

FAVORITE PASSAGES OF THE BIBLE

***An Exegetical Study of the
Great Passages of the Bible***



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Celebrating the Benefits of God

Psalm 103:1-5

Rev. Charles Wilson

Think for a moment of the events of your life that lead to celebration!

Question – Why have we allowed the world to be so happy about secular events and we act so nonchalant about spiritual things?

Examine what we have in Christ Jesus:

A God who died for our sin...New life in Christ...Forgiveness...
Cleansing...Moved from death to life...Moved from darkness to light...
Our name is written down in glory...A Home being prepared in
Heaven...A wonderful family called the church...

Think with me for a few moments about joy:

1. Joy is a very glad feeling; happiness; great pleasure; delight.
2. Read John 15:10-11
3. Read John 17:12-13.
4. Joy is something Jesus had and wants us to have to the fullest.
5. Read Galatians 5:22-23.

It is important for us to understand that joy and happiness are not the same.

Happiness

External
Based on chance
Based on circumstance

Joy

Internal
Based on choice
Based on Christ

How can we discover the joy that Jesus had and wants us to have?
Psalm 103:1-5 gives us direction:

I. We are to remember His benefits – Psalm 103:2.

A. We are to remember.

1. We are to think about what He has done and is doing.
2. We must not allow these memories to fade.

B. We are to focus on the benefits of our salvation.

1. These benefits are the blessings, the good things, all the reasons we have to praise Him.
2. Remember that these benefits are gifts from God.

II. We are to remember the benefits that lead to praise – Psalm 103: 3-5.

A. He forgives all your sin – Psalm 103: 3, 12.

1. Not some, but all of your sin.
2. Joy comes when you realize that the wages of your sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life found in Jesus.

B. He heals all your disease – Psalm 103:3.

1. Not some, but all of your disease.
2. Joy comes when you realize how many times the hand of God has been upon your life physically.

C. He redeems your life from the pit – Psalm 103:4.

1. This speaks of rescue from danger.
2. Joy comes when you realize the physical, moral and spiritual rescues in your life.

D. He crowns you with love and compassion – Psalm 103:4.

1. This implies a mark of honor.
2. Joy comes when you realize how special you are in

the eyes of God.

- E. He satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagles – Psalm 103:5.
 - 1. Take an inventory of the good things in your life. Joy comes when you realize the satisfaction that Jesus brings to your life each day.

“ Lord Teach Us To Pray !!”

(An In-depth Study of the Lord's Prayer)

Dr. Larry Scott

Matthew 6:9-13

What about this prayer most encourages me- why?

What about this prayer most challenges me – why?

A PHRASE BY PHRASE EXAMINATION OF WHAT THE PASSAGE
SAYS TO US TODAY:

Our father

The word father reminds us of the intimacy of our relationship with God and that we are welcome into his house because we have been adopted by the owner.

Notes **

Our father who is

We do not serve a God who was, we serve a God who IS. What difference does it make in our prayers that God is a present tense God?

Notes**

Our father who is in heaven

Looking into the heavens reminds us just how powerful He is, how great his strength, and how very able He is to handle anything I bring to him.

Notes**

Hallowed be thy name

The term "hallow" means to give reverence, to honor, to tremble before. What does this tell me about God, if even His name is to be hallowed.

Notes**

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Learning to pray with this perspective, invokes a sense of expectancy of his "kingdom to come", because this causes the entire forces of heaven to rush to your aid . You are praying for His will to be done.

Notes**

Give us this day our daily bread

God has assigned himself the task of taking care of all your needs. Does this knowledge change the way you live, does it change the way you pray? Notice he only supplies what we need today. Why?

Notes**

Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors

No matter how much debt (sin), I lay against the "account" of my soul, each day God's grace and mercies are new (my account is free and clear) How does knowing this effect your readiness to forgive others who have "sinned" against you?

Notes**

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Does it seem strange to be asking God not to lead us into temptation?

Notes** "Keep me clear of one slippery spots -"

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever Amen

We've come full circle. We began with God our father and we close with our focus and attention being brought back to God's character.

Notes**

No Condemnation In Christ

Rev. Rich Wilson

Focal Passage: John 8:1-11

"No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." John 8:11

Life can be very tough. When it is tough we may find those who understand and who are willing to help us out. At other times we may find those who do not care and who will throw rocks at us.

