

THE PSALMS

Series: Selected Psalms Phase 1

Lesson 1: Contrast ... The Righteous and the Wicked Psa. 1:1-6

Today's Study Psalm 1 Part B ... The Rebellious Psa. 1:4-6

1. Description of the Ungodly v. 4
2. Doom of the Ungodly v. 5
3. Different State of the Godly and the Wicked v. 6

Introduction

1. A Brief Review ... Introduction to the Psalms

(As a reminder this was discussed in Part A ... Today we will note a Few Highlights)

- (a) The English title "Psalms" and "Psalter" comes from the Septuagint, which entitled the book *Psalmoi*, meaning "Sacred Songs Sung to Musical Accompaniment."
 - (1) The Hebrew title for the Book of Psalms is "*tehilim*" or "*tehillim*", that means "Book of Praises" or "Songs of Praise."
 - (2) If one word could be used to describe the Book of Psalms, certainly "praise" would qualify, for there is no psalm that does not contain an element of praise.
- (b) Through the centuries the Psalms have been loved, widely frequently used, and have been a source of inspiration and a means of nurturing. The Psalms has a place of special importance in the Bible. *One great English theologian described the Psalms as: "The grandest symphony of praise to God ever composed on earth."*
- (c) The five divisions of the Psalms, most widely accepted are:
 - (1) Book 1 Psalms 1-41
 - (2) Book 2 Psalms 42-72
 - (3) Book 3 Psalms 73-89
 - (4) Book 4 Psalms 90-106
 - (5) Book 5 Psalms 107-150

As a reminder, all psalms were not written by David; there were other authors such as Moses, Asaph, Solomon, Heman, Ethan and others (See notes in Part A).

2. Summary of Psalm 1

Quote from Thomas Nelson, King James Study Bible

"The key word in the psalm is the word **blessed**. It serves here as a pronouncement upon a man-but a certain kind of man. In essence, the psalm is teaching that the blessed or happy man is the righteous man. The happy man is the righteous man. The happy man avoids evil influences, deeds, and attitudes (v. 1); he delights in God's Word (v. 2); therefore, God causes him to prosper (v. 3). On the other hand,

the **ungodly** is worth no more than **chaff** (v. 4), and his destiny is judgment (v. 5). Finally, the evaluation by the LORD Himself is described (v.6). There is an ellipsis (*curve, circle, etc.*) which is understood with the clauses in verse 6: **For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous [and it will be blessed], but [He also knows] the way of the ungodly [and it] shall perish.** The psalm forms an appropriate introduction to the Psalter since it sets before the readers the three characters who will figure mostly in this psalms: the righteous, the ungodly, and God.”

The Rebellious Psa. 1:4-6

Introduction to Psa. 1:4-6

In this second main division of Psalm 1, we have a contrast of the righteous and the wicked.

In the preceding verses, we saw the righteous as one who chose God’s way and His Word and on God’s Word continuously ponder and assimilate. He takes the Word of God and carries it with him all the day long; and with him in the night watches, when sleep forsakes his eyelids, he ruminates upon the Word of God. In the day of prosperity, he sings psalms out of the Word of God, and in his affliction, he comforts himself with the promises out of the same book.

The righteous man is like a tree planted by the rivers of water. He is firmly planted by God’s grace and his life is marked by strength and stability. Because of the sustenance he receives he becomes fruitful to the glory of God!!

What we are witnessing in Psalm 1 is the sharp contrast to the continuing blessedness of the righteous in comparison to the short-lived hollowness of the ungodly. We have in this account (Psa. 1), a most powerful illustration of permanence noted in the example of the flourishing tree planted by the rivers of water. We must also note that nothing could be more uncertain and temporary than the chaff that is used in comparison.

“The ungodly are not so . . .” (KJV), this phrase is rendered in the Vulgate (*Latin translation of the Bible*) and the Septuagint (*The Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures*) as **“Not so the ungodly, not so.”** It is obvious from this statement that whatever good thing is noted of the righteous is not applicable to the ungodly! What an awful reality to have a double negative put upon the promises, nevertheless such is the condition of the ungodly. Note the usage of the term *“ungodly”*, as we have seen in the opening of the psalm, these pointers are the beginning of evil and they **seem** to be the least offensive.

As seen earlier, this downward spiral begins with a simple **“stroll”** then moves to the next phase of **“standing”** getting more adjusted to the ungodly ways; and finally there is that complete relaxed attitude, now feeling at home so he **“sits”!!** (Psa. 1:1). In regards to this compromising act, note a comment by Rev. A Redpath (*Also quoted in “Accept the Challenge and Move On”, Lesson 18 page 22*):

“How often do we see that the temptation we have pampered and encouraged and indulged in become a scourge and thorn in our side! The compromising Christian is not a happy man. Let the enemy remain in a Christian’s life, let him have one foothold, and he soon becomes a scourge.”

Beloved, what we have in Psalm 1:4-6 is the sad state of those **who continue** in their immorality and neglect their God. The result is an awful state that is certainly most undesirable. Here is their character: **“they are like chaff,”** intrinsically worthless, dead, unserviceable, without substance, and easily carried away. Note also that: **“the wind drives them away,”** the winds of adversity and turmoil drives away, separating them from God to a life of disappointment, disaster and destruction.

A. Description of the Ungodly Psa. 1:4

“The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away” (v. 4 NKJV)

1. Depraved and Deprived of the Best (v. 4a)

“The ungodly are not so . . .” (v.4a NKJV)

(a) The lamentable state of the ungodly.

(1) The ungodly is different from the righteous!

- Briefly defining the “ungodly”
 - They purposefully deny or disobey God and live contrary to His laws; choosing rather to pursue a life of immorality.
 - The KJV Dictionary defines “ungodly” as:
 - “Wicked”, impious; neglecting the fear and worship of God, or violating His commands (1 Peter 4, NB Vv. 3-4)
 - Sinful; contrary to the divine commands; as ungodly deeds, Jude 4
 - Polluted by wickedness; as an ungodly day.
- Seems as if in today’s world the ungodly does not realize that the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness (Rom. 1:18-32, NB v. 18; etc.).

