

Psalm 1 and 2

Which Way Will You Choose?

Psalm 1 & 2 – No Title > 2 Psalms ARE the Title / Psalm 1 God's Covenant / Psalm 2 God's Kingdom

2 Main Themes of Psalms, OT, Bible / Be Happy in this World – Right at Gate of Psalter

1. The Way of Blessing

Never find Happiness by Looking for Happiness

Need to Look Out from things of this World and People of this World

Happiness will Not be Found There – Begins with Negative

Suggests Looking for Happiness from Wrong People in Wrong Places

Families Today LOOKING for Counsel for Kids, Guidance, Direction

v. 1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

“who walks not”.... Progression Away from God - Triple Triples

walks / counsel / wicked - stands / way / sinners – sits / seat / scoffers

walks not in counsel of wicked = unstable, tilting, questioning, doubting

nor stands in the way of sinners = give lives over to Sin

nor sits in the seat of scoffers = Openly Scornful of God and His Laws

Ecclesiastes – Man who tried All Things, still Not Happy – All Vanity

Rip Open our Christmas Presents and Never Find what Really WANT

Person LURED into EVIL – “Walk” take Wrong Turn WICKED Lane

“Stand” – Stop and Reflect, Look at Phone, Watch Something COOL

“Sit” – Plop into Lazy Boy Chair – Pull Lever – Feet into Air RELAX!

v. 2 Righteous Person described POSITIVELY by ONE Criteria –

his delight is in the law of the Lord & on his law he meditates day & night.

Delight is in the Law of the Lord – you are what you THINK

True blessing in life under authority of God's Law / Alternative is turning away from Word AND the Lord

Absorbed by what SEE in Life – MORE than what God says in WORD

“LAW” NOT = crime, lawyers, being bad, broken rules

Hebrew = Word of God, Instruction, God's Revelation, Safe Passage

Today we Share Gospel Truths for Life > “that’s just your opinion”

If Security is just Horizontal you never will be – Hope in This World

Job, Political Party, Wealth, Health, Family, Traditions – all PERISH

“no where man, doesn’t have a point of view, knows not where he’s going to, isn’t he a bit like me and you”

Paul McCartney

Only Security that is Real is Vertical – Connected to God,

Creator of Universe – He notices little me, forever loves and keeps us

God takes little story of My Life & Connects to Big Story what He Doing

Deut 17 – Moses gives God’s Command to the KINGS over Israel “when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law...And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he & his children, in Israel” 17.18-20

King needs to make Copy of Law – Read – Follow – Will Reign Long!

Faithfully Copy and Read “all days of life” – Honor God and Serve

If those 3 verses had been Followed – History of Israel Different!

America – Not God’s Israel – Leader who FEARED God, Read WORD!

King David: “You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore” 16.11

WSC Q 1: What is Chief end of man? Glorify God & enjoy Him forever?

v. 3 Result of Delight in Law – v. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

Metaphor > Life look like Lush Kapa’au or Arid Kawaihae?

While Some collapsing – morally, spiritually, emotionally – you thrive!

Not Prosperity Theology – forever health and wealth, no troubles

In the midst of life – good and bad – child of God prospers –

darkness, affliction, disease, mourning – storms grow trees strong.

Planted beside non-natural source – artificially watered – irrigation

Christian life thru Supernatural resources > Grace of Lord Jesus Christ

Airline question – Anyone given you something? Packed them yourself?

Real Pleasures only in God – He has Packed by Him, He Keeps Them

Delight in Law – sees it as attractive, beautiful, to be desired

Meditates in Law – spend time thinking about them, applying, sifting, love neighbor, wife, loyal to church, community

Rooted in Word, put into practice, steady, unchanging, no matter seasons

No Fall and Winter in our Lives – Always Vitality – Spring and Summer

2. The Way of the Wicked

Pt Sound like Mumbo-Jumbo? Never experienced if NOT a Christian

v. 4 The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Strong Contrast – Lit. “NOT SO / NOT SO the Wicked!”

Righteous do not walk in counsel of wicked...“NOT SO the Wicked!”

Righteous do not stand in way of sinners...“NOT SO the Wicked!”

Righteous not sit in seat of scoffers...“NOT SO the Wicked!”

Righteous delight in the law of the Lord...“NOT SO the Wicked!”

Righteous prosper in all he does...“NOT SO the Wicked!”

Righteous Enduring, Flourishing Tree / Wicked like Chaff Blown Away

Chaff – Empty, Fleeting, Passing, Worthless, Forgotten, Nuisance

50,000 yrs from Now NOT talk about Kamala Harris & Donald Trump

Person who gave cup of water in Name of Jesus will be remembered

Bible Days – Many Parts of World Today – Farmers hand Sift GRAIN

Take Winnowing Shovel & toss it up in Air - Winds blow away Chaff Grains fall to ground for another planting or to turn into flour for bread. Of what use is the chaff? None. It forms an utter contrast with the trees. The chaff isn't planted. It shows no signs of life. It doesn't produce fruit. It's worthless. It's not stable. It just blows away. That's all! From God's perspective, that is how much significance the wicked finally have.

v. 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

Many of us Lived to See – High & Mighty – Untouched by Problems

Found in their Sin – Suffer in their Guilt – Die in Misery and Shame

People with So much Promise – have a Shocking and Pitiful End

v. 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

Spurgeon: Person earns Masters in worthlessness & Doct. in damnation

3. Which Way will You Go?

2 paths before us – Only 2 – Think Long & Hard – Gotta Chose One

v. 6 for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

God is Omniscient – He knows Everything – But Psalm says...

The Lord KNOWS way of Righteous > Known BY the Lord

Important for You to Know the Lord > Even More for Him to Know You

Jesus: “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

Jesus Ends Sermon on Mount like Psalm 1 – Two Choices / Contrasts

Build House – On Solid Stone or Sinking Sand – Storms will Hit

Walk thru Narrow Gate or on Wide Road?

“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”

Matthew

7.13,14

Twin Themes of Psalms – OT – Bible > Ps 1 Covenant, Ps 2 Kingdom

Jesus came to makes BOTH New Covenant, God’s Forever Kingdom

Jesus Christ – Mediator of God’s New Covenant – God’s Forever King

“No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made to us —eternal life.”

1 John 2.23-25