*Introduction*

Which direction are you going in and where will you end up?

Every one of us has to answer two important questions:

1. What shall I do with my life? (our direction)

2. Where will I go when life is over? (our destination)

The Bible is quite clear in telling us that there are only two directions:

a. Man's way - having all you can get, becoming wealthy, comfortable etc

or

b. God's way - can involve hardship, doing right, helping others and the like, and of course trusting in Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

The psalmist, writing this 73rd psalm was experiencing a dilemma! It is a dilemma which we all face at some time in our lives.

It's usually a dilemma that involves the direction we want to go but doesn't often include where we will end up.

Right from an early age we see traits in our children, and we say things like "He's going to be an engineer" or "She's going to be a Nurse".

As the Children grow they start to think about what they want to do when they leave school, and so they take 'options' at school which will help them travel their chosen path. They often become quite focused at this time.

As adults, we know that life changes things, and for many reasons, we often change our directions. Perhaps its because we have been made redundant, or become ill and we have to re-evaluate where we are and what we are going to do.

The psalmist's dilemma was that he was living a good life, doing what was right in God's eyes and having a hard time of it and he was beginning to envy those who were doing their own thing, those with wealth and health who appeared to be prospering.

He looked at the evil they were doing, the sin, their arrogance in saying things like ***v11 "How would God know?, Does the Most High know anything?***

When things go wrong in our own lives we often look at the lives of others and their faults and start moaning about them, instead of looking at ourselves and what we are doing, our own faults.

This dilemma of direction caused the Psalmist to doubt his faith in God v 13-16.

This dilemma of seeing the those around him being free of care and amassing wealth, and himself seemingly being afflicted caused him to seek God.

When you see wicked people getting away scott free, and the good people struggling, doesn't it want to make you ask God Why?

The psalmist went to God, and it was in the presence of God that he realised the destiny of the wicked.

He also realised that when he envied others and became bitter it affected his walk with God and he needed forgiveness.

When he received that forgiveness, that relationship with God was restored and he was assured that the direction that he was going in would lead to the correct destination.

The Bible clearly tells us that there are two roads:

In Matthew 7 we read of Jesus, who was answering a similar question - don't look at others, look at yourself and he states:

***13-14 ‘Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.***

Jesus shows us that there are two ways - the broad gate and road - the worlds way, leads to destruction - to hell.

The narrow gate and road - God's way - leads to life.

The answer to our two questions at the beginning can be answered by looking at these to roads that Jesus talks about.

The broad (wide) road and gate have travelling along it, ALL those who are sinners, those who have done wrong.

***Rom 3: 23for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,***

What is sin? sin is rebellion against God, going your own way and doing your own thing! We have all sinned in one way or another and we cannot deny it.

It also has walking along it all those who claim to be religious and go to church in the hope of going to heaven. You can call yourself a Christian without truly being a Christian.

The narrow road and gate has few people on it. But the people on this road are sinners saved by grace.

What do I mean by that? To keep it simple, Grace is - God HAS to punish all sin. But God's love for all mankind is so great, that instead of us being punished, he came, in the form of Jesus - innocent and sinless, and he died upon the cross, taking each and everyone of our punishments, past, present and future.

He then arose on the third day to show that he has all power over sin and death and is now back with the Father in heaven.

The way we get on this narrow road is by believing and trusting in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

It is repenting of our sinful and rebellious ways and turning to him for forgiveness, it is placing your hopes and dreams into His hands.

***John 14:6Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.***

When a person does this, they cross over from the broad road to the narrow road.

*Conclusion*

The questions we all have to answer for ourselves are these:

1. What shall I do with my life? (our direction). We are all on one road or the other, there is no middle ground. If we have never trusted Jesus as our Savour and asked for forgiveness of our sin, we are on the broad road.

If we have trusted Jesus, repenting of our sinful lives and if we have asked him to forgive us and come into our lives, then he gives us assurance that we are on the narrow road by the giving of his Holy Spirit.

Which direction are you going in?

2. Where will I go when life is over? (our destination)

The broad road leads to destruction, eternity away from the presence of God, everlasting anguish, Hell.

The narrow road leads to everlasting life in the presence of God, heaven.

The Psalmist had assurance that he was on the right road, he says

***v28 But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.***

I have that assurance to - Do you? You can in and through the finished work of Jesus Christ upon the cross. Trust him today.

Amen