(2) Satan has dressed up sin to make it look good and worthwhile but it is still sin!!

- Note a **few** highlights on Satan’s tricks:
 - He shows the glitter and glory of the world.
 - He shows the wealth and wisdom of the rich and powerful.
 - He shows you the great opportunities available.
 - He shows you the great pleasures that you are missing by living a holy life
 - He shows the joy and jubilation, the great thrills of immorality
 - Etc.
- **2 Cor. 4:4 KJV**

“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God should shine on them.”

(3) The reality of who the ungodly is must be faced!!

- What has been stated about the righteous man is true—stable as a tree, continual life and nourishment, fruitful, alive, and prosperous—it is not so in regards to the ungodly.
- It may often seem like the ungodly is blessed with all the righteous have and much more!
 - But not so beloved! These things they possess are all short-lived, lack satisfaction and corrupt the soul (**Gal. 6:7-8**; Jer. 12:13; Joel 3:12-13).
 - Lot saw the luxuriant plains of Jordan but the area was corrupted and subjected for destruction (Gen. 13, NB Vv. 10-11; 19, NB Vv. 24-29).
 - Moses rejected a life of luxury for one of suffering and bondage (Heb. 11:23-27).
- Oh! Beloved! Not everything that glitters is gold!! And the neighbor's grass may be greener but the rental is higher!!

Partial quote: "I'd Rather Have Jesus"

Verse 1

I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold;
 I'd rather be His than have riches untold;
 I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands.
 I'd rather be led by His nail pierced hand.

Refrain

Than to be the king of a vast domain
 Or be held in sin's dread sway.
 I'd rather have Jesus than anything
 This world affords today.

(4) The ungodly do not have the blessed security that the saints have.

Partially quoting two other songs:

F. Crosby: "**Safe in the Arms of Jesus**"

Verse 3

Jesus, my heart's dear Refuge,
 Jesus has died for me;
 Firm on the Rock of Ages
 Ever my trust shall be.
 Here let me wait with patience
 Wait till the night is o'er;
 Wait till I see the morning
 Break on the golden shore.

Refrain

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
 Safe on His gentle breast;
 There by His love o'ershaded,

Sweetly my soul shall rest.

Elisha A. Hoffman: **“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”**

Verse 1

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms

Verse 3

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!
I have peace complete with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms.

Refrain

Leaning, leaning,
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms.

(5) **“The Ungodly**

I will present a brief coverage on the “Ungodly in Psalm 1” when discussing verse 6.

(b) The ungodly is subjected to the wrath of God! (Rom. 1:18-32)

The subject, “The Wrath of God” (Rom. 1:18, etc.) requires a more detailed study, but at this time I will present a concise presentation.

(1) Why God’s anger at sinful people?

- Because they have substitute the truth about Him with a lie (Rom. 1:25).
- They have stifled (suffocated, suppressed, restrained, etc.) the truth God naturally reveals to all people in order to believe anything that supports their own self-centered lifestyle (Psa. 52:3; Prov. 2:14; Jer. 14:10; 2 Thess. 2:11-12)
- Note also Prov. 1:22-33.

(2) God is holy (Lev. 11:44-45; 19:2; 1 Peter 1:15-16); God is just and justice requires that violations be judged (Ezek. 18:18-29, NB Vv. 18-23, 30).

- God cannot tolerate sin because His nature is morally perfect (Psa. 85:13; 145:17; Matt. 5:48).
- He cannot ignore or condone willful rebellion.
- God wants to remove the sin and restore the sinner—and He is able to help all who willingly seek Him. The sinner must not stubbornly distort and reject the truth.
- Make no mistake, God shows His anger against those who persist in sinning.

- No one should be determined to pursue lies rather than the true and living God!!
- The truth about God must not be suppressed for any reason; including for the purpose of enhancing and continuing in one's own sinful ways.
- **See Psa. 7:11-17, NB Vv. 11-14**
 - We live in a time where so many voices are calling for tolerance; but beloved, God is unalterable (unchangeable, etc.) and opposed to wickedness!!
 - **God does not despair because of evil nor does He compromise!!**
 - Verses 12-13 (Psa. 7) picture God as a warrior, ready to attack the wicked. The question is: "Who can stand when He appears?" (Mal. 3:2).

(3) some ask: How can a loving God send anyone to hell?

(At this time more details are not possible)

- It is not the will of God that anyone should perish (2 Peter 3:9).
- We should also remember that justice demands that sin be judged (**Rom 5:12; 6:23**)
- God did all that was necessary to deliver man from condemnation (John 3:16-18).
- **Rom. 5** is only one source of evidence of God's amazing love and all-out-provision for man's deliverance from sin and condemnation . . . at this time note Vv. 6-12.
 - Carefully note Vv. 6-9
 - In verse 9 note a **few highlights: (Rom. 5)**
 - The result of us accepting God's provision for our sins is "justification" . . . "just as if we had not sinned!!"
 - If we reject the provision through Jesus Christ means we expose ourselves to the wrath of God, **note "wrath" in verse 9**
 - Let's back track a little, see the depth of God's love and mercy in Verses 5-6, 8, 10
 - Rejecting the atonement of Jesus Christ is to reject mercy John 3:19, 36
- Anyone who goes to hell does so because of his choice (Psa. 34:21; Prov. 11:3; Isa. 3:9; Matt. 7:13-14; John 3:19)
- Read John 3 16-21

2. **Drained/Dried up and Driven with the Wind** (Psa. 1:4b)

"But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away" (v. 4b NKJV)

(a) **"The Chaff"**

(1) Definition

- General Definition

- The husk of corn or other seed separated by winnowing or threshing (husks, pods, shells, etc.).
- Chopped hay and straw used as fodder
- Worthless things; trash (refuse, waste, garbage, litter. etc.)
- Scriptural Definition
 - As noted above it is the loose, outer covering on wheat and other grains that must be separated in the threshing and winnowing process.
 - Several Scriptural applications made in reference to **chaff**, for example:
 - **In Isa. 33:** The righteous people of God survive judgment while the wicked are consumed. **Note verse 11 . . .** how the Assyrians were referred to.
 - **In Hosea:** God’s way of dealing with wickedness in Israel was to remove the idolaters like chaff swirling away on the wind (**Hosea 13:3**).
 - There are other Scriptural usages, **for example Isa.17:13; Zeph. 2:2; Dan. 2:35; Matt. 3:11-12; Luke 3:17.**
 - One of the definitions in the KJV Dictionary states:

“Refuse, worthless matter; especially that which is light, and apt to be driven by the wind. In Scripture, false doctrines, fruitless designs, hypocrites and ungodly men are compared to chaff, Psa. 1:4; Jer. 23:28; Isa. 33:11; Matt. 3:12.”