For a young woman in the New Testament life was not good. She had made her mistakes. In just a few moments of time she saw both sides of life. In the middle she stood with her mistakes and shame. On one side stood those filled with anger ready to do her harm. On the other she found a man who was willing to forgive.

1. Face To Face With Failure- Verses 1-5

A. The Biblical Situation

1. This took place in both a public and religious place- the temple courts. This was the outer, public area around the temple proper. A large courtyard area surrounded the temple in Jesus' day.
2. The people involved in this were the teachers of the law, the Pharisees, the woman and Jesus.
3. This was a confrontation designed for the specific purpose of trapping Jesus.
4. She was "caught in the act of adultery." Literally this means she was "taken while in the act of committing adultery."

- ### **B. Think About It-** In this passage she came face to face with her failure. A failure seemingly in private suddenly

became a public matter. She knew she had failed. Everyone now knew her shameful life.

- C. The Truth Hurts- We are not perfect people. As long as we live in the flesh we will face failure time after time. Sometimes the hardest thing is coming face to face with who we really are.

2. Stone Throwers Will Always Be Found (Verses 3-5)

- A. Her Accusers- As we see this woman brought out publicly she is in the custody of the religious establishment. These are the masters of the law. Their purpose was to trap Jesus but still this woman had done wrong and she was thrust right into the middle of the situation.

- B. Stones In Hand- These men were ready to condemn this woman for her sins.

- C. Limited Vision- These men could only see what they wanted to see. They saw a woman in sin. They missed the fact that she was with someone. They missed the fact that the law required judgment of the man also. Their purpose was harm.

- D. True Today- It is true that people will always be around to cast the first stone.

People who throw stones have limited vision

1. Some people will always remind us of our failures
2. Some people will never forget our failures
3. Some people will never forgive our failures
4. Some people will be willing to harm others when they fail
5. Sometimes our failures give others an opportunity to "grind their ax."

- E. Think About It- Do not be surprised when you fail that others notice.

*Matthews
7:1-5
"Why do you look
at the speck..."*

3. No Condemnation In Christ (Verses 7-11)

- A. In the previous section we saw the stone throwers. In this section we see a different side to the story; we see Jesus' side.
- B. Clear Vision- Jesus knew what they were trying to do. He knew this woman had failed but he also knew they were using this situation as a trap.
- C. A Powerful Point- When the questions did not stop, Jesus turned to them with a powerful statement- (John 8:7) "***If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.***" Jesus asked them to examine themselves closer before condemning this woman.
- D. A Truth To Remember- How did they respond to Jesus? First, note that the argument ended- no one answers Jesus. Second, note that they could not throw a stone because there were not perfect people. Those who accuse us are not perfect. *This is not said so we can revel in our imperfections but a reminder that but for Christ we would all be condemned for our sins.*
- E. Forgiveness Not Condemnation- The story concludes with broken woman standing before Jesus- Only Jesus remained. Jesus was the only one who could rightfully condemn this woman. Jesus chose not to condemn but to forgive. "***Then neither do I condemn you,***" Jesus declared."
- F. Forgiveness For A Purpose- Jesus gives this woman a parting command. He tells her "***go and leave your life of sin.***" Jesus expects change when we fail. He forgives and he also expects repentance.

Math 7:5
 "Remove the plank ..."

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1

-ARE OTHERS THROWING STONES AT YOU? Think of Rom 8:1
 - ARE YOU A STONE THROWER? Think of Math 7:5

God's Call To Obedience

James 1:22; 1 Samuel 15:1-35

Rev. Charles Wilson

Charles Finney said, "Revival is a new beginning of obedience to God."

The Bible is clear – if you want power in your life, you must obey God! It is not enough just to hear God's Word – James 1:22.

- A. It is serious to hear and read the Bible.
 - 1. When you hear and read, something is expected of you.
 - 2. With every revelation comes responsibility.
- B. We have made fools of ourselves if we believe that just hearing the Word of God is sufficient.
 - 1. The key here is that we will have made fools of ourselves.
 - 2. Read Luke 12:48.

II. God demands obedience to His Word.

- A. Read 1 Samuel 15:22.
- B. Read Matthew 7:24-25. *Wise to do the word*
- C. Read Luke 6:46.

