

# Psalms 1:2

Sunday 9/24/2023

## I. Review

I told you last week that I want to build a strong, solid church when it comes to not just the book of Psalms, but the whole Bible. As a church, men and women, collecting and building our knowledge and our wisdom and our understanding in the collective sense that we're able to take the Word of God and give it to anybody who really wants it. You know this whole world is just falling apart faster than you can track it, and there are people out there like the woman at the well that still have a thirst for the things of God. I want this church and the people in this church to be able to give them that cold drink of water as Proverbs 25:25 says, "*As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.*" We've got the greatest news that this world has ever seen, and it did come from a far country. I want this church to be in tune with the Word of God and be able to reach out to people and to really help them.

Last week we finished the final part of Psalm 1:1 dealing with our walk with God and the blessings that will go with that walk. In week one, we used Noah and Enoch as the examples of how we can have a walk with God. Then last week we talked about how you can lose your walk, and I want you to fully understand all the dynamics of this so that you're able to keep the most precious thing that you have and that is your walk with God through the Word of God.

We have built our study on two solid concepts with a couple of key words.

1. **"Agree"**—We looked at Amos 3:3 where it says, "*Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*" We must be in agreement with God on some things.
2. **"Suppose"**—Luke 2:42-46, "*But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey;*" You suppose you're walking with Him, like His parents thought they were, but in actuality He was not with them.

We talked about the need for a good balance in your walk and how important that is to keep on the straight and narrow path. Matthew 7:13 says, "*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat.*"

We have learned in our walk that we need to be careful who we walk with, we need to be careful who we stand with, and we need to be careful who we sit with. The danger of losing your walk will be simply you losing the rewards that God has for you. We're told let no man take thy crown.

I also gave you, and I hope you're using this, the idea of fact checking—making sure you just don't believe something somebody says, including me, but you've checked the facts; you make sure what they're telling you is accurate as far as the Word of God is concerned.

And we talked about the danger of success. It has the same issues of getting out of balance and being a bad thing like anything else in your life, and you never want to let your guard down when it comes to your walk with God.

## II. The Natural Breakdown of Psalms 1:1-3

When you look at Psalms Chapter 1:1-3, you will find that it's going to naturally break down into three sections, and this is how we're going to follow it through Psalms. You'll find it breaks down one thing in verse 1, another in verse 2, and another in verse 3. Now you'll find this natural breakdown all through the book of Psalms and all through the Bible. It's what you'll want to look for. You'll want to read a passage like this, and you'll want to then look at how it naturally breaks itself down around three subject matters.

1. **Verse 1: Walk.** *"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."* We now understand how to have that walk and how to maintain that walk so that we never lose that walk. My goal is to help you from the newborn baby steps and work with you to bring you to a solid Biblical walk with God.
2. **Verse 2: Delight Yourself in the Law of the Lord.** *"But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."* We are going to see what our desire and our motivating force should be behind our walk because behind everything we do for God there needs to be the right motive.
3. **Verse 3: A Tree Planted by the River of Waters.** *"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water; that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."*

## III. God Teaches by Contrast

Psalms 1:1-3 will have a good contrasting passage to it. Most people have never seen it, and I've never heard a preacher preach on it. This passage will contrast a life with the blessings of God to a life without those blessings. Contrast is another great tool in learning your Bible. God not only shows you by the things that are alike, but He shows you by the things that are different. This amazing tool of Bible study starts in Genesis 1:4 where God divided the light from the darkness; that's your first contrast in the Bible. God will teach you by things that are associated together, but He will also teach you by the things that are different that bring us a contrast.

Jeremiah 17:5-6 is a contrasting passage with Psalms 1: 1-3. *"Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.*

*For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited."*

Now you can see in a heartbeat how that contrasts with Psalms chapter 1. Notice in verse 6 it says he lives in the desert and shall not see when good cometh. I've tried to tell you this for the

last four or five weeks—when you get to the mindset that you have lost your walk with God, and yet you still float this phony spirituality, and then you start to have problems with what God is really doing in somebody's life. The reason is right here—and shall not see when good cometh. You cannot see what God is doing anymore. Notice the contrast between “the parched places in the wilderness” and “a tree planted by rivers of waters.” “In a salt land”—nothing grows in the salt land; in other words, you have no fruit. What a great contrast this is between the two passages. Psalms chapter 1 will deal with the blessings of God when walking with Him while Jeremiah 17:5 will deal with the curse of God when you don't walk with Him.