(2) A summarized commentary:

“Chaff is the outer shell (or husk) of wheat or other grains that must be removed to get at the valuable kernel of grain inside. Chaff was removed by a process called threshing and winnowing. After the plants were cut, they were crushed and the pieces were thrown into the air (one method by using a shovel). Chaff is very light and is carried away by even the slightest wind, while the good grain falls back to the earth.

Chaff is a symbol of a faithless life that drifts along without direction. Good grain is a symbol of a faithful life that can be used by God. Unlike grain, however, we can choose the direction we will take.” (Life Application Study Bible)

(b) The well-established tree and the chaff.

(1) The righteous is like a well-established tree planted by the rivers of water!

- He is like a gigantic tree that is securely settled in fertile soil.
 - It has deep root system that continuously feeds from the refreshing waters by which it is planted.
 - Its leaves are luscious and green and there is always an abundance of delicious juicy and nourishing fruits!

- The righteous man is like a deeply entrenched tree, one that is tested but stands firm, despite any raging storm.
 - The righteous may be battered and bruised by various trials, opposition, etc. but he is rooted and grounded in Jesus Christ!!
- (2) The ungodly is unstable and lacking in substance.
- "... like the chaff which the wind drives away" (v. 4b NKJV)*
- In regards to *chaff*, Spurgeon notes:
"Intrinsically worthless, dead, unserviceable, without substance, and easily carried away."
 - There is a huge difference between a tree and chaff!
 - We have seen how the Bible describes the righteous and ungodly. In this case (Psa. 1:4) the ungodly is referred to as **chaff** of wheat; it is weightless and worthless, without substance and without value.
 - In times of testing the chaff is quickly and easily dispersed . . . blown away by adverse circumstances.
 - **The reality is, it cannot withstand the slightest puff of wind, much less the violent gust of the raging storm.**
 - We have also witnessed that anyone who does not sincerely commit to God, will not prevail, will not endure. **One example, Matt. 13, note Vv. 5-7, 21-22**, despite the temporal glory, it eventually disappears. Here today gone tomorrow, some never to be seen again.
 - Despite the ungodly insecurity, instability and emptiness; they love to give the impression of how well secured and settled they are and living on cloud 9.
 - In Scriptures there are many references in regards to the ungodly and their fate, for example: Psa. 37, NB Vv. 9-11; chap. 73; etc.
 - In Psa. 73, we note that Asaph was somewhat perplexed when he saw the ease, etc. of the wicked, until God revealed the facts to him (note Vv. 13-17, 18-28).
 - **Psa. 73:16-17 NKJV**
"When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me—until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end."
 - The way of the ungodly must be avoided at all cost, God enabling us as we remaining submissive to His perfect will. We must not **stroll** in the ways of the ungodly, even worse, to linger by **standing** in their pathway, and yet even more disastrous to feel comfortable by **sitting** in their assembly!!
 - Beloved, no matter how attractive Satan makes sin looks, we must resist him (1 Peter 5:9), remember, he did it to Christ but was sharply rebuked and overcome (Matt. 4:1-11). We also can resist Satan by remaining in Jesus Christ and He in us (John 15:1-8). We must not give in!! Resist the devil and he will flee!! (James 4:7; 1 Cor. 10:13; etc.).

- The glitter and glory of sin is as one author described Rome in its glory days: **“All that was underneath was the grief, the canker and the intestinal worms!”** In reality, beloved, that is what sin is really like and we have firsthand knowledge but for the mercy and grace of God!! **BLESS HIS HOLY NAME!!!**
 - The rich man was so self-satisfied and falsely secured, he assured himself that it was time to sit back and relax but he had a rude-awakening!! (Luke 12:15-21, NB v. 20).
- (3) I know this is not welcomed by so many, especially the fact of eternal damnation for the unrepentant, but it is the Word of God!! We declare the Word of truth with boldness, love and compassion, to the glory of God!! I will close this pointer with a quote from Matthew Henry. The remaining two verses are also straight forward and strongly show that there is a way out as it exemplifies the contrast between the godly and the ungodly.
- Matthew Henry:
 “The chaff may be for a while among the wheat; but He is coming whose fan is in His hand and who will thoroughly purge His floor. Those that by their own sin and folly make themselves as chaff will be so found before the whirlwind and fire of divine wrath (Psa. 35:5), so unable to stand before it or escape it, Isa. 17:13.”
- (4) As noted before, it is not the will of God that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9; Rom. 2:4; 3:3; 10:21). It is for each person to choose and God is still reaching out with His mercy and grace!! (Acts 10:43; 1 John 5:1; Rev. 22:17)
- (5) Oh! May we ALL seek God and genuinely become one of His very own:
Psa. 104:16a Amplified Bible
 “The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly and are filled with sap.”

B. Doom of the Ungodly Psa. 1:5

“Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.” (Psa. 1:5 NKJV)

1. **Convicted/Found Guilty** (Psa. 1:5a)

“Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment” (v. 5a NKJV)

“Therefore the wicked [those disobedient and living without God] shall not stand [justified] in the judgment” (v. 5a Amplified Bible)

(a) There will be a time of accountability.

- (1) **Accountability** is about being **responsible** for fulfilling one’s duties and obligations. The fact is we are all stewards and are accountable to God!
- **Biblical accountability** begins with taking responsibility for one’s own actions and making conscious choice of allowing God and others to help in accomplishing what is right.
 - The Bible speaks strongly on accountability; a few examples are:
 - Rom. 14:12 NKJV
 “So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.”

