


"Promises"

Psalm 1: The Plan of God

TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11

Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

- What role has the Book of Psalms played in your devotional life? Do you often go there—or only rarely?

Do you find it easy to identify with the sentiments recorded there, or are they a bit foreign to you?

- Read Psalm 1:1-2. What is this man **seeking**? **With what** does he preoccupy himself?

What does this man **find**? What does he end up **receiving**?

What principle can be distilled from these observations? How does it apply to your life?

- Tell us about a time when the wicked, sinners, or scoffers tried to entice you to join them? Did you try to resist? If so, how? Did it work? What was the end result of this experience?

- Do you “delight in the law of the Lord”? What does that look like for you?

- Read Psalm 1:3 and notice the **five blessings** of the Word-focused life:

1. **stability**—“*He is like a tree planted...*”
2. **vitality**—“*...beside flowing streams...*”
3. **productivity**—“*...that bears its fruit in its season...*”
4. **durability**—“*...and its leaf does not wither.*”
5. **prosperity**—“*Whatever he does prospers.*”

Which of these blessings do you **most** need now? Why that one?

- Who have you known personally who has had a “chaff-like” experience (v. 4-5)? Tell us about him or her.

- Read Psalm 1:6. What does the Lord do for “the way of the righteous”? How about for the way of the wicked?

What emotional response do you have to that?

Psalm 1

**1 How happy is the one who does not
walk in the advice of the wicked
or stand in the pathway with sinners
or sit in the company of mockers!**

² Instead, his delight is in the Lord's instruction, and he meditates on it day and night.

³He is like a tree planted beside flowing streams
that bears its fruit in its season
and its leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers.

⁴The wicked are not like this;
instead, they are like chaff that the wind blows away.

⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand up in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

⁶For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to ruin.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

There are, ultimately, only two paths in life, only two types and sources of counsel, only two outcomes. Which one are you pursuing?

Monday—Read Psalm 1 and Jeremiah 17:5-10 (below), and then...

- Make a list of all the things that the godly man does, and does not, **do**.
- Make a list of all the things that the ungodly man (the “wicked”, “sinners”, “scoffers”) does, and does not, **do**.

Tuesday—Read Psalm 1 and Jeremiah 17:5-10, and then...

- Make a list of all of the ways that the godly man is described, of things he is compared to.
- Make a list of all of the ways that the ungodly man is described, of things he is compared to.

Wednesday—Read Psalm 1 and Jeremiah 17:5-10, and then...

- Make a list of the contrasting “blessings” and “curses” in these passages (make sure you include ideas even when the specific word “blessed” or “cursed” does **not** appear, such as in Psalm 1:6, “God ‘knows’ the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish”).
- Which of these blessings have you personally experienced? Which of the curses?

Thursday—Read Psalm 1 and Jeremiah 17:5-10, and then...

- Write several “one word summaries” to show the contrast between the godly and the ungodly (for example, “fruitful” vs. “withered”).
- The word “heart” occurs three times in Jeremiah’s passage. Write down everything you can learn about the “heart”.



Friday—Read Psalm 1 and Jeremiah 17:5-10, and then...

- Make a list of all of the things God is said to **do**, how he is said to **react**, for both the godly and the ungodly.
- According to Jeremiah 17:9-10, what do we **need** God to do for us?
- Begin making the words of Psalm 139:23-24 your daily prayer: ***“Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.”***




Saturday—Read Psalm 1 and Jeremiah 17:5-10, and then...

- List everything that is **not** different about the godly and the ungodly.
- From Psalm 1 and Jeremiah 17, what must we **do** in order to be described as “godly”? Are you doing that? Why or why not?

KEY

-  = godly attitudes, actions, and results
-  = ungodly attitudes, actions, and results

Psalm 1


¹ How blessed is the man
who does not  walk in the counsel of the wicked,
nor  stand in the path of sinners,
nor  sit in the seat of scoffers!

² But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and in His law he meditates day and night.

³ He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in its season
and its leaf does not wither;
and in whatever he does, he prospers.

⁴ The wicked are not so,
but they are like chaff which the wind drives away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

⁶ For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked will perish.

Jeremiah 17:5-10


⁵ Thus says the LORD, “Cursed is the man
who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength,
and whose heart turns away from the LORD.

⁶ For he will be like a bush in the desert
and will not see when prosperity comes,
but will live in stony wastes in the wilderness,
a land of salt without inhabitant.

⁷ Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD
and whose trust is the LORD.

⁸ For he will be like a tree planted by the water,
that extends its roots by a stream and
will not fear when the heat comes;
but its leaves will be green,
and it will not be anxious
in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit.

⁹ The heart is more deceitful than all else
and is desperately sick.
Who can understand it?

¹⁰ I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind,
even to give to  each man according to his ways,
according to the results of his deeds.”