III. What kind of obedience does God demand?

"Get By" ATTITUDE

- A. God demands 100% obedience.
 - 1. This fact often causes a spirit of rebellion.
 - 2. We tend to say, "Wait a minute! I am not perfect. It is impossible for me to live up to God's standard!"

is sin

Disobedience

B. Lowering the standard always leads to obedience.

1. God is holy – 1 Peter 1:13-16.
2. God will have nothing to do with our sin – Psalm 66:18.
3. God will never lower His standard!

IV. **God does not accept partial obedience – 1 Samuel 15:35.**

- A. Read 1 Samuel 15:3.
- B. Read 1 Samuel 15:8-9.
- C. Read 1 Samuel 15:10-11.
- D. Read 1 Samuel 15:19-21.
- E. Read 1 Samuel 15:24-26.

*90% obedience
not enough*

V. **There are four steps to 100% obedience.**

- A. Make the choice daily to obey God.
- B. Choose obedience even if you must stand alone.
- C. Choose obedience regardless of the cost.
- D. Claim Philippians 4:13.

The Watchman

Dr. Larry Scott

(A study of the call of Jeremiah - the weeping prophet)

Jeremiah 1, Ezekiel 33:1-10

Basic outline for the study:

- I. Historical background of Jeremiah 1:1-3
- II. The call of Jeremiah 1:4-10
- III. The visions of Jeremiah 1:11-16
- IV. God enables his prophet 1:17-19

I . Historical background

Who – Jeremiah was the son of a priest named Hilkiyah (not the High priest). He was of priestly lineage. He was an unsure Man who was somewhat timid, Not confident, uneasy in Public situations – fiercely loyal to God and country

Where – He was from a village named Anathoth 2 or 3 miles North of Jerusalem, in the territory of Benjamin.

When - Lived during the reigns of 7 kings of Judah. The Prophecies were delivered in the 4th year of king Jehoiakim (605 b.c-). His prophetic ministry was from 627-587 b.c. It continued until the Conquest and exile of Israel by Nebuchadnezzar the Babylonian.

Why – To proclaim the Judgement of God on the wickedness of Israel as well as the nations. He was to prophesy Against 4 groups specifically: Kings, rulers, priests, People.

II. The call of Jeremiah

- Jeremiah was young at the time of his calling ,16-25 .

There are 4 aspects to Jeremiah's calling God clearly and directly called him: Jeremiah was afraid because he knew his message would bring great opposition

- I formed you
- I knew you
- I have set you apart
- I have appointed you

-SAFETY - set apart for special service

*God confirmed His call by "putting his words in Jeremiah's mouth.

III. The visions of Jeremiah

Within the purposes of Jeremiah's prophetic messages, God uses two forms of imagery. A gardener working the fields, Secondly- the destruction of buildings by an invading army.

- To pluck up – much like a gardener does to the plant after it ceases to produce a harvest. (he tears it out by the roots- throws it on the trash heap
- To tear down – the idea is into break to pieces the fortress wall (by an invading army) that gives safety and security to the inhabitants of the city.
- To overthrow – The imagery here is again to a "trampling army" but the reference is to the rulers / kings / society ... the major thrust is still to utterly annihilate the fabric of that society.
- To destroy – the imagery is that of a Gardener plowing the ground. Plowing totally disrupts and tears up the soil.

God changes his focus after the destruction.

- To plant – Again the imagery is of a gardener. However this part of Jeremiah's message is POSITIVE in nature. God's Judgement is always followed by a promise of replanting

***notice the relationship of "plowing and replanting.
You must plow the ground in order to be able to replant

- To build – To reestablish, to fix securely ... to obtain children (this is unique because to have children is symbolic of the hope of having a future.)

*** These two phrases are intrinsically linked –both are symbolic of hope and of a bright future. In a sense both are pictures of a rebirth.

VISION ONE:

His vision is of an Almond tree. The almond tree is symbolic because it is the FIRST plant to bloom. It blooms in January. And is often referred to as the “ watcher / herald of spring”. It’s bloom is sudden and without warning. It is a symbolic picture of God’s sudden impending judgement that is to come upon His people. It is an almond rod because the rod is symbolic of discipline.