- See also Jer. 17:10; Ezek. 18:20; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Tim. 3:4; James 4:17; etc.

(2) Man love to have his own way and he rejoices in his sins but that is temporal.

- All will stand before God and be judged but the unrepentant will not be acquitted (he never repented much less to forsake sin).
- The lack of fear for God and the cool composure of a sinner will change on that day of accountability!!
 - On that day fear shall lay hold on the ungodly!!
 - They shall not stand their ground . . . as the reality of sin sets in!!
 - Although when sinning they were confident and fearless, now they will desire to flee away!!
 - Before, they were defiant and strongly defended their sinful lifestyle, now embarrassment, shyness and shame set in as they become aware of eternal contempt!!

(b) Consequences of sin has already been determined!!

(1) Weighed in the balance and found wanting!

“Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment” (v. 5a NKJV)

- Belshazzar, like so many today, lived the life he wanted to, in defiance of the true and living God (**See Dan. 5**).
- Belshazzar was not ignorant of the Almighty God and His omnipotence but he chose to ignore the facts!!
 - **To glorify God is to live in a way that recognizes that He is the one who controls our breath and He owns all our ways** and Belshazzar was not willing to do that; like so many today, individuals just like to do things their way!!
 - Belshazzar’s day of accountability had arrived and his business transactions were found to be deficient (see v. 27 ... Dan. 5) and the verdict was pronounced (note Dan. 5:25-31).
Dan. 5:27 The Living Bible (TLB)
“You have been weighed in God’s balances and have failed the test.”
 - **See Rom. 3:23**, it must be remembered that anything that falls short of God’s standard is **missing the mark!** It’s like throwing darts or shooting arrows and not hitting the bull’s eye.
- Many are at the place where Belshazzar was, note again Dan. 5:27: *“. . . weighed in the balances, and found wanting ...”*
 - The term **“wanting”** here means “defective” or **“of poor quality.”**
 - Belshazzar had been weighed on **heaven’s scales** (not man’s ideology, man’s doctrine, etc.) and was found seriously defective **according to God’s standard of measurement.**
 - We are all acquainted with the consequences of Belshazzar’s choice to stroll, stand and sit in the pathway of unrighteousness (note Dan. 5:30).

- We all have a choice to either accept the ways of God or the way of the ungodly. Note the following and the message that they illustrate: Jer. 15:6; Rev. 10:9-10; Ezek. 3, NB Vv. 1-3; Psa.119:101-103; 19:7-10.
- (2) We are not ignorant of the facts!!
- God has given us His Word (Psa. 119; John 1:1-14; Heb. 1:1-4; etc.)
 - We know the consequences of travelling the broad road, (Psa. 34:21: Isa.59:8; Matt. 7:13-14; etc.)
 - God has made a way through Jesus Christ (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; John 3:16-17; etc.)
 - We have been cautioned (Ezek. 3:20-21; Gal. 5:19-21; James 1:14-15; etc.).
 - To reject God's way is to reject His mercy and grace (Mal. 4:1; John 3:18, 36; 1 Thess. 5:3; etc.).
- (3) Beloved! The ungodly **will NOT stand in the judgment**" (Psa. 1:5 KJV)
- Many enjoy making excuses or blaming others or circumstances, or denying that which they have done and this is the way of sin (Gen.3:12-13; Ex. 32:21-24; 1 Sam. 15:20-23; etc.)
 - The ungodly will not be able to withstand God's wrath when He judges (Psa. 76:7; Ezra 9:15; Nahum 1:6; Mal. 3:2; Matt. 25:31-46; Rev. 6:17).
Mal. 3:2 Amplified Bible Classic Edition
"But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. [Rev. 6:12-17]."
- (c) Judgment is certain (Psa. 1:5)
- (1) The ungodly doom themselves . . . it's their choice, man has an option to serve or not to serve God (Deut. 11:13; Josh. 24:15; Psa. 1:1-6; Matt. 6:24).
- (2) In Psa. 1:4, we note: ". . . *the wind driveth away.*" (KJV)
- In this situation "wind" symbolizes the "judgment" of God (See also Rev. 7:1 . . . the four winds of judgment).
 - The fact is, the chaff is just a light, worthless trash which cannot withstand strong gales, the ungodly person will not be able to stand in the day of God's coming judgment!!
 - A similar message was preached by John the Baptist to the Pharisees and Sadducees:
Matt. 3:12 NKJV
"His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."
- (3) The ungodly shall not stand in the judgment!! (Psa. 1:5)
- They shall be found guilty and shall hang down their heads with shame and confusion.
 - All their pleas and excuses will be overruled as frivolous.

- (4) Irrespective of man's denial of the reality of the certainty of judgment, beloved, judgment is certain! (2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:11-5; etc.). Only the sins that are confessed and forsaken now will not follow us to that judgment day (Prov. 28:13; 2 Cor. 7:10; 1 John 1:9; etc.)
- The judgment noted in our text, is one in which every man's present character and work, no matter how artfully concealed, shall be made known (Mark 4:22; Luke 12:2-3).
 - Man's sinful actions will be received just as they were done and there will be an irreversible sentence (Rom. 2:6; 2 Cor. 5:10).

2. Condemn Eternally (Psa. 1:5)

(a) Resemble but not in reality!!

