

“Where are you headed?”

Psalm 1

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*“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.”*¹¹

¹ Robert Frost, “The Road Not Taken,” in *Major American Writers*, vol. 2, ed. Howard Mumford Jones, Ernest E. Leisy, and Richard M. Ludwig (New York: Harcourt, Brace and World, 1952), 1609.

¹ Boice, J. M. (2005). *Psalms 1–41: An Expository Commentary* (p. 14). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

Matthew 7:13-14 ¹³ “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because narrow *is* the gate and ⁴difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

There are ONLY two ways to live on planet earth. With and for God, or against Him!

The Path to Problems

Psalm 1:1 “Blessed is the man who walks not in the *counsel* of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful;”

*“He who chooses the beginning of a road chooses the place it leads to.
It is the means that determine the end.”*

Unknown

- *Blessed* – From the perspective of the individual, having joy and contentment
- *“What the bible means “blessed,” that is, he is right with God and enjoys the spiritual peace and joy that results from that relationship.”*¹
 - Ross, A. P. (1985). *Psalms*. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 790). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.
 - **Regardless of circumstances**
- *The bible teaches we are blessed when...*
 - We are poor in spirit (Matthew 5:3)
 - We mourn (Matthew 5:4)
 - We are persecuted (Matthew 5:10-12)
 - We endure temptation (James 1:12)
 - We suffer for doing right (1 Peter 3:13)
 - We are reviled/insulted for the name of Jesus (1 Peter 4:14)

- *Counsel* –
 - Counsel could easily be exchanged with advice
 - **The progression**; walking, standing, sitting...

NOTE: It isn't that we avoid the ungodly, take note of what's being said.

- *Who walks not* – You don't ask the ungodly for advice and then walk in their advice.
 - Walking is another way the Bible describes living. It carries the idea of moving towards an end.
 - **Romans 8:5-6** ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."
 - The Christian gains his/her worldview from the Word of God, not from the world.
 - **1 John 1:5-7** ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."
 - **Psalm 26:3-5** "I have walked in Your truth. ⁴ I have not sat with idolatrous mortals, nor will I go in with hypocrites. ⁵ I have hated the assembly of evildoers, and will not sit with the wicked."
- *Nor sits* –
 - **Jeremiah 15:17** "I did not sit in the assembly of the mockers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone because of Your hand, for You have filled me with indignation."
 - **Romans 1:28-32** ²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, ³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; ³² who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, **not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.**
 - As a Christian, your best friends aren't unbelievers.
 - As a Christian, you aren't seeking the advice of unbelievers.

The Path to Peace

Psalm 1:2-3 ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.”

- *Delight* – or finds pleasure in
 - What is the source of his delight?
 - The Word of God!
 - **Psalm 119:14-16** ¹⁴ I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, as *much as* in all riches. ¹⁵ I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways. ¹⁶ I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.”
 - **Philippians 4:8** “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things.”
 - Is reading the bible a chore to you? Or is it a joy?
- *Tree* – trees are stable and have mass, unlike the chaff which describes the ungodly.
 - **Jeremiah 17:7-8** ⁷ “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. ⁸ For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit.”
- *Planted by rivers of water* –
 - Speaks of ample supply of water
 - **John 7:37-39** ³⁷ “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” ³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”
- *Fruit* –
 - There is a slogan up in the Central valley that ‘Food grows where water flows’
 - You can’t have fruit without water.
 - **Galatians 5:22-26** ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”

- In the same way that you can't have fruit without water, you won't have godliness without the water of the Word.
- *Whose leaf shall not wither* –
 - Heat withers plants that don't have ample water. A tree that has ample water won't wither in the heat.
 - **Matthew 5:11** “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.”
 - **1 Peter 4:12-13** ¹² Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.”
 - **James 1:2-4** ² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”
- *Whatever he does shall prosper* –
 - **3 John 2-4** ² Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. ³ For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. ⁴ *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*”

The Destination

Psalm 1:4-5 ⁴ The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away. ⁵ Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.”

- *The ungodly are not so* – an abrupt contrast “Not so the wicked”
- *Chaff* – of no value, only worthy to be discarded, easily tossed by the wind.
 - *NO FRUIT!*
- *Judgment* – The bema seat of judgment, the victor's rewards (1 Cor. 3:11-15)

I think of how different a tree is from chaff - this tree in this Psalm is a fruit bearing tree so it is good for shade and food. Trees are stable, strong, and still.

Chaff is good for nothing and they used to burn it in the fire.

- **Luke 3:17** “His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Which will You Choose?

Psalm 1:6 “For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.”

- *Lord knows* – the reference is to personal intimacy, God knows the righteous in an intimate way.
 - It refers to one’s course in life, like our lifestyle.
 - The two courses contrasted lead to life and death.
 - The wicked will perish!
 - The Psalm begins with Blessed and ends with Perish.

Proverbs 14:12 “There is a way *that seems* right to a man, but its end *is* the way of death.”

John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”