beliefs – God’s counsel will be his GUIDE and then he will go to GLORY (49:15).
- Though you may doubt, he will keep you from falling (John 14:29; Jude 24).
- Then you can encourage others of your struggles and victories (Heb. 10:25).