VISION TWO:

His second vision is of a boiling pot pouring out of the north onto the lands of the south (meaning Israel). This was a vision that foretold of the invading armies of the Babylonians (Nebuchadnezzar) It was boiling because it would be fierce and destructive.

**Note the Babylonians were not directly north of Israel, but east. However they could not attack from the east because of the desert. So the Babylonians came through the fertile crescent and invaded from the north.

What is God’s reasoning for allowing such utter destruction?

Kings – The kings were corrupt and allowed other nations to bring in false gods and religions. Sign treaties that put Israel in compromising positions with other countries. Taxed the people without mercy.

Rulers – The rulers were taking bribes, setting policy that lead to destruction of economy. Unjustly threw people in prison. Abused

the poor and needy. Set liberal social policy that encouraged sexual corruption among the people . Set up prostitution temples.

Priests - The priestly tribe had promoted the worship of false gods. Were involved in sexual rituals within the temple. Would not preach judgement against wickedness. Sought to gain wealth from a people that was already over taxed by the kings.

People – Sexual immorality was rampant. Idolatry. Moral corruption. Lawsuits to gain wealth without reason.

Remember
- Spiritually corrupt – placed false hope in their religious traditions, practiced false worship. Their heart was distant from God. They had no desire to hear the preaching of God's prophets.

The people of Israel trusted in the outward demonstration of their covenant with God. They went through the motions (they even sacrificed to God).

Remember
Their greatest condemnation was their sense of INVIOBILITY.

They believed that they were untouchable!

God would not judge them, nor destroy them because they were God's children, Israel was His nation..... Surely he would not harm them.

**** WRONG!!!! Jer. 7:1-14

IV God enables His servant

Jeremiah is told that God would not keep him FROM the opposition and the anger of his people. In fact these years were extremely hard for Jeremiah. God said he would DELIVER him. He was:

1. mocked – considered crazy
 2. chased out of towns by mobs
 3. put in stocks and chains
 4. beaten
 5. cursed
 6. his own family tried to have him killed – his life was in constant danger!
- PERIOD*

Yet the assurance of God was revealed in 4 descriptive ways

- FORTIFIED CITY
- PILLAR OF IRON
- BRONZE WALLS
- I WILL BE WITH YOU

APPLICATION OF THIS STUDY TO MY LIFE AND THE LIFE OF MY
CHURCH, & NATION

What Do You See?

Rev. Richard Wilson

Focal Passage: Luke 10: 25-37

But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.

People see different things. A group of witnesses can give very different accounts of the same accident. Christians can fall prey to poor spiritual eyesight. We see what we want to see. There is a world of lost and hurting people at our doorstep. What do we see when we look upon our world?

1. The Biblical Setting (verses 25-29)

- A. Jesus was approached by an *expert* (both an interpreter and teacher of the law of Moses) in the law. This was a test for Jesus.
- B. He wanted to know about eternal life. Jesus answered by giving the heart of the Mosaic law, love God and love your neighbor.
- C. The man was not completely content with the answer. He wanted to justify his own position. Literally, he wanted to be considered a righteous man. He hoped to come away from this discussion as being seen as righteous. Jesus saw something different.

2. A Powerful Parable (verses 30-35)

- A. Three People. Two had similar vision- one could see so much more.
 - 1) A Priest- Literally, one who offers sacrifices
 - 2) A Levite- One who cared for the things used in the temple. They had an active role in the daily practices in the temple.
 - 3) A Samaritan- A person from the region of Samaria. This person was also a "half-breed" in the eyes of the Jews.

Go to page 17 mention the story of what happened to the man -

Jericho Road -
nowhere to run!

One In Need

- 1) (Verse 30) A man badly beaten by robbers on a dangerous stretch of road.
- 2) (Verse 30, end) This man was left for dead

B. Two With Similar Vision

- 1) Both the Priest and Levite encountered the man.
- 2) Both the Priest and Levite saw the man on the road
- 3) Both the Priest and Levite passed by on the other side of the road- they avoided him completely
- 4) Both men "saw" but did not act on what they saw.

One With Clear Vision

- 1) The Samaritan was different. He too encountered the man. He too saw the man. But with the Samaritan something registered.



