

## **Psalm 73: The Season of Cynicgiving**

*Sermon Outline Handout*

By Kevin McGill

### **1. When Life Feels Backwards (Psalm 73:1–15)**

- Asaph feels the unfairness of life: the wicked prosper while he struggles.
- Cynicism grows in the gap between *“what should be”* and *“what is.”*
- His envy reveals the collapse of his assumed moral reward system.
  - *“If I do good, I get good. If I do bad, I get bad.”*

### **2. When the Reward System Fails (Psalm 73:16–22)**

- Asaph admits the deeper issue: his goodness had been transactional.
- Tim Keller: *“His obedience was not to please God but for God to please him.”*
- Entering the sanctuary reorients his vision:
  - The wicked stand on *“slippery places.”*
  - His bitterness has distorted his view of God.
  - Worship reveals what analysis never could.

### **3. When God Becomes the Reward (Psalm 73:23–28)**

- *“Nevertheless, I am continually with You”*—God held him even in bitterness.
- The rebellious have much—but not God’s presence, counsel, or glory.
- Asaph’s conclusion: *“Whom have I in heaven but You?”*