

Doubting God's Justice

Psalm 73

Slides from John Percival's sermon at the evening service
Sunday 9th March 2025



What do we do when we have doubts about
God's justice?

1. The depths of doubt (v1-15)

The experience of the psalmist:

- What he **believed** (v1)

Psalm 73v1

Surely God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.

1. The depths of doubt (v1-15)

The experience of the psalmist:

- What he **believed** (v1)
- What he **experienced** (v2-3)

Psalm 73v2

But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;
I had nearly lost my foothold.

1. The depths of doubt (v1-15)

The experience of the psalmist:

- What he **believed** (v1)
- What he **experienced** (v2-3)
- What he **saw** (v4-12)

Psalm 73v4

They have no struggles;
their bodies are healthy and strong.

Psalm 73v12

This is what the wicked are like—
always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.

1. The depths of doubt (v1-15)

The experience of the psalmist:

- What he **believed** (v1)
- What he **experienced** (v2-3)
- What he **saw** (v4-12)
- What he **felt** (v13-15)

Psalm 73v13

Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure
and have washed my hands in innocence.

2. A new perspective (v16-28)

- Keep the end in mind (v18-20)
- Be honest with yourself (v21-22)

Psalm 73v21-22

²¹ When my heart was grieved
and my spirit embittered,
²² I was senseless and ignorant;
I was a brute beast before you.

2. A new perspective (v16-28)

- Keep the end in mind (v18-20)
- Be honest with yourself (v21-22)
- God never lets go (v23-28)

Psalm 73v23

Yet I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.

Isaiah 41v10

So do not fear, for I am with you;

do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you;

I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Psalm 73v24-28

²⁴ You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will take me into glory.

²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you?
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

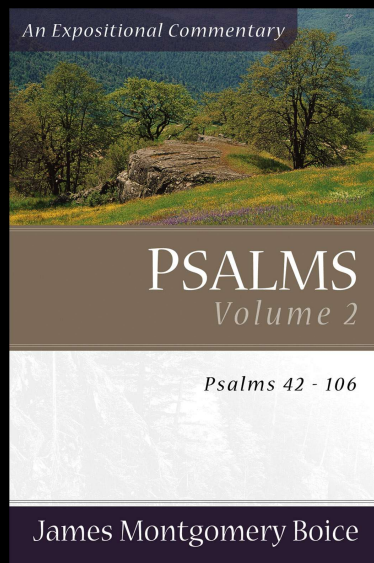
²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.

Psalm 73v24-28

²⁷ Those who are far from you will perish;
you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.

²⁸ 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.

“In the final analysis the only thing that really matters for us is God. He is all we have, but he is also all we need. He sustains us here, and afterward he will receive us into glory.”



James M Boice

Ephesians 2v13

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Psalm 73v28

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.