The word for "saw" in this verse can have many levels of meaning. The meaning comes based on its context.

- a) The Priest and Levite saw the man with their eyes, they were not moved by what they saw.
- b) For the Samaritan it was more than visually seeing the man, *he perceived his need and condition.*
- 3) His perception lead to action. He took pity on the man and helped him recover from his beating.

3. What Do You See?

- A. Spiritual vision is an interesting subject. We see what we want to see.
- B. Are you like the Priest and Levite? You see but do not perceive. You see a world. You see people. You see wrong. Ultimately, you do not see people for what they are- lost and in need of a Savior. Many Christians walk though life without pity for the people and their deepest need.
- C. Are you like the Samaritan? You see the real need in the lives of people. You see with your eyes and perceive with your heart.

But God

Ephesians 2:1-10

Rev. Charles Wilson

Quite simply, we have not given God much to work with. Yet, in Christ we see the miraculous take place!

I. God works with impossible people – Ephesians 2:1-3.

A. We were spiritually dead – Ephesians 2:1.

1. We were unable to understand or respond to spiritual things.
2. We were unable to do anything of ourselves to please God.
3. This was true because we were “dead” in our sins.

B. We were dominated – Ephesians 2:2-3.

1. We disobeyed the commands of God.
2. This act opened the door for domination by Satan, described in three ways.
 - a. “This world” – system opposed to all God stands for.
 - b. “The spirit” – Satan, whose mission is to kill, steal and destroy.
 - c. “The flesh” – our fallen, sinful nature.

C. We were doomed – Ephesians 2:3.

1. All the evidence was in.
2. We were doomed to judgment and the wrath of God.
3. Is there any hope?

II. God works with incredible power – Ephesians 2:4-10.

- A. Everything true about man can be remedied by God.
 - 1. We were dead, dominated and doomed!
 - 2. The situation is impossible – “butGod!”

- B. God loves us – Ephesians 2:4.
 - 1. He proves His love for sinners in two ways:
 - a. Grace – He gives us what we do not deserve.
 - b. Mercy – He does not give us what we deserve.
 - 2. Read Romans 5:8

- C. God makes us alive – Ephesians 2:5.
 - 1. He did so even when we were dead in our sins.
 - 2. Read Hebrews 4:12.

- D. God raised us – Ephesians 2:6.
 - 1. He did not leave us in the graveyard.
 - 2. Our physical position may be on earth but our spiritual position is “the heavenly realm.”

- E. God keeps us as His possession – Ephesians 2:7-10.
 - 1. He saved us that we might be a testimony of His grace and mercy.
 - 2. Read 1 Peter 1:3-5. *never spill, perish, or fade!*
 - 3. Now that we are saved we must be willing to do the work that He has gifted us to do.

Free To Be Me

Dr. Larry Scott

(John 8:32 "*You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free*")

Introductory comments: When Christ told His disciples that they could know the truth and that knowing the truth could set them free, he meant more than spiritually. He was referring to the **application** of the truth to our lives (meaning such life issues as; our motives, our emotions and our sense of self-worth).

*** The key is to remember that "truth" is a person, not a concept. Jesus said " I am the **truth**...." So all of life's issues come down to our understanding of our relationship to this person who is the truth. For whom the son sets free, shall be free indeed!!

The purpose of this session is threefold:

- ** To understand the nature of and why man searches for love, acceptance, and personal self-worth.
- ** To uncover the inadequate ways people try to fill this need, and the impact of these hopeless, failing attempts on our self-esteem
- ** Apply God's "truth" (as the solution) to our inner need to find worth .

Just who do you think you are!!

Most people do not fully understand their freedom in Christ. Most of us think in limited spiritual terms. Certainly he has set us free spiritually, but that is just the beginning.

WHY DOES MAN SEARCH?

1. Man was created by God with a need to believe that we are significant to others. This is the driving need of the human spirit. It supercedes all other needs.
2. This yearning need that we possess is crucial to the emotional, spiritual, and mental stability of every person.
3. Most people spend their lives searching for love, acceptance and success, without ever understanding what need compels them in their search.

4. Adam & Eve had this need fulfilled in the intimacy of their relationship with God. When sin broke that intimacy, a void was created, and our search began.

