A black and white photograph of a person crouching in a dark, stone-lined tunnel. The person is silhouetted against a bright light at the end of the tunnel, which creates a strong backlighting effect. The tunnel walls are made of rough-hewn stone blocks. The overall mood is contemplative and hopeful.

# Psalm 10

## Elements Class

March 13<sup>th</sup> 10:45am

This Psalm covers 4 major concepts:

- The prosperity of the wicked.
- The patience of God.
- The contemplation of the wicked.
- The consummation of God.

The *prosperity*  
of the wicked.



In his arrogance the wicked man hunts down the weak, who are caught in the schemes he devises. He boasts about the cravings of his heart; he blesses the greedy and reviles the LORD. In his pride the wicked man does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God. **His ways are always prosperous;** your laws are rejected by him; he sneers at all his enemies.

(v2-5)

David feels like the wicked are not only getting away with evil...but are in fact **prospering**.  
David feels as though life is going better for the wicked than the righteous.



This is a common perception  
in the Psalms:

*How long will the wicked, LORD, how long will  
the wicked continue to triumph? Psalm 94:3*

This is a common perception  
in the Psalms:

For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of  
the wicked. Psalm 73:3

They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken  
like the rest of mankind. Psalm 73:5

Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they  
increase in riches. Psalm 73:12

This is a common perception  
in the Psalms:

*All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence. For all the day long I have been stricken and rebuked every morning. Psalm 73:13-14*

The *patience*  
of God.



**Why, LORD, do you stand far off?  
Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?  
Arise, LORD! Lift up your hand, O God.  
Do not forget the helpless. (v1, 12)**

David feels as though God is absent and has neglected those who do right. He fails to see that God's failure to act is actually his **patience** towards the lost.

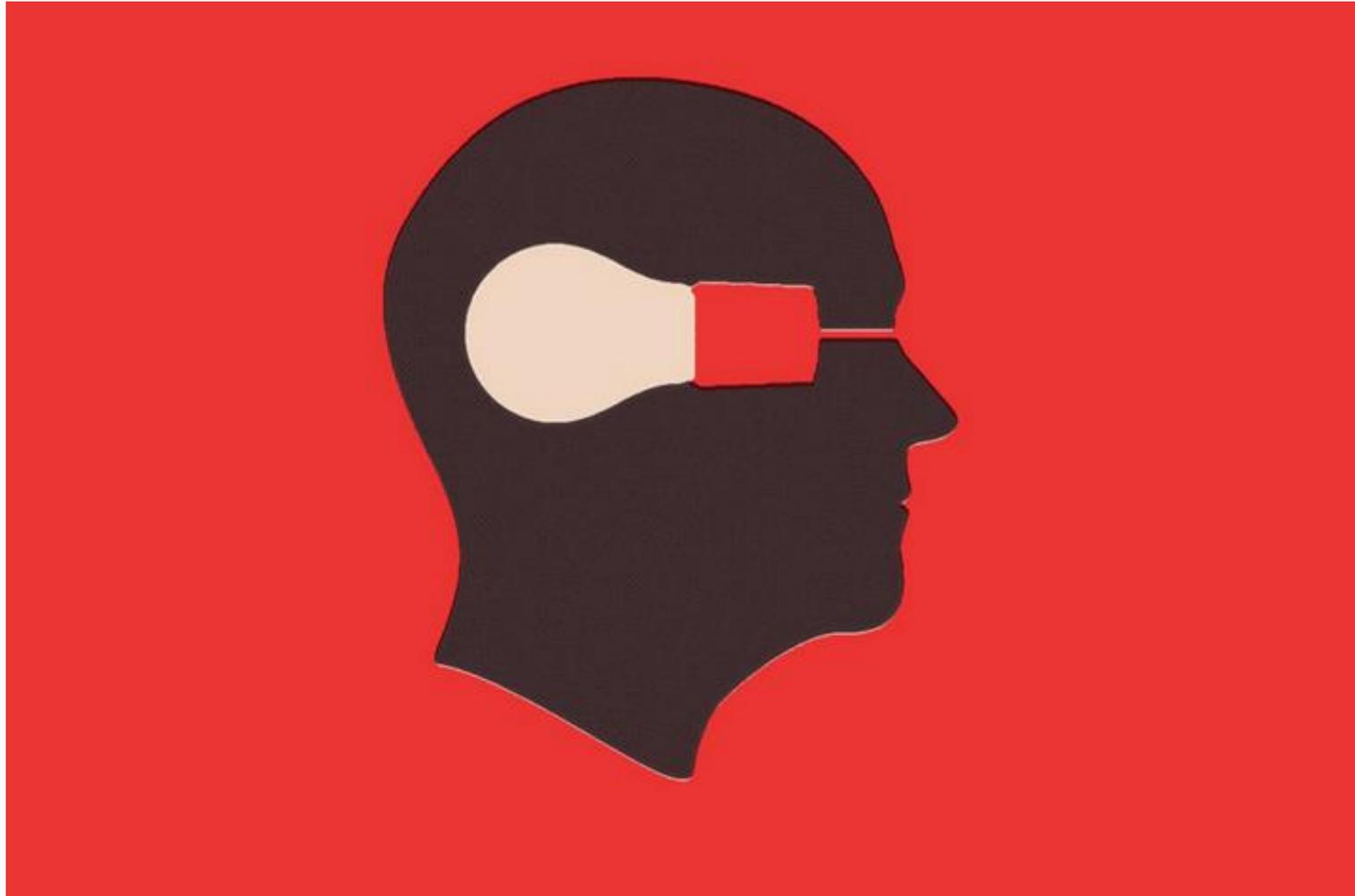


This is a common perception  
in the Psalms:

*How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever?*

*How long will you hide your face from me? How long  