I can hear some of God's people saying I'm a Christian and can't be under a curse. Oh, yes you can. Your soul may be free from the curse of the sin clearly laid out in the book of Romans but your flesh is not (Romans 8:1). When you walk after the flesh, I mean look at this guy in verse 5, he maketh flesh his arm. The word strength is not found in that verse because when you follow the flesh, and the flesh is your arm, you have no strength because your strength must come from walking with the Lord. So, when you walk after the flesh and not after the spirit, what you do is fall back under the curse of the flesh because you're not following the Spirit of God. Your arm now is the flesh, so you walk after the flesh, and so all the things that are against God in your flesh, that are under the curse, now come into your life. And in verse 5, your heart departs from the Lord. In its simplest form, this will be the state of God's people today. They'll be in one of two areas of their life. One will have the blessings of God with the Spirit of God because they walk with God and the other will have the curse of God through walking after their flesh. All you have to do is look at their lives. The bottom line will be your attitude toward the Word of God.

## IV. The Bible is the Centerpiece of Everything we do

If you look at the history of the church, you'll find that in a lot of Protestant churches the pulpit was over on the side and elevated up higher than where the people were. The pastor stood up there and lectured the people, and the reason for this goes back to the Doctrine of the Nicolaitans where the priest class was elevated above the common people; however, in Baptist churches, the pulpit was always in the center and right in the middle because they wanted everybody to know that the centerpiece of the church was the Word of God. And the model for this is found in Nehemiah chapter 8. Not only do you find the model, but you have the seven key aspects and attitudes that a church should have toward the Word of God. (These were given on a Thursday night Bible study on September 28, 2023, which can be found on the website).

In any church, the Word of God should be the central aspect that is showcased by the pastor to his people. In this church, and in all my ministry, the Bible has been and always will be the center attraction. We are known on the website for the Bible that we preach. Some people take an issue with that, but I learned a long time ago that as long as God is pleased with what you're doing, and what you're doing is honoring God, forget what everybody else thinks about it. Stay with the Book God gave you.

## V. For Thou Hast Magnified Thy Word Above All Thy Name

In the Bible, you're going to find two great verses that show you the importance of the Word of God to us today.

1. Nehemiah 9:5. *"Then the Levites, Jeshua, and Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said, Stand up and bless the LORD your God for ever and ever: and blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise."* He just told you right there that the name of Jesus is exalted above all blessings and praise.
2. Psalm 138:2, *"I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."*

I could take Nehemiah 9:5 to any church in this city and they'd agree with it but try taking Psalms 138:2. He told you that the name of Jesus Christ was exalted above all blessing and praise, and then He told you that **He hath magnified the Word of God above all His name**. Most people don't do anything with that because they like to pick and choose out of the Bible what they want to believe.

My whole ministry could be summed up in just one thing I've tried to do and that is to simply introduce you to the greatest book the world has ever seen. And to have you fall in love with it, and to have you and your whole family enjoy the benefits of a love affair with the Word of God, walking daily with Him and enjoying the blessings, although I know not everyone wants it. When I came through the book of Exodus a number of years ago, I saw how chapter by chapter was an illustration of what my Christian life really was all about. Chapter by Chapter, I learned a different aspect about what happened the day I got saved. I remember reading in the first few chapters how Israel was a picture of me and how they were under the bondage of sin in Egypt (a type of the world) with Pharaoh (a type of the devil). It's a picture of the bondage that I was under before I got saved. The Bible says that Israel cried out to God, and there was a time in my life where I got tired of the burden of sin in my life and cried out to God. God sent the Nation of Israel a deliverer (Moses), and He sent us a Deliverer (The Lord Jesus Christ). And we find that Israel comes out of the bondage of Egypt through the blood of the Lamb put on the doorpost of the house, and you and I came out of the bondage of sin by the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on Calvary's cross. Every chapter from that point on will show me, after I got saved, a different aspect of what I am now as a believer.

## VI. Manna: The Supernatural Gift from God

Exodus 16 is the great chapter on God giving us the Word of God. The children of Israel are out of Egypt now, but they're in the wilderness, and there's nothing to eat. There's no water. It's called the Wilderness of Sin and is a picture that even after you and I get saved, we still have to live in this world; however, we see what God gave them in Exodus 16. We know it as the manna from heaven, but it's a perfect type and a picture of the Word of God. It shows me that after I got saved and was in the wilderness, God knew there was nothing here to sustain me, so He brought

me the manna from Heaven, which for us is the Book you have in your lap. The manna was a supernatural gift from God, so is the Word of God. Notice that God brought the manna right to where the people were, and God brought the Word of God right to where you're sitting today. You don't need a scholar or rabbi. While they slept at night, the manna rained down like snow. When they got up in the morning, the manna, which is a type of the Word of God, was all over the ground. When they pulled back the tent flap and looked out, there it was just like every morning when you open your eyes, the Word of God has something for you that He wants you to take into your life to get you through the day. Some scooped up the manna and others trampled it under their feet and didn't take it. The manna was only good for that day. You couldn't get manna that was going to last you until tomorrow because God's Word has to be fresh every day. It also required work. The manna just didn't fall into their mouths; they had to labor to pick it up. Just like we must do the work to get it. The Bible says some gathered more and some gathered less. My desire is for every one of you is to have a walk with God—for you to know the Bible so well that it will preserve you, your ark, your family; but some people just won't do it.