Uncovering and understanding our search:

Since the moment that intimacy was broken with God in the garden of Eden, man has attempted to fill this yearning in his soul. The result is multitudes of people who are living their lives in emotional, spiritual and personal bondage, that they never are set free from.

1. There are those who seek to fill this void by believing that we Must perform and meet certain standards that are self imposed or imposed by others upon us. They falsely think if they can live up to these standards they will like themselves and feel accepted by others.

*How can we recognize this trait in ourselves?

- fear of failure
- perfectionist demands
- manipulates other to do what we want them to do
- consuming desire to succeed
- doesn't like risking (they may fail) this applies to career, family, relationships.

This can often be traced back to a domineering parent or spouse, or other significant relationship that placed unreasonable demands on the person.

Answer: Justification – (Rom. 5:1) Being made righteous or without blemish. We are made perfect Through our relationship with Jesus. We are made acceptable in God's eyes. He finds us pleasing.

2. There are those who seek to fill this need by believing that other people must accept us (like us) and we must meet their approval.

*How can we recognize this trait in ourselves?

- fear of being rejected by people
- obsessive desire to please others because we want them to like us

- willing to compromise ourselves for a relationship/friends
- sensitivity to others criticism and dislike of you
- ~~an urge to withdraw from others who criticize you~~

Answer: Reconciliation (col. 1:21-22 , Rom. 5:6-8) To bring together two things that are in opposition to one another –making them acceptable to one another.

** As a result of the grace that God has extended toward us; our value and worth is not based on whether we are acceptable to others, because we are fully acceptable to God. It is Christ's righteousness that he sees.

3. There are those who try to fill this need/void by believing that Our short comings / failures makes us unworthy of anyone's love and acceptance.

*How can we recognize this trait in ourselves?

- unbearable fear of failure in our efforts
- degrading attitude over
- blame self when things don't go the way they should
- never satisfied with their effort / could have done more
- punish ourselves & others with feelings of inadequacy
- judgmental of other's efforts /always find fault

Answer: Propitiation Rom. 5:17-18 To take away blame form the guilty and place it on another / for the purpose of restoring favor to the guilty.

* If God loved us enough to put his wrath on Christ while we were his enemies (at war with God), Why would we be displeasing to him as HIS CHILD who makes a mistake.

4. There are those who try to fill this void/ need by believing we are shameful to God –because of their past, we don't deserve His love and acceptance.

** How can we recognize this trait in our lives?

- have deep feelings of guilt over past mistakes
- often feel inferior to others
- tend to unjustly compare themselves to others

- carry a lot of "baggage" over bad decisions
- carries deep feelings toward those who have hurt them in the past.
- Tends to blame themselves for other's problems

Answer: Regeneration Rom. 5:19-21, 2 Cor. 5:17 Meaning to give new life or to make a new creation, to have a new beginning.

This regeneration is not something we do ourselves. It is something that has been done for us through our new birth in Christ. Remember Christ died once for all sin (past and future ones)

THE PROCESS:

The key to this whole issue is found in the relationship that the believer has with Christ (who is the truth) When the Holy Spirit saves us He gave us a new spirit. But He did not give us a totally new mind. Because of this we are entangled with inner conflict. (Spirit vs. flesh)

Listen to these two scriptures that Paul writes concerning this war within.

Rom. 7: 21-25 What is Paul teaching concerning this inner war?

we will be at war until we die.

Rom. 12:2 According to this verse, How can we win the war within

Renew the mind!

*** We must renew our mind and take "garbage" thoughts out and think upon godly things (Phil.4:8-9) → *what so ever is good " holy etc "*

We have a choice! We can base our self worth and worth to God on our successes and ability to please other people or we can base it on the love, forgiveness, and acceptance that God has already provided for us in the work of grace that our relationship with Christ provides.

Clear Instructions For Life

Rev. Richard Wilson

Focal Passage: Psalm 1:1-6

God's Word gives us instructions for life. The Bible has been called the "users manual for the human being." The Bible gives us instructions how to live life the right way and the consequences for not doing so. Psalm 1 is a great chapter which gives a contrast between two ways of living.

1. ***Verse 1- Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.***

A. This great passage begins with a promise of blessing for the one who avoids wicked living.

Definition- "Blessed"- Happiness, literally "how happy!" This shows that happiness will come to the one who chooses to walk away from unrighteous living. This is a contrast to the way that people often think.

