

SERMON OUTLINE

In Psalm 1 we are shown 2 ways of living.

- I. The way of the righteous leads to life.
 - A. The life of the righteous:
 1. What they don't do (v.1).
 2. What they do (v. 2).
 - B. The fruit of the righteous: a metaphor (v. 3a-c)
 - C. The reward of the righteous:
 1. Blessedness (v. 1a)
 2. Prosperity (v. 3c).
 - D. The eternal destination of the righteous: life (v. 6a).
- II. The way of the wicked leads to death.
 - A. The life of the wicked (v. 1b-d, 4a).
 - B. The fruit of the wicked: a metaphor (v. 4b).
 - C. The reward of the righteous: judgment (v. 5).
 - D. The eternal destination of the wicked: death (v. 6b).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, August 21, 2016

Passages: Psalm 1:1-6

Memory Passage: Psalm 1:1-2

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Psalm 1.** The Hebrew word translated “blessed” refers to a state of being completely happy and satisfied under the blessing of God. It is a term that is prominent in wisdom literature, and especially in the Psalms. As you read the following passages, make a list of everything that one can do in order to live as a blessed one (I know there are many passages, but this is your only assignment today!): Psalm 32:1-2; 33:12; 40:4; 41:1; 65:4; 85:4-5; 89:15-16; 94:16; 106:3; 112:1; 119:1-2; 127:5; 128:1; 144:15; 146:5 (also: the term “man” is representative of the human race, male & female, not an exclusion of women).

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Psalm 1.** Explain the difference between “the wicked,” “sinners,” and “scoffers.”

(b) Explain what one would be doing if they *did* each of these three actions: “walk in the counsel of the wicked,” “stand in the way of sinners,” and “sit in the seat of scoffers.”

(c) Now, take a moment to consider your own life. Are there times in which you participate in these ways with the wicked, sinners, and scoffers?

(d) What are we to understand by the Psalmist’s use of the 3 verbs walk, stand, & sit (i.e. is this a progression to be observed, merely restatement, different level of entanglement with the wicked, etc.)?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Psalm 1.** “But” is a strong adversative: There is a way *not* to live (v. 1) and there is a way *to* live (v. 2). Explain the phrase, “his delight” (i.e. what does it mean to possess delight, how do you recognize when you delight in something, what does your delight produce, etc.).

(b) To what does “the law of the LORD” (Hebrew: *torah*) refer?

(c) What does it mean to meditate on God’s law? Why is this important (cf. Joshua 1:7-8 & Deut. 17:19-20)?

(d) Is the word of God your delight? How can you assess this? How does Psalm 1 help you change your affections if it is not?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Psalm 1.** The Psalmist uses a metaphor, “he is *like* . . .” to describe a blessed one. Notice the verb “planted” is passive. How does this shape our interpretation of the metaphor?

(b) In what ways does the one whose delight is in God’s law “yield fruit?” Explain the connection between “meditating” and yielding.”

(c) What do non-withering leaves tell you about a tree? To what characteristic does this refer in a blessed one?

(d) Explain what it means, in context, for a blessed one to prosper. Explain what it does not mean.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Psalm 1.** What is different about the wicked that causes them to produce chaff rather than fruit, and perish rather than thrive (not wither) and prosper?

(b) Why will the wicked fall (not stand) in judgment nor be a part of the congregation of the righteous?

(c) Explain the connection, in practical terms, between meditation and prosperity? Between delighting in/meditating on God’s word and obedience? Between obedience & blessing?

(d) Summarize the way of the righteous and the way of the wicked, including their ultimate destinations.

DATE: August 21, 2016

PASSAGES: Psalm 1

Two Ways to Live