must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have  
sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph  
over me? Psalm 13:1-2*

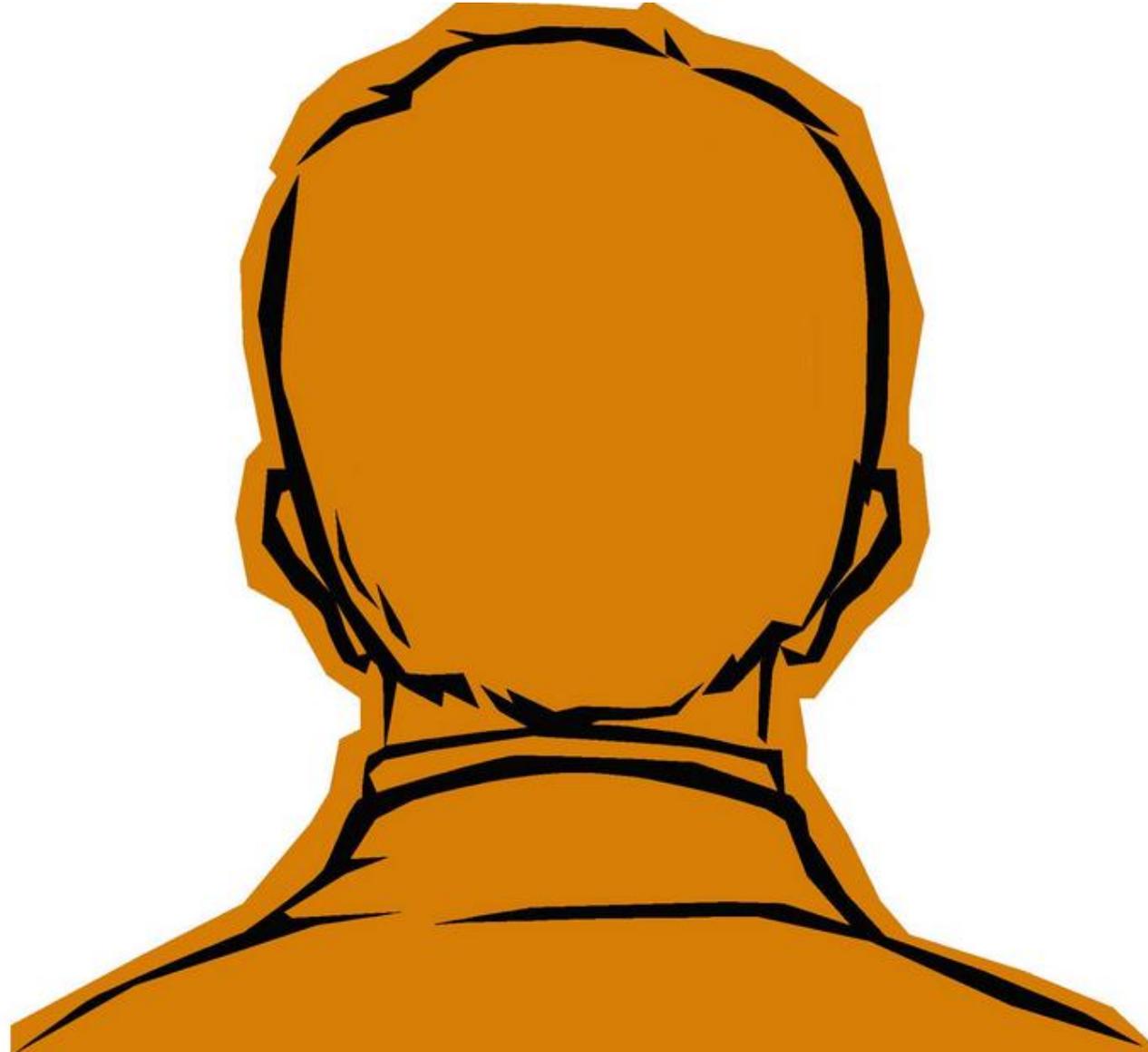
The *contemplation*  
of the wicked.