B. This verse shows three areas of wickedness to avoid. We are not to walk, stand or sit anywhere near wickedness.

1. Wicked- those who cast off God- those who have no use for or desire for God
2. Sinners- Open rebellion reflected in actions and behaviors
3. Mockers- Openly defy that which is of God

C. We are also told how to avoid these kinds of things:

1. Do not walk in the counsel of the ungodly- This means that we should not allow the ungodly to influence how we live life.
2. Do not stand in the way of sinners- We must avoid doing what sinful people do. If we get involved with it we may well begin doing the same.
3. Do not sit with the mockers- We must not become entrenched with those who strongly reject the things of God.

4. It is important for us to associate with the lost. It is important for us to share the gospel with the lost. We must take care as not to walk the same path to our own ruin.

D. Lot's life shows this in practice:

1. Genesis 13:12 *Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom.*
2. Genesis 14:12 *They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom.*
3. Genesis 19:1 *The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground.*

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

A. We see a contrast in this verse. In the first verse we see happiness because of avoiding the wicked way of life. Here we find the true source of happiness. The righteous man finds delight in God's Word.

B. Key words to understand verse 2:

- 1) Delight- pleasure or finding pleasure. A righteous man finds delight the things of God's Word rather than the things of the sinful world.
- 2) Law of the Lord- precepts or instructions from God contained in the Mosaic law. He found precepts and instructions for life from God.
- 3) Meditates- to mull over, to turn over and over in the mind, to think often and even continually on the things of God's Word.
- 4) God's Word should be more than a book for us. His Word should be our delight.

3. Verse 3 ***He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.***

A. We now see the life of a righteous person with the help of an illustration.

B. He uses the image of a great tree planted by a nourishing stream. What is the meaning in this image?

- 1) Tree- the image of a great mature tree
- 2) Planted- rooted and growing
- 3) By the streams- by the side of a stream providing continual nourishment
- 4) Yields its fruit- brings forth its intended fruit
- 5) In season- the fruit comes when it is supposed to come- in its right time
- 6) Whose leaf does not wither- Because the tree is properly nourished it retains its health.

C. In what way are these things true of a Godly person?

- A. Godly people are like great trees, maturing and growing
- B. Godly people are firmly planted- rooted and grounded in their faith
- C. Godly people receive nourishment from the living streams of God's Word
- D. Godly people yield spiritual fruit showing themselves to be disciples of Christ
- E. Godly people produce fruit with regularity
- F. Godly people continue to grow and maintain health because they are continually nourished by God's Word.

4. Verse 4 ***Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.***

A. Now we see the other side of the equation. We see a clear view of the wicked and the picture is not good.

B. What does this verse show us about the wicked?

- 1) "Not so with the wicked!" He we see that the wicked are in no way like the righteous. You cannot use the characteristics of verse 3 to describe the wicked.
- 2) "They are like chaff" In verse 3 the righteous are described as a mighty tree. The wicked are called "chaff." The chaff is the outer part of the grain that must be

removed before the grain can be put to use. The chaff is light and paper thin. The grain is tossed into the air with the lighter chaff blowing away and the heavier grain falling to the ground.

- 3) Chaff has no value. It is driven away by the wind. The wicked are like the chaff. No real value in their current condition. The wicked will be driven away by the winds of God's judgment.

C. The picture is clear. The righteous are strong and growing. The ungodly are the exact opposite.

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

A. What is the future for those who reject the things of God? There is the promise of God's judgment.

B. We see two facts about God's judgment:

- 1) "The wicked will not stand in the judgment"- This verse does not teach that the wicked will not stand judgment from God. This verse tells that they will not escape judgment without being found guilty. They will have nothing to stand on- all evidence will be against them.
- 2) "Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous"- In the first part we see judgment, now we see separation. Sinners and the righteous ultimately cannot be together. Often in scripture we see this separation. Jesus taught of the sheep and goats and their ultimate separation. (Matthew 13:41, 49)

6. Verse 6 ***For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.***

A. In the beginning we had two distinct ways: a way of Godliness and righteousness and a way of wickedness. Is there a difference between the two?