- (1) Chaff closely resembles wheat and comes from wheat or other grains (*this was discussed in Part A and briefly noted above*). The chaff is the inedible parts of a grain. it is the husk that is separated from the grain.
- The point that we are making here has to do with false believers who profess to be a part of God's righteous congregation!
 - Hypocrisy was at the heart of John the Baptist's sermon that he delivered to the Pharisees and Sadducees (referred to above . . . note Matt. 3:7-12).
- (2) In Scripture, there is also reference to "Wheat" and "Tares" in Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43.
- "Tares" is referred to in Easton Bible Dictionary as: "It bears closest resemblance to wheat till the **ear** appears, and only then the difference is discovered.
(*"ear": is the grain-bearing tip of the stem of a cereal plant., such as wheat or maize*).
 - These plants are not the same no matter the look-alike reality and the fruit bearing phase will clearly identify them . . . the same is true spiritually! (Matt. 7:15; 1 John 4:1)
 - Time wouldn't allow but note carefully . . . **2 Tim. 3:1-9**
 - Highlight verses 2-5, 6-7
 - **Note carefully verse 5** . . . such disreputable persons may even put on the **appearance** of being righteous (**1 Tim. 6:5**) but they are only imposters!!
 - **Their attitudes and behaviors proves that they have not experienced the transforming power of God in their lives.**
 - The fact remains: Godliness will produce Godly character!!
 - If we are of God, then we will work towards Christlikeness!! A genuine Christian is a Christ-like person (**See 1 John 2:6; Eph. 5:1-2**)
 - It is a call to live worthy of the calling we have received (Eph. 4:1).
 - It is a calling to a life of righteousness and true holiness (Eph. 4:24).
 - Etc.

- It's not possible to live as a habitual sinner and that of a saint at the same time . . . it is not workable!! (Example see Matt. 12:33-37, NB v. 33).
- Beloved, the fruits that our lives produce distinguish who we are!! (Example see Matt. 7:15-20 . . . note also Rev. 20:12).

(b) Condemned eternally!!

"Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous" (Psa. 1:5b NKJV)

(1) These **sinners** are persistent and habitual; they walk and live in the counsel of the ungodly, they enjoy being around sinners and linger in their midst, they feel at home with those who mock and scorn the righteous and abide with them (Psa. 1:1).

- **The congregation of the righteous** (v. 5b) is the biblical ultimate goal for the true community of faith.
- The purpose of God's present judgments as well as His final future judgment is to remove evil and evil doers from His church (*as noted before, Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43*).

(2) The ungodly will forever be shut out from the community of the blessed . . .

Note: *"Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous" (Psa. 1:5b).*

- **Currently, there is a mixture among all congregations.**
 - The wheat and tares grow together in the same field (Matt. 13:24-30).
 - One of these days, there will be a separation. For now, there is no floor that has been thoroughly purged from the chaff (Matt. 3:12).
 - **Spurgeon notes:**
"Sinners mix with saints, as dross mingles with gold. God's precious diamonds still lie in the same field with pebbles. Righteous Lots are this side of heaven continually vexed by the men of Sodom."
- The great separation is coming; it will be the general assembly of the church of the first born (Heb. 12:22-23; Col. 1:18; etc.), consisting of the congregation of the righteous, of all the saints, and none but the saints. Such gathering the world has never witnessed before (2 Thess. 2:1).
- **The wicked shall have no place in that congregation (Psa. 1:5b)**
 - Into the New Jerusalem no unclean nor unsanctified shall enter (**Isa. 35:8**, note also Vv. 9-10); the unrighteous will witness the righteous enter into the kingdom but they will be thrust out into everlasting annoyance (**Luke 13:27**; Matt. 22:11-14; 25:12; Heb. 12:17).
 - **The wicked and profane, in this world, ridiculed the righteous and their congregation, despised them, and cared not for their company; justly therefore will they be forever separated from them!!**
- Spurgeon indicates that it would be easier for a fish to live on a tree than for the wicked to live in Paradise. He also notes:

*“Heaven would be an intolerable hell to an **impenitent** man, but such a privilege shall never be granted to the man **who perseveres in his iniquities**. May God grant that we may have a place in His courts above!”*

3. The dreadful future of the ungodly is truly heart-rending!

- (a) Tragically, their prospects are both bleak and terrifying.
- (1) **Think about it:** each person that we meet will go to an eternal hell **unless** he or she receives the salvation and life offers by Jesus Christ!!
 - (2) We all have family members, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc. who have not yet been “born again” (John 3:1-21). The reality is no one will be exempted from that time of accountability!! **NO ONE!!**
- (b) **All believers** are commissioned by Jesus Christ to make all out efforts to rescue the perishing . . . bound for eternal hell!!
- (1) We have a responsibility and we must get to our assigned task; we may not take all men to Christ but we need to take Christ to all men!! (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47-48; Acts 1:4-8; etc.).
 - (2) Beloved, allow me to challenge you once more: Think about your family, friend, co-workers, neighbors, etc. if you do love them, how can you not reach out to them with the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ!! **Heaven is real and so is eternal hell. We have a responsibility! Rescue the perishing care for the dying!!**

Verse 1

Rescue the perishing,
Care for the dying,
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave
Weep O'er the erring one, lift up the fallen
Tell them of Jesus, the mighty to save.

Refrain

Rescue the perishing,
Care for the dying;
Jesus is merciful,
Jesus will save.

Rev. 6:17 Amplified Bible

“For the great day of His wrath (vengeance, retribution, indignation) has come, and who is able to stand before it [Joel 2:11; Mal. 3:2].”

Prov. 11:30 Amplified Bible

“The fruit of the [uncompromisingly] righteous is a tree of life, and he who is wise captures human lives [for God, as a fisher of men—he gathers and receives them for eternity]. [Matt. 4:19; 1 Cor. 9:19; James 5:20].”

James 5:19-20 Amplified Bible

“[My] brethren, if anyone among you stray from the truth and falls into error and another [person] brings him back [to God]. Let the [latter one be sure that whosoever turns a sinner from his evil course will save [that one’s] soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins [procure the pardon of the many sins committed by the convert].”

Prov. 11:30 Amplified Bible

“The fruit of the [uncompromisingly] righteous is a tree of life, and he who is wise captures human lives [for God, as a fisher of men—he gathers and receives them for eternity]. [Matt. 4:19; 1 Cor. 9:19; James 5:20].”

C. Different State of the Godly and the Wicked Psa. 1:6

Introduction

Unfortunately, it doesn’t happen, but every human being should earnestly desire and seek to obtain a personal intimate relationship with God. The benefits of having such a relationship with God is astounding, His abundant blessings are experienced throughout life and will continue for eternity to an even much higher degree, all possible through faith in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ accomplished on Calvary (Rom. 10:10-13; etc.). We have all sinned and fell short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23; etc.) but by His mercy and grace we have obtained forgiveness of our sins (Rom, 3:24; chap. 5, NB Vv. 1-11; etc.). All glory and praise to God for His boundless love!!

