

Living Excellent Lives
Living Excellent Lives Morally

I. Introduction

- A. Malachi 3:14-15 (NLT) ¹⁴*You have said, 'What's the use of serving God? What have we gained by obeying his commands or by trying to show the LORD Almighty that we are sorry for our sins? ¹⁵From now on we will say, "Blessed are the arrogant." For those who do evil get rich, and those who dare God to punish them go free of harm.'"*
- B. Psalm 1:1-4 (NAS) ¹*How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! ²But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. ³He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers. ⁴The wicked are not so, but they are like chaff which the wind drives away.*
- C. Psalm 73:3-5 (NLT) ³*For I envied the proud when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness. ⁴They seem to live such a painless life; their bodies are so healthy and strong. ⁵They aren't troubled like other people or plagued with problems like everyone else.*
- D. Psalm 73:13-14 (NLT) ¹³*Did I keep my heart pure for nothing? Did I keep myself innocent for no reason? ¹⁴I get nothing but trouble all day long; every morning brings me pain.*
- E. Psalm 73:16-19 (NLT) ¹⁶*So I tried to understand why the wicked prosper. But what a difficult task it is! ¹⁷Then one day I went into your sanctuary, O God, and I thought about the destiny of the wicked. ¹⁸Truly, you put them on a slippery path and send them sliding over the cliff to destruction. ¹⁹In an instant they are destroyed, swept away by terrors.*

II. Two Principles of Life

- A. The slippery rock principle
1. Walk on a slippery rock long enough, you'll eventually wind up wet!
 2. Psalm 73:18-19 (NAS) ¹⁸*Truly, you put them on a slippery path and send them sliding over the cliff to destruction. ¹⁹In an instant they are destroyed, swept away by terrors.*
 3. Don't walk on slippery rocks!
- B. The final destination principle
1. The biggest danger for you is not being exposed about your behavior!
 2. The Bible says there's coming a day when all of us will stand before God and give an account of our moral choices.
 3. Malachi 4:1 (NLT) *The LORD Almighty says, "The day of judgment is coming, burning like a furnace. The arrogant and the wicked will be burned up like straw on that day. They will be consumed like a tree—roots and all."*

4. Malachi 4:2 (NLT) *“But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture.”*

5. You'll have no regrets!

6. "It was so worth it!"

III. Conclusion