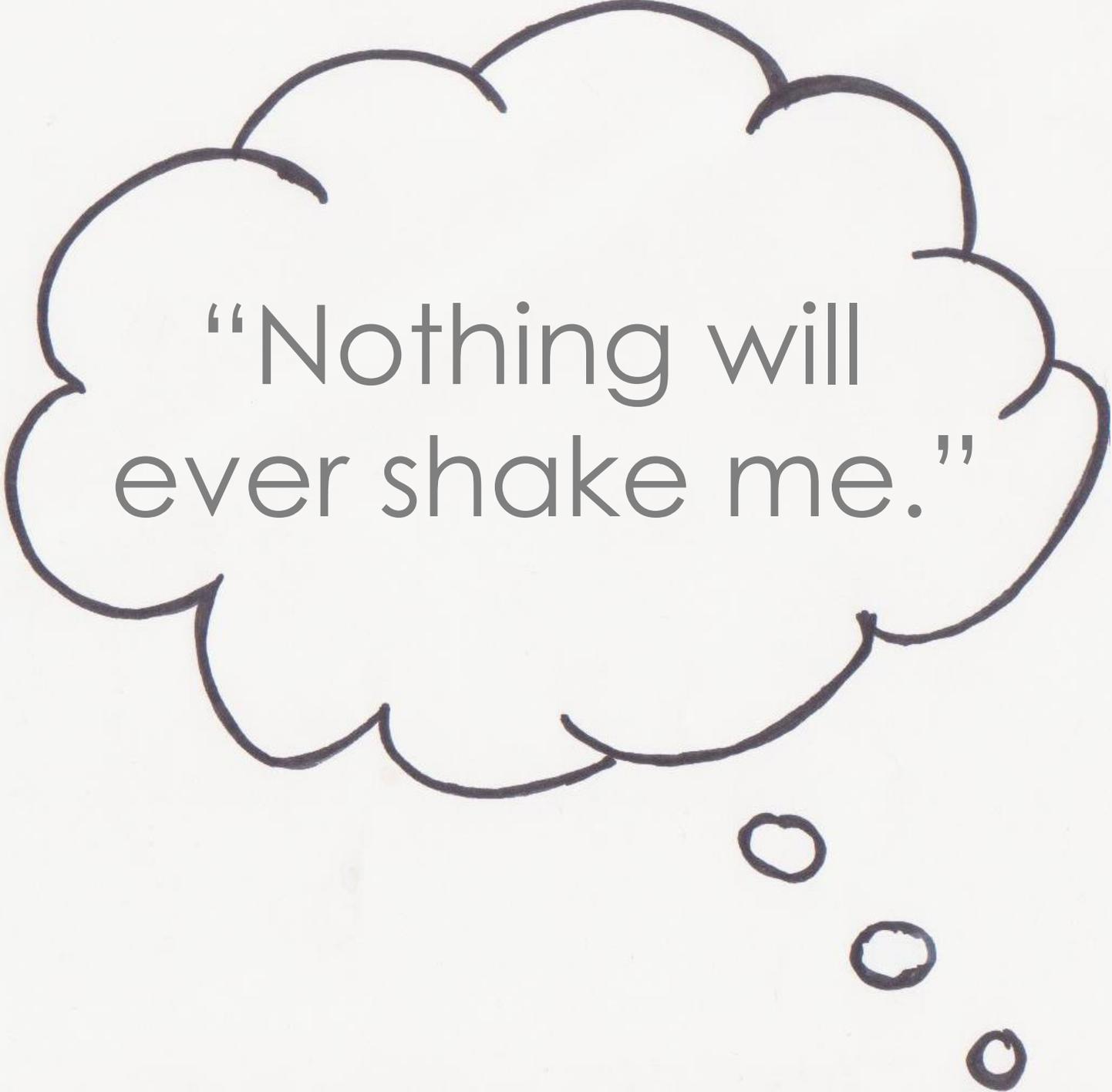


He says to himself...He says to  
himself... Why does he say to himself...

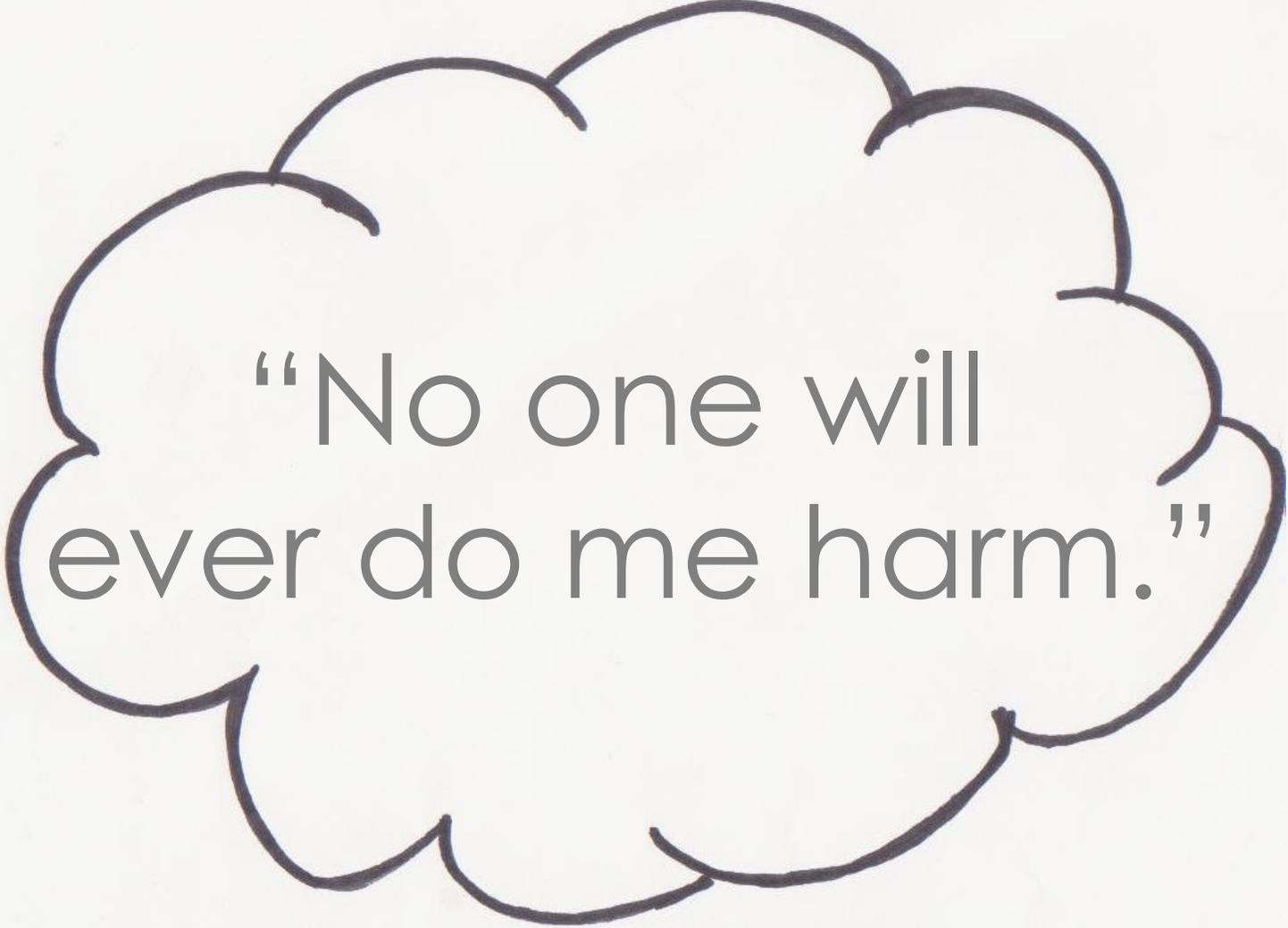
(v6, 11, 13)

Inside the mind of the wicked.