1. Rewarded . . . to God’s glory (Psa. 1:6a)

“The LORD knows the way of the righteous . . .” (Psa.1:6a NKJV)

(a) God must have all the glory of the prosperity and happiness of the righteous.

- (1) They are blessed because the LORD knows their ways.
- (2) He chose this manner of living for His people and inclined them to choose it.
- (3) He guides them in it, and orders all their steps.
 - The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD.
 - Guards your steps so that you can fulfill the plans He has for you.
 - As you allow, He will show you the right choices and leads you down the best path.
 - He will show you which step to take, to keep going the right way.
 - This is the earnest desire of every genuine and faithful believer (**See Psa.119:133-136, NB v. 133**).
 - What the Bible says about ordering our steps?
 - We must wholly rely on the LORD (Prov. 3:5-6).
 - We should diligently study His Word (2 Tim. 2:15).

- We are to be guided daily by His Word (Psa. 119:105; 119:11).
 - We must constantly walk in the light (1 John 1:7)
 - Etc.
 - See also Psa. 19:13; 37:23-24; 119:11; Prov. 16:9; Col. 3:16; etc.
- (b) The LORD knows the way of the righteous (v. 6a)
“For the LORD knows the way of the righteous (v.6b NKJV)
- (1) **“Knows”** from the Hebrew **“yada”**.
- The Hebrew **“yada”** has a wide range of meaning depending upon the context in which the word is used . . . a few examples are:
 - In reference to intimacy as in the case of Adam and Eve (Gen. 4:1)
 - It can also refer to knowing God (Jer. 16:21).
 - It also refers to an interpersonal experience with God’s character (1 Sam. 2:12; 1 Kings 8:43).
 - **In summary “yada” is defined as:** (a) “to know, learn” (b) “to perceive and see, find out and discern” (c) “to discriminate, distinguish” (d) “to know by experience” (e) Etc.
- (2) **“Yada”** in Psa. 1:6.
- As used here “knows”; Hebrew **“yada”** is not in reference to mental awareness, realization or recognition.
 - As we noted before the word in Hebrews means: “to know intimately and personally.”
 - **In Psa. 1:6**, it refers to the relationship between the heavenly Father and His children—we who have been made righteous through faith in His only begotten Son (Gal. 3:26).
- (3) We are loved and cared for!
- God is always there for us and will continue to carefully guide and protect us!
 - It is His desire that we all reach our final destination in heaven.
 - Through His power and care, we can rest secure knowing that He will take us to our eternal home.
 - **2 Tim. 4:18 NKJV**
 “As the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!”
 - See also Rom. 8:30-39; 2 Tim. 1:12; 1 Peter 1:5.
 - *Songs, songs!! I know but they carry great messages!!*
 Partial quote: **“He Knows My Name”**
 He knows my name
 He knows my every thought
 He sees each tear that falls
 And He hears me when I call

I have a Father
 I have a Father
 he calls me His own
 He'll never leave me
 No matter where I go

(c) Continuity of His oversight!!

(1) Let us continue looking at Psa. 1:6a)

- **KJV:** *“For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous.”*
- The Hebrew translation (based on one source), is saying: **“The LORD is knowing the way of the righteous.”**

(2) He is constantly and consistently there for His people.

- He is always aware of their way and although at times there is fog and darkness, He knows of it!! Nothing takes God by surprise!!
- He also understands if there arise threat and storm of affliction. Oh, Beloved, He knows, yes, He knows! He knows just what we need!!
- **How much He knows? EVERYTHING!! EVERYTHING!!** (Psa. 33:13-15; Prov. 15:3; Jer. 23:24; etc.); He says the very hair on our heads are numbered (Matt. 10:30; Luke 12:7). **He Knows!! He cares!! He is able!! He will help!!** Nothing of interest to us is too small to interest Him (Note Matt. 10:26-33, NB v. 31).
- **Speak of consistency, beloved, God is always there for us! (Psa. 121); He knows our every situations and assures our victory** (Job 23:10).

(3) Oh! Beloved!! Whenever it may be, whatever it may be, NEVER forget: **God knows!! He knows our names!! and that says a lot!!**

- We discussed this fact in our study on Isa. 43:1-7 . . . in particular verse 1, God assured Israel: **“I have called you by your name; You are mine (NKJV). HALLELUJAH!! Glory to His Precious Holy Name!!**
 - Such is a powerful promise wherein God confirms that He knows our names! It comes with great hope for the present and future!!
 - As noted in Isa. 43:1, it was the assurance that the Hebrews would be delivered from Babylonian captivity and returned to their home land. This assurance also meant that no matter what confronts them He was there to see them through!!
- Think about it, despite the millions of people in the world, **God knows my name!!**
 - When someone knows—and remembers our names, it means we are important to that person . . . it means that what we do is significant to that person!
 - The powerful thought here is that we are referring to the fact that **“God knows our name!”**

- God knowing my name means that I matter to Him! (Psa. 8:3-6; Matt 6:26-34, **NB v. 26**; 12:12).
- God knowing my name means that what I do or who I am is very important to Him! (Jer. 29:11; Matt. 10:29-31; 1 Cor. 10:13).

(4) Think on these pointers: **“God’s Knowledge of the Saints”** (*Noted without comments*):

- In Time of Trouble (Nahum 1:7).
- At Every Day Tasks (John 1:48).
- Their Individual Names (John 10:3).
- Indicating Intimate Acquaintanceship (John 10:14).
- Sincere Love is Recognized (1 Cor. 8:3).
- It is the Sure Foundation of the Christian’s Hope (2 Tim. 2:19; Rom. 5:5).

(d) In closing this pointer, I am partially quoting two great hymns:

(1) *This I refer to as the promise: “Never Alone”*

No, never alone,
 No, never alone;
 He promised never to leave me alone:
 Never to leave me alone:
 No, never alone,
 No, never alone;
 He promised never to leave me alone
 Never to leave me alone.

