



# Psalm 1

## The Way of the Righteous and the Wicked

Hey there Ebenezer Family, welcome to another episode of the Pastor's Minute. We are taking the year to work our way through the Psalms. Last episode was an intro to the book of Psalms and today we are going to jump right into Psalm 1.

It is so appropriate that Psalm 1 is the first one in the song book because it really lays out the theme for the entire book. Not only that but it reflects the message of the Torah, which is the scriptures that David would have had and studied when he was writing these songs. I know that there would have been a Jewish scholar that was acting as, what we would call, an editor when the Psalms were put together, but the Holy Spirit clearly was guiding that person and process.

Psalm 1 puts before its reader two path or choices; the path of the righteous and the path of the wicked. Listen to the Psalm in its entirety...

1. Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers
2. but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night.
3. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yield its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.
4. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
5. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
6. for the LORD knows the way of the righteous but the way of the wicked will perish.

This would be considered one of the Wisdom Psalms. It speaks of the fullness a person can experience when they follow after God, or make God the top priority in their life. Blessing is being full and content, that only happens when a person keeps out of the neighborhoods where wickedness and sin lurk. That's what David is alluding to here when he writes in verse 1 "walks in the counsel of the wicked," or "sits in the seat of scoffers," it refers to those who seek after sin and wickedness. The song says blessed, content, happy is the person who stays away from wickedness and puts their delight or hope in the law of God. This is referring to God's Word

When we make God's word a priority in our lives and base what we do and think around what God has said, we find a blessing, a happiness, and contentment; we are informed on the best way to live this life. That's what it means when it says talks about meditating of God's Word day and night.

David then goes on to use a metaphor of a tree. This was a common things in Biblical times. Jeremiah uses the same metaphor, almost word for word in chapter 17. Psalm 1 compares delighting in God's Word and using it in our lives like a tree that is always connected to the





source of what it needs to live and thrive. When we rely on God's Word it fills us, and with the Holy Spirit's guidance can produce the kinds of fruit that God calls us to as His followers. No matter what our day may bring, we can have a sense of prosper because God is guiding our steps and filling our lives with His presence.

The Psalm then turns to a bit of parallel comparison and states, "it is not like this with the wicked". Whatever they do is like chaff blown away by the wind, because they do not have the LORD to anchor their every day. So you see the comparison?

Those who put their hope and trust in the LORD, who rely on God and His word to guide their lives are blessed by that very thing! God's abundant presence, the very source of life itself, indwelling the life of the believer. I really think that's what David is talking about when he writes that those who seek after God are like a tree connected to the source of life itself, and yielding good fruit, and prospering. Only trees that do not have what they need to live shed their withering leaves. When we put our hope in the LORD, we will always have what we need to thrive, so in essence our leaves will never wither!

David ends this Psalm saying, "the LORD *knows* the way of the righteous. This word is so cool. It does not mean an intellectual exercise. It means that God is intimately aware of those who seek after Him. He chooses them and watches over them all the time. This is a huge theme in the Psalms, that those who seek the LORD are not only found by Him, but receive the overwhelming and ultimate blessing of His presence in their lives.

This Psalm contains the perfect message to kick-off this Book of Songs, those who put their hope in God, who seek after His Word, and seek after what is right are blessed by God and He watches over them. I hope this encourages you to seek the LORD at all times of your life; day and night! May you rely on His Word to guide you and know that as you do God blesses you with the very things you need to live and thrive in our Savior Christ Jesus!

Until next episode, Love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Love your neighbor as yourself.

May the Grace of the LORD Jesus

the Love of God the Father

and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen!