

Psalm 1

The Two Ways

This chapter defines the two ways to live life; the way of the faithful person and the way of the faithless person. The Bible tells us that we should, ***“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”*** Matthew 7:13-14 Together, let’s explore these two paths!

Read Psalm 1:1-3 again together

1. In VS 1, what is the result of those who do not take advice from the wicked, take the path of sinners, or join in with mockers?
 - a. We can assume you would like to be happy and blessed, yet do you ever find yourself getting advice from a friend that doesn’t love Jesus? Or listening to the news or media sources, being impressionable by views outside of what Jesus is telling you in His Word? Discuss the challenges in NOT doing this? Do you even consult the Bible and pray before forming opinions, or do you ask around first before consulting the Lord?
 - i. Look up and read Galatians 1:6-12
 1. These things were happening in Paul’s time too. What does he tell us happens to those who seek another gospel than Christ?
 2. Answer the question Paul poses in Galatians 1:10; ***do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men?*** Answer honestly, how difficult is it not to desire the approval of men? How can we adjust our desires to be in line with what God is asking of us?
 3. In Galatians 1:12, how did Paul receive his insight?
 - a. If he received his insight from Jesus Christ, shouldn’t you? What can you plan in your life to insure this?
2. In the Psalm 1:2 passage we learn what results from delighting in the Lord’s instructions and meditating on it day and night. Look up and read Jeremiah 17:7-8. What do these passages say will be produced when we follow the instructions?
 - a. What does it mean to delight in the Law/Word?
 - b. How often are we to meditate on the instruction of the Lord?
3. In Psalm 1:3, what prospers? Why?
 - a. In Hosea 4:6 we are told, ***My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.*** We have no excuse, we have the Bible app, internet, and printed Bibles anywhere you would desire to find one, and are not currently persecuted for reading them. Why aren’t you devouring the Word, gleaning knowledge so freely given, and as a result being destroyed for lack of it?

Read Psalm 1:4-5 again together

4. Look up and read Jeremiah 17:5-6.
 - a. What happens to those who trust in man, and make flesh his strength?
 - b. What happens when prosperity comes?
 - c. Where will he live?
 - d. Do you see this around you? Or is this you? That good comes your way, and you don’t even see it as the good that it is? And that your life, or the lives you observe who trust in man, their lives are wastelands where nothing grows, no fruit? Look up and read Matthew 12:33-37. Are you a good tree or a bad tree? How do you know?

5. What is chaff? Few of us are farmers or harvest our own crops so these terms can often fall flat on us. Chaff is the useless part of the crop, usually the outside covering of the seed or grain. This part of the crop must be separated from the seed/grain in order to be used as nutrients. Often the animals would stomp the crop on the threshing floor (hard surface) to loosen the chaff from the grain/seed, also used was a winnowing shovel. Matthew 3:12 explains the Biblical explanation well, ***His winnowing shovel is in His hand, and He will clear His threshing floor and gather His wheat into the barn. But the chaff He will burn up with fire that never goes out.*** A winnowing shovel is a wooden farm implement used to toss threshed grain into the wind so the lighter chaff would blow away and separate from the heavier, useful grain.
 - a. Isaiah 17:12-15 states the nations against Him will be ***driven before the wind like chaff on the hills and like tumbleweeds before a gale. In the evening—sudden terror! Before morning—it is gone! This is the fate of those who plunder us and the lot of those who ravage us.***
 - i. Look up and read Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.
 1. What are we learning about the chaff or weeds? What is the imagery depicting in these passages? What will happen to the weeds and chaff as the Bible defines?
 - b. Read Psalm 1:6 again together.
 - a. What happens to the righteous?
 - b. What happens to the wicked?
 - i. Psalm 37:18 ***The Lord watches over the blameless all their days, and their inheritance will last forever.***
 - ii. 2 Timothy 2:19 ***The Lord knows those who are His, and Everyone who names the name of the Lord must turn away from unrighteousness.***
 - iii. Discuss together what we have learned about the two paths?
“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” Matthew 7:13-14

Today, we get to choose, but there will come a day that it will be decided for us:

...at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:10-11

For it is written: “As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.”

Romans 14:11 and Isaiah 45:23

1. When will you bow?
2. What path will you take?
3. Do your friends and family know to choose now? Take this time to ask God to speak to you, and how you are being called to share the Good News with those around you, and ask the Holy Spirit to prepare their hearts for His message of hope!