(2) *This I refer to as a testimony of the fulfillment of His promise: “He was There All the Time”*

He was there all the time
 He was there all the time
 Waiting patiently in line
 He was there all the time

Psa. 121:2-5 LASB

“My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth! He will not let you stumble; the one who watches over you will not slumber. Indeed, he who watches over Israel never slumbers or sleep. The LORD Himself watches over you! The LORD stands beside you as your protective shade.”

2. Regrettable . . . Their Own Folly (Psa. 1:6b)

“But the way of the ungodly shall perish” (v. 6b NKJV)

Introduction

What is said of the two ways in verse 6, applies by implication also to those who choose them (Psa. 37:20). Man has not been left in the dark or being ignorant of the facts of eternity. He knows of the **only two pathways**, seen throughout Scriptures, for example: Deut. 30:19; Josh. 24:15; 1 Kings 18: 21:21-24; Matt. 7:13-14. Jesus,

Himself, was explicit in His teaching in regards to man's destination (example Matt. 7:13-14; etc.). It is a matter of choice, and we know that the way to eternity can be a lonely road—but it is the right road (“. . . *there are few who find it . . .*” Matt. 7:14b). The broad way, the easy way, the easy popular way of the world lacks faith, convictions, moral uprightness, surrender and obedience to God (See also Prov. 4:14-19; Jer. 6:16).

To so many the broad way is the way to freedom because in their estimation they can do as they like. However, freedom to do as one wants to is not really freedom but enslavement (John 8:34). Real freedom is the ability to live right, through Jesus Christ (John 8:36; Rom. 8:2; Gal. 5:1). Note carefully Jesus' words of caution: “. . . **broad is the way that leads away to destruction, and many are those who are those who are entering through it.**” (Matt. 7:13b Amplified Bible).

Read Psalms 37:17-20

Note v. 20 NKJV

“But the wicked shall perish; and the enemies of the LORD, Like the splendor of the meadows, shall vanish. Into the smoke they shall vanish away.”

The unseen presence of the LORD in giving His help to the **righteous** is in stark contrast to the wicked who shall perish. Note: “***Splendor of the meadow . . .***” (Psa. 37:20). Grass of the field that soon withers and dies (See Isa. 40:6-8; 1 Peter 1:24). Beloved, the wicked may seem to be flourishing and quiet relaxed but his destruction is certain (Psa. 37, NB Vv. 1-2, 34-40; 73, NB Vv. 1-12, 13-17, 17-28). The enemies of the LORD and all that they have will go up in smoke, like a lamb offered as a sacrifice. There are different interpretations to these two psalms (37 and 73) but the message is clear: **the wicked will vanish from the earth.**

(a) Evil way

(1) all the ways of men are known to God!

- The LORD approves and is well pleased with the way of the righteous, and therefore, under the influence of His gracious smiles, as a result the way of the righteous shall prosper and end well!
- However, the LORD is angry at the way of the wicked, all that they do is offensive to Him and therefore their evil shall perish and they with it!
- The final decision is God's, and every man's judgment proceeds from Him, and it is either well or ill. Our eternity is determined according to our deeds; it is either we accepted or not accepted of God!

(2) Our ways are like an open book before God.

- **Psa. 119:168 NKJV**

“I keep Your precepts and Your testimonies, For all my ways are before You.”

- The psalmist obeyed God's instructions without wavering because of his love for God and fully aware of God's omniscience (139:1-3).

- Being aware of the all-seeing eyes of God the psalmist made sure that he lives righteously.
 - Note the psalmist commitment, his wholeheartedly committed!! There is nothing like when an individual is determined to walk in the light of God's Word.
 - *"I keep your precepts and Your testimonies" (Psa. 119:168a NKJV).*
 - *"For all my ways are before you" (Psa. 119:168b NKJV).*
 - Oh, that we would **daily live** with the consciousness of God's all seeing eyes (Psa. 33:18; 94:9).
 - Note also the following: Job 16:17; Psa. 142:3; Prov. 5:21; Jer. 16:17; 32:19 . . . noted before Psa. 1:6; 119:168; 139:3).
- (b) **"Either /Or"**
- (1) We are all acquainted with the expression "either/or" . . . there are several ways to explain it.
 - An unavoidable choice between two alternatives.
 - Some sources say the expression indicates both options are acceptable or equivalent.
 - Etc.
 - (2) Many apply this expression as it relates to anyone choosing the way to eternal life.
 - Eternity is not determined by theories, expressions, etc. but by God's established facts . . . the standard for eternity are not decided by men but by God as stated in His Holy Word, which is unchangeable (Num. 23:19; Isa.40:8; 1 Peter 1:23)
 - Man speaks of different alternatives to God but there is **ONLY ONE WAY** to secure eternal life in the presence of God and that is through Jesus Christ!! (**John 14:6; Acts 4:12**; 1 Tim. 2:5; John 3:16; 10:9; etc.).
 - (3) The reality is, God doesn't know the wicked and as a result they are hopeless!
 - **ONLY** those who are known by the LORD, those who have a personal relationship with Him—travel the road that leads to eternal life with God. All others are doomed for eternal damnation (Prov. 14:12; 15:9; Isa.59:8).
 - It's imperative for everyone to make sure that they are on the narrow and straight road (Luke 13:23-35. Isa. 35:8; Matt. 7:13-14).
 - Man **must** turn away from the pathway of sin and death (Eph. 2:1-2; James 1:15-16; Psa. 34:21).
 - No one wants to hear on that day: **"Depart from Me I know you not!"** (See Matt. 7:22-23).
 - We all need that new life **in Jesus Christ** (John 3:1-17; 2 Cor. 5:17; etc. and we need to continue walking in the light (**1 John 1:5-7**; Psa. 56:13; 89:15; Isa. 2:5; 9:2; John 8:12; 12:35-36; etc.).
- (c) End of the wicked

(This is somewhat a re-cap . . . beloved the facts of eternity must never be taken lightly . . . it is a very serious matter!!

“But the way of the ungodly shall perish.” (Psa. 1:6b NKJV)

(1) The future of the ungodly!!

