

Thursday 30 April 2020

Ps.73, 1: *"Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart."*

1Jn.3, 21-22: *"Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him."*

To trust in God is to count on his goodness, to count on the fact that God is good. But to do so out of a pure heart: To count on the goodness of *his* will, of *his* thoughts and of *his* ways, such as to entrust oneself to that with an actively obedient faith. It is to count on God who revealed his will and also says: *"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."* (Is.55, 9)

The pure heart trusts God even in the dark, even when it seems that such trust does not only not pay but make things worse, and when it seems that those who do not trust fare better. (Ps.73)

Where such purity of heart is wanting, there trust in God is made to depend on the goodness of *my* will, of *my* way, of *my* thoughts and plans: I trust God is good if and when and as he proves he knows what's good as well as I know it. But here trust in God, or trust that God is good, is but a disguise of self-trust and can live side by side, quite unchallenged, with behaviour which does not please God nor keep his commands. As Ps.73 makes clear God's judgment will reveal all trust for what it is.

What is the state of my heart towards God? What is the state of my trust in God's goodness? What does a spiritual analysis of what my heart counts on bring to light?

The 'heart does not condemn us' when it comes to God not in self-trust but with a confidence based on Christ's redeeming work and grace that God will give us what we ask for – a heart to trust him in love and obedience.