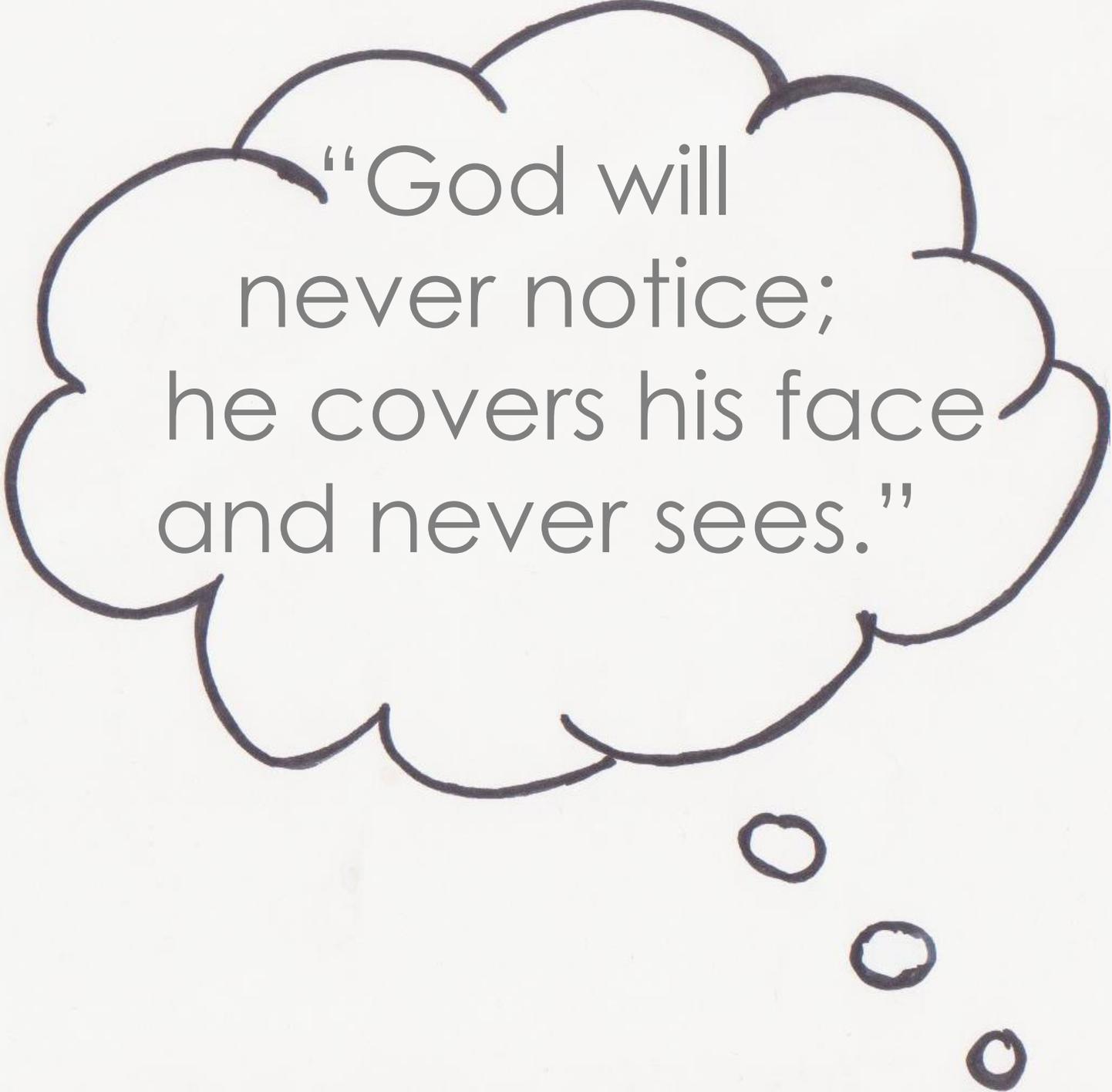




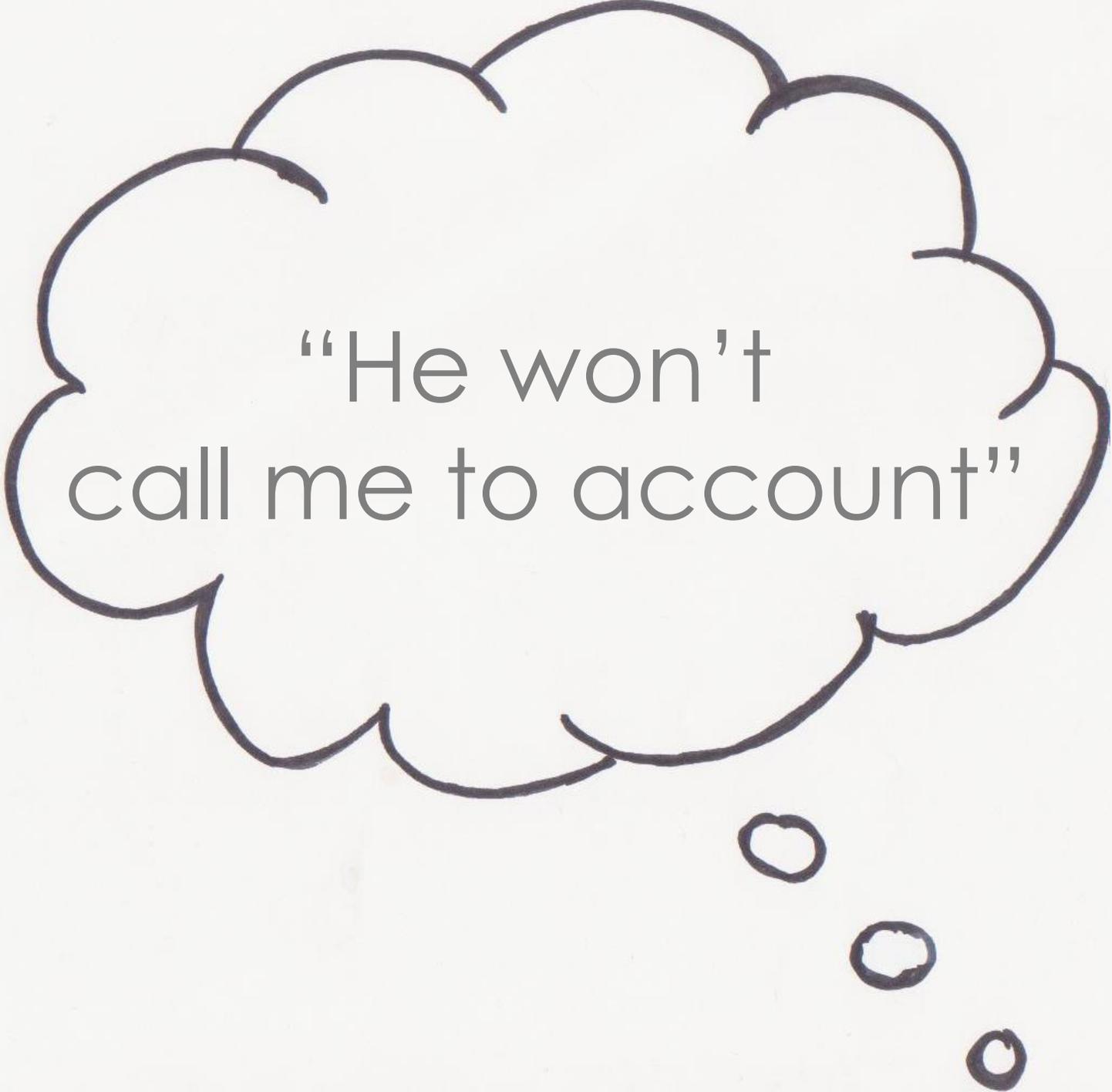
“Nothing will  
ever shake me.”



“No one will  
ever do me harm.”

A hand-drawn thought bubble with a dark outline, containing text. Three small circles lead from the bottom of the bubble towards the right side of the page.

“God will  
never notice;  
he covers his face  
and never sees.”

A hand-drawn thought bubble with a dark outline, containing the text "He won't call me to account". The bubble has a scalloped, cloud-like shape. Three small circles of varying sizes are drawn below the main bubble, leading from the bottom right towards the center, suggesting a trail of thought.