- The way or manner in which the ungodly live shall lead to their ruin; their plans and purposes and hopes shall come to naught.
- The route or direction that they chose to travel on leads to disaster, destruction and death!!
- They may have had great plans but in the final analysis none of them will be spiritually fulfilling and their hopes will be shattered!!
- Whether, it is in this world or the world to come the ungodly stand in strong contrast with the righteous!!

(2) The following is a quote by C. H. Spurgeon . . . commenting on Psa. 1:6b:

“Not only shall they perish themselves but their way shall perish too. The righteous carves his name upon the rock, but the wicked writes his remembrance in the sand. The righteous man ploughs the furrows of earth, and sows a harvest here, which shall never be fully reaped till he enters the enjoyments of eternity; but as for the wicked, he ploughs the sea, and though there may seem to be a shining trail behind his keel, yet the waves shall pass over it, and the place that knew him shall know him no more forever.

The very ‘way’ of the ungodly shall perish. If it exists in remembrance, it shall be in remembrance of the bad; for the Lord will cause the name of the wicked to rot, to become a stench in the nostrils of the good, and to be only known to the wicked themselves by its putridity.

May the Lord cleanse our hearts and our ways, that we may escape the doom of the ungodly, and enjoy the blessedness of the righteous!”

(3) Note the following references in regards to the end of the wicked: Psa.37:38; 73:17; Prov. 14:12; Rom. 6:21; 2 Cor. 11:15; Phil. 3:19; Heb. 6:8; 1 Peter 4:17; Rev. 21:8.

Beloved, I have presented some hard facts in regards to the eternal state of the ungodly but it is the Word of God which never changes and cannot be changed. What has been stated in this lesson or lessons of similar nature does not mean that we are condemning anyone, we are not being cold and callous, etc. and if you have read these pages carefully you will see my very heart of compassion and care for the lost and perishing!! We must not take eternity lightly; I once more make an appeal for the unrepentant to seek the LORD while the gate is still ajar (Isa, 55:1-7; Hosea 10:12). It is also a challenge for all believers to reach out to every lost soul, the backslidden or whatever lost state anyone may be in!! It is our responsibility to reach out with the love of God!!! (Eph. 5:16; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; etc.).

DO NOT JUST READ THE BIBLE STUDY IT (2 TIM. 2:15; 3:16,17)

2 Tim. 2:15 NKJV

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Tim. 3:15-16 NKJV

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of god may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

PSALM 1 PART B (Psa. 1:4-6) REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the Hebrew title for the Book of Psalms and what does it mean?

2. What is the key word in Psalm 1 and how is it applied to the righteous man?

3. Complete the following:

Statement made in reference to the righteous man in Psalm 1.

“... He takes the (a) _____ of God and (b) _____ it with him all the (c) _____ long; and with him in the night (d) _____, when sleep (e) _____ his eyelids, he (f) _____ upon the Word of God. In the day of (g) _____, he (h) _____ psalms out of the Word of God, and in his (i) _____, he (j) _____ himself with the (k) _____ of the same book.”

4. Complete by choosing the correct answer:

“The righteous man is like a tree planted by the rivers of water. He is firmly planted by God’s grace and his life is marked by _____. Because of the sustenance’s he receives he becomes fruitful to the glory of God.”

- (a) sorrow and sickness
- (b) helplessness and hopelessness
- (c) conflicts and confusion
- (d) strength and stability

5. The ungodly is described as “*chaff*”, which speaks of their character. Briefly explain what is meant by “. . . *they are like chaff*” (*Psa. 1:4*).

6. What are some thoughts presented in the KJV Dictionary, defining the “*ungodly*”? Briefly explain **your** understanding of what is being conveyed in these definitions.

7. Briefly explain why God is angry at sinful people . . . give references.

8. How would you explain to someone who asks: “How can a loving God send anyone to hell?”

9. We noted earlier about *the character of chaff*; at this time: (a) define “chaff.” (b) give two examples how chaff has been used in the Bible.

10. Briefly explain: “The righteous is like a well-established planted by the rivers of water.”

11. Briefly explain: “The ungodly is unstable and lacking in substance.”

12. Complete the following:

A quote by Matthew Henry

“The (a) _____ may be for a while among the (b) _____; but He is (c) _____ whose fan is in His hand who will (d) _____ purge His floor. Those that by their own (e) _____ and (f) _____ make themselves chaff will be so (g) _____ before the (h) _____ and fire of (i) _____ wrath (Psa. 35:5), so unable to (j) _____ before or escape it Isa. 17:13.”

13. Complete by choosing the correct answer:

“**Biblical accountability** begins with taking responsibility for one’s own actions and making conscious _____ and others to help in accomplishing what is right.”

- (a) choice of worldly wisdom
- (b) choice of allowing God
- (c) choice of good friends
- (d) choice of personal delight

14. (a) Explain the statement: “Weighed in the balance and found wanting.” (b) Briefly explain the Scriptural example noted in our lesson, with reference.

15. The wheat and tares closely resemble but they are not the same! Explain the important lesson taught in this example. (*One Scriptural reference Matt. 13, NB Vv. 24-30, 36-43*).

16. Briefly define (a) “sinners” (b) “congregation of the righteous”; as noted in Psa. 1:5b.

17. Complete the following:

“The (a) _____ and (b) _____, in this world, (c) _____ the (d) _____ and their (e) _____, despised them, and (f) _____ not for their company; (g) _____ therefore will they be forever (h) _____ from them!!”

18. What the Bible says about ordering our steps? *(Four pointers were briefly noted in our lesson).*

19. Explain the meaning of the Hebrew word “yada” or “know”. (b) Briefly explain its usage in Psa. 1:6.

20. Complete the following:

A partial quote from C. H. Spurgeon . . . he comments on the way of the ungodly.
“The very ‘way’ of the (a) _____ shall (b) _____. If it (c) _____ in remembrance, it shall be in remembrance of the name of the (d) _____ for the Lord will (e) _____ the name of the (f) _____ to rot, to become a (g) _____ in the (h) _____”

of the good, and to be only (i) _____ to the (j) _____
themselves by its putridity.”