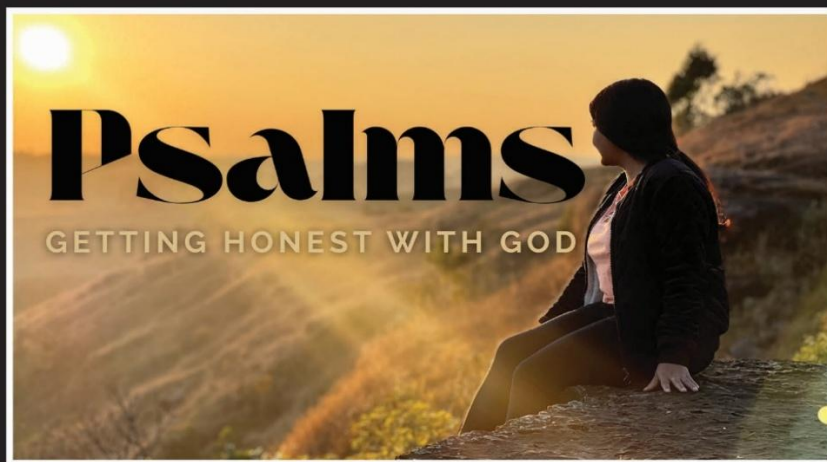




# Midweek Study

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## Psalm 1: Two Roads...One Choice

### THE GATEWAY TO THE PSALMS

Psalm 1 is not just the first psalm—it's the *introduction* to the entire Psalter. It opens the door to divine wisdom, calling readers to meditate on God's Word and follow His ways. This psalm outlines two distinct paths: the way of the godly and the way of the ungodly, echoing Jesus' teaching in Matthew 7:13–14 **“For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, but the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life,”**

### TWO ROADS

#### Road of the Wicked

Progression of Compromise:

Walks → Stands → Sits  
Counsel → Way → Seat  
Ungodly → Sinners → Scoffers

**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;  
**2** but his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.

Charles Spurgeon, *“When men are living in sin they go from bad to worse. At first they merely walk in the counsel of the careless and ungodly, who forget God – the evil is rather practical than habitual – but after that, they come habituated to evil, and they stand in the way of open sinners who willfully violate God’s commandments; and if let alone, they go one step further, and become themselves pestilent teachers and tempters of others, and thus they sit in the seat of the scornful. They have taken their degree in vice and as true Doctors of Damnation they are installed.”*<sup>1</sup>

**Road of the Righteous:** “Blessed is the man...” – plural in the original Hebrew: “Happy Happy is the man.”

- **Separated from the World**

In this psalm, godly man is known not by what he does, but first by what he avoids.

<sup>1</sup> C.H. Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David*, vol. 1a, Psalms 1-26 (Grand Rapids: Zondervan 1968), 1-2.

- **Satisfied with the Word**

- **Delight in the law of the Lord:** A heart captivated by God’s Word...first love is the Word of God.
- **On the law he meditates day and night:** Constant engagement—day and night.

“We don’t memorize scripture so we can use it when we want to, but so God can use it when *He* wants to.”

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## TWO RESULTS

### Results of the Righteous (vs. 3)

- **Firm Foundation** – “a tree planted by streams of water”
  - A planted tree is strong and secure.
  - A tree planted by streams gets constant nourishment.
- **Faithful Fruitfulness** “yields it fruit in its season”
  - The tree bears fruit...at the right time.
- **Flourishing Future** “its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.”
  - He will not be affected by the weather because his sustenance comes from with the Word of God hidden in him.

<sup>3</sup>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.

The godly life flourishes *not* by chance or hoping, but by being rooted in God’s Word and refreshed by His Spirit.

### Results of the Wicked

- “Like chaff that the wind drives away”
  - **unstable, barren, ruined.**

<sup>4</sup>The wicked are not so,  
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

<sup>6</sup>for the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

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## TWO REALITIES

### Realities of the Righteous

- “The way of the righteous” is one that God knows well from experience because he has traveled it before and knows all its twists and turns. He is the great pathfinder who has blazed the safe and secure trail for those who come behind. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

### Realities of the Wicked

- In the day of judgment, the sinner will have no firm place to stand. All that he poured his time, energy, and gifts into will be swept away. “The way of the wicked” follows a path where God is not welcome—and that road, leads to separation from Him and destruction.

**Application:** In the Christian life, passion for the Lord and obedience to Him are intertwined—they energize and sustain one another. Love fuels discipline, and discipline deepens love.