B. The way of righteousness is the way of the Lord. Verse 6 teaches that God watches over the way of the righteous. God knows the way and leads His people by His Word in that way.

C. The way of the wicked is a different story. God will bring an end to the way of the wicked. Literally, the way of the ungodly will be destroyed. It is a path of destruction with no future. Proverbs 16:25 reminds us "***There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.***"

There is blessing and happiness for the person that is committed to walking God's way.

God has given us His Word, not as chain to bind us but a guide that leads us happiness and fulfillment in Him.

There is a way set before us. We can choose wickedness and sin. We can choose holiness and righteousness. Each has its consequences.

God expects us to walk in His way. It is the way of blessing. It is the way of growth. It is the way of maturity.

It is the way that God blesses.

BEACH RETREAT SCHEDULE

Thursday, January 25, 2001

- 3:00 PM Check-In
- 6:30 PM **First Session**
 Welcome, Housekeeping Matters, Worship
 Introduction "Thy Word"
 Teaching Session 1 "Celebrating the Benefits of God"
 Break
 Teaching Session 2 "Lord, Teach Us To Pray"

Friday, January 26, 2001

- 8:00 AM Guided Quiet Times (In notebooks on your own)
- 8:30 AM **Second Session**
 Welcome, Housekeeping Matters, Worship
 Teaching Session 3 "No Condemnation In Christ"
 Break
 Teaching Session 4 "God's Call To Obedience"
- 10:30 AM Free Time
- 5:30 PM Buffet Supper at Bennett's Seafood
- 7:30 PM **Third Session**
 Welcome, Housekeeping Matters, Worship
 Teaching Session 5 "The Watchman"
 Break
 Teaching Session 6 "What Do You See?"
 Prayer Time and Closing Worship

Saturday, January 27, 2001

- 8:00 AM Guided Quiet Times (In notebooks on your own)
- 8:30 AM **Fourth Session**
 Welcome, Housekeeping Matters, Worship
 Teaching Session 7 "But God"
 Break
 Teaching Session 8 "Free To Be Me"
 Teaching Session 9 "Clear Instructions For Life"
 Closing Worship

Quiet Times For Morning And Evening By Dr. Ernie Hack

Thursday Evening Quiet Time

Passage: Hebrews 10:19-25

Meditate: Look for the reasons why we can be confident in the Lord each day. Ponder for a few moments about the significance of all this in your own life.

Write: Make a brief list of the things that God is calling us to do according to this passage. Look for the two words "let us" in this passage. They will lead you into what you could write about God's expectations for us.

Pray: Praise and thank the Lord for bringing His confidence into our lives. Ask Him to help each one on this retreat to live out all His expectations for us.

Friday Morning Quiet Time

Passage: Romans 11:33 - 12:2

Meditate: Ponder how wonderful the Lord is. Think about His judgments and his ways of doing things. Think about our smallness compared to His greatness.

Write: Write down a few thoughts on how we should respond to His wonder. Be guided by what He is calling us to do in 12:1-2. Note a few areas of your life where your thinking and living need to be renewed.

Pray: Praise and thank the Lord for His wonderful personality and ways of doing things. Call upon Him to bring renewal into your life, especially in those areas which you have just thought about.

Friday Evening Quiet Time

Passage: Philippians 3:10-16

Meditate: Reflect on Paul's great goals or ambitions for his life. Think about how we can know the Lord more intimately and become more like Him in His death.

Write: Jot down your great goals in life. Compare them with those that Paul listed in this passage. Write down any new goals which you now regard as paramount in importance for your life.

Pray: Thank the Lord for the wonderful goals He sets before us in the Christian life. Praise Him for the perfect ideals which He embodies. Ask Him to build these more into your life each day.

Saturday Morning Quiet Time

Passage: Galatians 2:15-21

Meditate: Verse 21 speaks of God's grace. Using this passage as a guide, think of the ways in which God's amazing grace has been shown to you.

Write: Make a few notes on how verse 20 is a great summary of the Christian life. Then list a few ways in which you can experience more of the truthfulness of this verse in your own life. Note how you should live more by faith and in keeping with the love He has shown us.

Pray: Praise God for His amazing grace demonstrated through the Lord Jesus. Thank Him for the ways in which He has applied His grace to you and ask Him to help you live by the great principles of faith and love during this day.