

# THE SEASON OF CYNICGIVING

A 2-Part series on being thankful in a season of cynicism









**“What If You Just Skipped the Holidays?”  
- Faith Hill**



# CYNICGIVING | When Life Feels Backwards

## **73 A Psalm of Asaph.**

**1 Truly God is good to Israel,  
to those who are pure in heart.**

**2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled,  
my steps had nearly slipped.**

**3 For I was envious of the arrogant  
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.**

**4 For they have no pangs until death;  
their bodies are fat and sleek.**

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

**6 Therefore pride is their necklace;  
violence covers them as a garment.**

**7 Their eyes swell out through fatness;  
their hearts overflow with follies.**



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**8 They scoff and speak with malice;  
loftily they threaten oppression.**

**9 They set their mouths against the heavens,  
and their tongue struts through the earth.**

**10 Therefore his people turn back to them,  
and find no fault in them.**

**11 And they say, “How can God know?  
Is there knowledge in the Most High?”**

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

**13 All in vain have I kept my heart clean  
and washed my hands in innocence.**

**14 For all the day long I have been stricken  
and rebuked every morning.**

**15 If I had said, “I will speak thus,”  
I would have betrayed the generation of your children.**



# CYNICGIVING | When the Reward System Fails

**16 But when I thought how to understand this,  
it seemed to me a wearisome task,**

**17 until I went into the sanctuary of God;  
then I discerned their end.**

**18 Truly you set them in slippery places;  
you make them fall to ruin.**

**19 How they are destroyed in a moment,  
swept away utterly by terrors!**

**20 Like a dream when one awakes,  
O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as  
phantoms.**

**21 When my soul was embittered,  
when I was pricked in heart,**

**22 I was brutish and ignorant;  
I was like a beast toward you.**



# CYNICGIVING | When the Reward System Fails

**23 Nevertheless, I am continually with you;  
you hold my right hand.**

**24 You guide me with your counsel,  
and afterward you will receive me to glory.**

**25 Whom have I in heaven but you?  
And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.**

**26 My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.**

**27 For behold, those who are far from you shall perish;  
you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.**

**28 But for me it is good to be near God;  
I have made the Lord God my refuge,  
that I may tell of all your works.**



# HARVEST COMMUNITY CHURCH of IRVINE

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD; HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER. PSALMS 107:1



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