

Bible Study on Psalm 21

Wisdom Psalms – Our Father Knows Best

The wisdom literature of the OT includes Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and various psalms. At the heart of the wisdom psalms is the contrast between God's wisdom and God's ways and worldly wisdom. God's wisdom is the only path to true blessings.

A few psalms that fit into this category are Psalms 1, 19, 49, and 112.

Psalm 1 is generally considered the first psalm in Book I (1-41) of the five books of Psalms. Some scholars think, however, that Psalm 1 actually belongs by itself as an introduction to all 150 psalms.

Luther says, "Psalm 1 is a psalm of comfort. It admonishes us to gladly hear and learn God's Word and brings us the comfort that, in so doing, we will have many and great benefits. Just as a palm tree by the water grows green and brings fruit despite all heat and cold and the like, so also all our words and works prosper despite all enemies. Human doctrines do not have this benefit, and, as the wind blows the chaff away, so they also pass away. For God says that those who study His Word please Him, but others He allows to perish." (Reading the Psalms with Luther)

"This Psalm in contents is of a general nature. Luther gave it the following superscription: "Concerning the Blessedness of the Godly and the Punishment of the Ungodly." In this Psalm the delight which godly people have in the Word of God is brought into focus and is commended. It is a Psalm which moreover extols the glory of God's Word. What, according to this Psalm, constitutes true piety and godliness? It is simply this, that one lives and moves in the Word of God." (Stoekhardt)

1. What does it mean for a man to be "blessed?"
2. Three verbs are found in verse 1 to serve as a warning to Christians. The verbs seem to show progression from temptation to sin to unbelief. How? How does it translate to our daily living?
3. How does Romans 12:2 speak to Psalm 1:1?
4. What does 1:2 suggest as a counter balance to the potential problem found in verse 1?
5. What does it mean to "meditate?"
6. Read Jesus' prayer for His followers in John 17:13-19. Explain how you understand the phrase "Christians are in the world but not of the world."

7. What are some blessings that come when we meditate on God's Word? (see vv. 3 & 6a).

8. What are some warnings for the "wicked?" (see vv. 4, 5, 6b)

Ps 1 Shows us the destiny of both the righteous and the wicked. The wicked will, at the final judgment, find themselves alienated from God and, ultimately, inheritors of eternal damnation. No one is exempt from this most frightening fate. Yet God has provided a different way. He sets us on the way of righteousness and keeps us on it through His Word. The means of grace forever remind us—even when we have succumbed to the various temptations of life—that, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our destination is certain. We will stand holy before God in the final judgment as members of the congregation of the righteous. • O Lord, bless our meditation on the accomplished fact of our salvation, through Christ Jesus. Amen. (TLSB)