

## ***Intro / Psalm 1***

---

### **Introduction:**

- In the Hebrew Bible the Psalms are referred to as the book of “Praises” it was their prayer and praise book, it was the hymnal for the people.
- Many Christians view the book of Psalms as their favorite Old Testament book, in part because it covers such a wide range of subjects and life’s experiences.
- The Psalms are another, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the 5 “poetic” books of the Bible. Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.
- The Psalms are mostly lyrical poetry, that is, poetry adapted to the harp or lyre; to be *sung*, not *read*.
- Again we’re talking about the rhyming of thoughts, the repetition of thoughts in a different way or emphasis, or the contrasting of thoughts that make up the poetry.
- The book of Psalms covers the entire spectrum of human emotion, and the Psalms will teach us to praise the Lord in every situation.
- This book exhorts us to praise, inspires us to praise, and it will instruct us about praise. If you want to know how to worship God with a heart filled with praise then stay tuned because I believe the Lord is going to meet us here for that purpose.
- Every Church, for that matter every Pastor has their strong points and weak points. Often time churches to some degree take on the character and personality of their Pastor - which I have to admit scares and concerns me more than I’d like to admit.
- As a fellowship I would like to think that we are to a fair degree somewhat grounded in God’s Word, we haven’t neglected that. But we have to be careful not to be “too intellectual” in our approach to God.
- We need both sides of the equation. We need to be students of the Word and worshippers of the Lord.
- If I’m only a student and not a worshiper, I will become an intellectual Christian who lacks passion. Bible study can become purely an academic pursuit. I might have my theology down and my doctrine right, but my heart will be cold.
- If, on the other hand, we’re solely engaged in worship without being grounded in the Word, our worship will be shallow, purely emotional, it’ll be fuzzy and erratic, and it will eventually fade away completely.

- There needs to be a balance.
- Jesus said the Father seeks those who will worship Him in both spirit and truth. (**John 4:23**). Worshipping in Spirit, led by the Spirit, as a result of the revelations received in the truth of His Word. Worship is a heart felt response to the revelation of who and what He is, this comes to us through His Word.
- Most people don't realize that Psalms is actually a collection of five books written over a period of about 1,000 years, from the time of Moses, around 1400 BC to the time of Ezra, around 400 BC.
- The psalms were written by a variety of human writers who were inspired by the Spirit. David wrote seventy-three of the one hundred fifty Psalms, and perhaps as many as thirty more. The sons of Korah wrote eleven; Asaph wrote ten; Hezekiah wrote two; and Asaph, Heman, and Moses each wrote one.
- The Psalms are divided into 5 books mostly along the lines of authorship.

Book 1 Psalms 1-41 primarily psalms of David.  
Book 2 Psalms 42-72 primarily psalms of the Sons of Korah, + one of Asaph.  
Book 3 Psalms 73-89 Asaph, Korah, and David.  
Book 4 Psalms 90-106 All anonymous, although Psalm 90 is ascribed to Moses.  
Book 5 Psalms 107-150 miscellaneous / catch all Psalms.

- Over half of the Old Testament quotations in the New Testament are from the Psalms.
- There are many subjects presented in the Psalms, but primarily the Psalms are about God and His relationship to His creation, the nations of the world, Israel, and His believing people.
- He is seen as a powerful God as well as a tenderhearted Father, a God who keeps His promises, and lovingly cares for His people.
- Again the main subject of the Psalms is "Yahweh" or "Jehovah." The name of God which literally means "the becoming One", as God becomes to us what ever it is that we need Him to be.
- The name "Yahweh" - LORD is used at least twice in each and every Psalm, and depending on the length of the Psalm often many more times than that.

**Psalm 40:7** "Lo, I come in the volume of the book, it is written of Me..."

- William McDonald opens up his commentary on Psalm 1 with the title or perhaps the summary: "The Good Life." This is the key to a good life!
-

V: 1 ***“Blessed is the man....”*** Oh how happy is the man! Describing the way of blessing.

- The first word of this Psalm is “happy” or “blessed.” The last word of the psalm is “perish.” This portrays the contrast that is presented between the Godly and the un-godly.
- Describing the way of blessing. *“Blessed is the man...”* The characteristics of a blessed man.

***“... that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly...”***

- Who doesn’t walk in the counsel or the wisdom of the ungodly, non-believers, who doesn’t take heed to ungodly counsel or counsel that originates from ungodly sources, essentially worldly wisdom.

**1 Corinthians 3:19** *“For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.”*

The prophet Amos asks the question:

**Amos 3:3** *“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”*

- We shouldn’t seek to walk in the wisdom of the world, because we’re not of the world, because we’re not in agreement with the world - different spirit, different values, different everything.

***“... nor standeth in the way of sinners...”***

- Don’t stop where the sinners are, don’t stay there.

**Proverbs 4:14** *“Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.”*

- If you walk in the counsel of the un-godly you will soon find yourself standing in the way of sinners, stopped in your tracks, no longer moving forward, and eventually you’ll be sitting in company with the mockers and scornful.