“He won't  
call me to account”

God's patience is **understood** by the wicked as license to do even more evil. They see God's inactivity as an indicator that God will never call them into account.



# This is a common perception in the Psalms:

They scoff, and speak with malice; with arrogance they threaten oppression. Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth. They say, “**How would God know? Does the Most High know anything?**” This is what the wicked are like—always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.

Psalm 73:8-9, 11-12

# The *consummation* of God.



**But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted;  
you consider their grief and take it in hand.  
Break the arm of the wicked man; call the  
evildoer to account for his wickedness that  
would not otherwise be found out. The LORD  
is King for ever and ever; the nations will perish  
from his land. You, LORD, hear the desire of  
the afflicted; you encourage them, and you  
listen to their cry...(v14-17)**

David realizes that God does see all things, and there is a day coming when God will right all wrongs; and bring all things in conformity to his will.



# This is a common perception in the Psalms:

When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny. Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin. How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors! Psalm 73:16-19

This is a common perception  
in the Psalms:

Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you. 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.

Psalm 73:27-28

How

Should

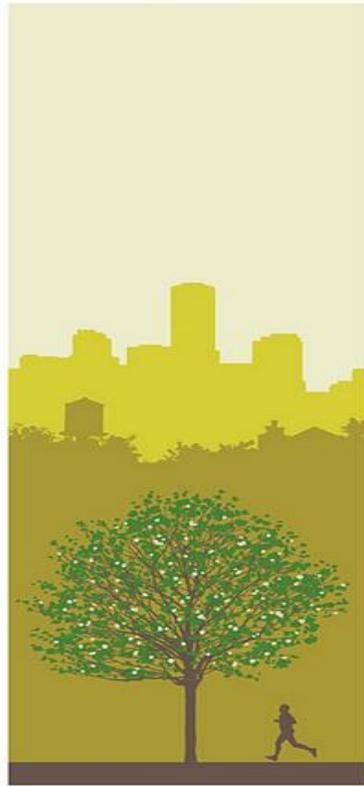


AFFECT

me



*We must understand that*  
there will be **seasons** of *prosperity* for  
the wicked & *disparity* for the righteous.



*We must understand that*  
God is patient with the wicked, not  
wanting anyone to perish.



# PRACTICAL ACTION



**Understanding that God allows the wicked to ‘unfairly prosper’ as part of his gracious plan for them to repent helps us accept it.**



**Understanding that this momentary, light affliction is storing up for us an eternal weight of glory helps us endure it. (2Cor 4:17)**



**When we have a friend, relative, neighbor or co-worker who is succeeding greatly while employing evil schemes or unbiblical thinking...God is being patient with them, wanting them to be repent & be saved...this is prime time for us to be reaching out to them, warning them and trying to save them!!**

*We must understand that*  
when things are going well for the wicked  
we will be tempted to join their number.



# PRACTICAL ACTION



**1** When our co-workers & friends employ ungodly tactics at work or home and succeed we will be tempted to do the same.

**2** Understanding that this is a common frustration and shared temptation is half the battle.

*We must understand that*  
when things are going bad for the righteous,  
we will be tempted to  
doubt, blame & scoff at God.



# PRACTICAL ACTION



**When you stick to godly convictions & upright practices and they fail to produce expected results it will be very frustrating.**



**You will be tempted to doubt the disciplines and potentially curse the creator. Understanding this as part of God's plan, helps us accept the difficulty.**

*We must be cautious when*  
things go well for us when we have been  
ignoring principles from God's Word...and  
have been implementing practices from the  
world!

**CAUTION**

# PRACTICAL ACTION



**1** We are on a dangerous road when worldly wisdom is producing for us a perceived better outcome than following God's word.

**2** Our prayer should be that we fail and fail quickly when we step off of the path of following God's counsel. Lest it go worse for us!

*We must understand that*  
it will never be worth it to fight against  
God...and it will always be worth it to align  
with God.



*We must understand that*  
in the end God will reign supreme and  
he will right all wrongs and reward all  
suffering & obedience for his name.



# PRACTICAL ACTION



Like an investor, we must continually look through the 'wide-lens' of history. In the short run it may not pay off to invest in God's plan...but in the long run, it always will!



We must remind ourselves weekly, daily, moment by moment that in the end it will always, always be worth aligning with God. Reminder yourself of biblical & historical examples.