***“... nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”***

- Don’t get too comfortable with those who scorn, complain, have a bad attitude. Those who mock and dismiss the things of God.

**Proverbs 24:9** *“The thought of foolishness is sin: and the scorner is an abomination to men.”*

- Describing a progression: walking, standing, then sitting - the next step might be lying down, then perhaps being buried!
- If we were to reverse these things: the opposite of blessing is cursing; “cursed is the man who does these things!

Speaking to new believers:

**Ephesians 4:17-18** “<sup>17</sup>This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, <sup>18</sup>having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.”

**2 Corinthians 6:14-18** “<sup>14</sup>Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? <sup>15</sup>And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? <sup>16</sup>And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>17</sup>Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, <sup>18</sup>and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

- That being said, we’re not to avoid the un-godly altogether. We’re to avoid the lifestyle of the ungodly. We’re to avoid complicity with them, or tacit approval of their sin. We’re to witness to them, to be a friend to the un-godly, but not to partner with them.

V: 2 “**But**” -contrasting word, the opposite of what is described above - “... **his delight**...” to delight in the Law of the Lord! This is a general reference to the Word of God.

**Psalm 37:4** “Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”

- To delight means to take pleasure in, or to desire:

Jesus put it in even stronger terms:

**John 4:34** “... My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work.”

- The thing that sustains me, keeps me going, keeps me alive is to do His will!
- What do we take pleasure in? There are many possibilities; but we can purpose in our hearts to take pleasure in His Word, in His Law.

- The way that we treat the Bible, is the way we'll treat Jesus, because the Bible is His Word to each of us.

**Job 23:12** “Neither have I gone back from the commandment of His lips; I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.”

Jesus taught us:

**Matthew 4:4** “... man shall not live bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

“... *in His law doth he meditate day and night.*” Constantly thinking about God's Word, considering it, chewing on it.

- You can't meditate in something that you're not familiar with, something you haven't been exposed to in some way:

**2 Timothy 2:15** “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.”

**Psalms 119:18** “Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of they Law.”

V: 3 The effect, first you have cause, then you have effect.

“... *a tree planted by the rivers of water...*” in this case living waters - flourishes and is strong, vibrant, and healthy.

- This kind of a tree is healthy and fruitful! Grounded, rooted, abiding in God's Word!

Jesus said:

**John 15:5** “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me, ye can do nothing.”

- He will “... *bring forth his fruit in his season...*” when it's the right time according to God's eternal plan, His fruit and His season will be his season.

“... *his leaf also shall not wither;...*” He will endure, he will be sustained.

**Psalms 119:165** “Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.”

**Isaiah 26:3** “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”

“... *and whosoever he doeth shall prosper.*” God's hand, God's favor shall be upon that man.

- As God was commissioning Joshua to take over the mantle of leadership from Moses, God told Joshua to “be strong and of a good courage, and to be obedient to the Law.

Then He said:

**Joshua 1:8** “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shall meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all this is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

- Verses 1-3 describe Jesus, or give us a picture of our Lord who according to **John 14:6** is the way (V:1), the truth (V:2), and the life (V:3).

V: 4 Bluntly spoken, the un-godly will not be so, these things do not apply to them.

**Romans 8:28** “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.”

- What is the promise to the un-godly in both of these passages? There is no promise, they are on their own, just the way they like it.
- The un-godly are like the chaff that the wind drives away, they’re of no value in the scheme of things.
- The chaff was the covering over the grain, they would harvest the grain and let it dry a little then they would take it to the “threshing floor” usually an elevated place where there was a steady wind. They would take the grain and toss it up in the air where the wind would catch the chaff, the covering of the grain, and separate it from the grain which was heavier and simply fall to the ground. After doing this for a while there would be a pile of grain on the floor and the chaff would have been blown away in the wind.
- If they didn’t have a good wind, they would use a winnowing fan to create that wind.
- The outer covering, likened to the flesh, being removed to reveal the valuable fruit on the inside which is now usable.

John the Baptist describing Jesus:

**Matthew 3:11-12** “<sup>11</sup>I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: <sup>12</sup>Whose fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge his floor and gather His wheat into the garner; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

V: 5 The Godly and the un-godly shall be separated: All roads do not lead to heaven.

**Matthew 25:31-32, 41, 46** “<sup>31</sup>When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: <sup>32</sup>And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth His sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup>And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.” - “<sup>41</sup>Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.” - “<sup>46</sup>And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”

V: 6 The Lord knows the way of the righteous, accepts the way of the righteous but the ways of the un-godly lead to death.

- The Lord knows the hearts of men:

Solomon's prayer:

**2 Chronicles 6:30** “Then hear thou from heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and render unto every man according unto all his ways, whose heart thou knowest; for thou only knowest the hearts of the children of men.”

- Again the contrast between the righteous and the un-righteous:

**Proverbs 14:12** “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”

**Proverbs 12:28** “In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death.”

David's advice to Solomon:

**1 Chronicles 28:9** “And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve Him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek Him, He will be found of thee; but if thou forsake Him, He will cast thee off for ever.”