## VII. Three Key Words in Psalm 1:2

*“But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.”*

There are three key words in Psalm 1:2. This is what you do when you try to unlock the Bible. Just look at the words which stand out which the verse is built around.

1. **Delight:** It means to take great pleasure in something; to be greatly pleased and to rejoice in something. What do we delight ourselves in? When you really understand what you have in the Word of God, nothing or nobody will ever take it from you. It will become your most prized possession because it will be where your delight is. If you want to see if a Christian really loves the bible and what it really means to them: fact check. Just look at the notes they put in their Bible. The thing about your own Bible that makes it valuable is what God gives you. Every note will represent a moment in time; a moment you and God had together, and He gave you something. Because the Bible was your delight, you recorded it into your Bible.
2. **Law:** It says his delight is in the law of the Lord. This is because you just don't love the things about God's Word that you like or go your way. **You've got to love the things in the Word of God that rebuke you, correct you, and instruct you.** You've got to love the law—the things which keep us accountable. The best way to go through life is to be a law-abiding citizen. As a Christian, the best way to go through life is to be a law-abiding child of God. Did you ever notice how a lot of God's people who have problems in their life will work on the things they don't need to work on but never work on the things which really need to be fixed. It's because their delight is not in the law.

Paul said in Romans 7:22, *“For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:”* Paul knew that the law of God is what keeps us accountable keeping us in our walk. Our flesh will have no appreciation for any rebuke of God. You can always tell what kind of Christian you're dealing with by how they take rebuke and correction when God has to

deal with them on it. Your flesh will never enjoy that, but the inner man will. A Christian who is walking with God and has the blessings of God will know and understand that the law of God is vital to his walk. You don't just love the Word of God for the things you like, but the things you don't necessarily like to hear in order to keep your walk. It's like James 1:22-23, "*But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:*" When we look into the Word of God, it's like a man looking into a looking glass and beholding his natural face. The Word of God shows you what you're really like and shows you who you really are.

The Bible says in James 1:24, "*For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.*" They don't want to hear it, and this is where you begin to find God's people who will pick and choose out of the Bible what they like. Understanding every book, chapter, and verse is there to help me be everything I need to be, and as the word delight defines itself, so should we take great pleasure in the law of God.

Hebrews 12: 10-11, "*For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*" A mature Christian understands that. And he realizes that just as your kids get out of line sometimes, because you are good parents, you have to bring them back in line. It's no different with God, and we're all going to get out of line sometimes. That's why I told you in 2 Timothy 3:16 that all scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine (shows you what's right), for reproof (shows you what's wrong), for correction (how to fix it), for instruction in righteousness (how to keep it fixed). You can't just love the Bible for the things that are nice to you. There are a lot of God's people who are the nicest people on the planet right up to the point that you have to deal with them on something and then you see what you really get.

This is the importance of good solid preaching and the danger which we find today of just teaching. A good pastor should be able to do both. He should be able to teach and be able to preach. He can even have the ability to blend the two together in the same message, and nobody knows what he's doing, but he's getting his point across. Preaching will reprove; it gives you doctrine which shows you what's right and what's wrong. Teaching will show you the correction, the instruction in righteousness, and the end result (that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works). Here again—the **balance** in ministry. But you can't go through life not delighting yourself in the law. Do you love the things about the Bible? Proverbs 27:7 says, "*The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.*" That's the place we need to get in our lives. The hungry soul wants to have a relationship with God, so every bitter thing is sweet. That's the key, so we delight ourselves in the law.

3. **Meditate**: One of my favorite passages that I saw years ago is in Luke 2:19. It talks about Mary, and she is being told all that God is going to do with her which was pretty overwhelming. She's listening and trying to absorb it all and take it all in. You know I've always thought to myself that's the case of many young Christians when they come to church and it gets overwhelming until you get your feet on the ground. When I was your spiritual age and was overwhelmed with things, God gave me that verse because it says there that Mary is listening to everything that's being told her. Then the Bible simply says Mary pondered all these things in her heart. Sometimes when God gives you something, the meditation is just pondering in your heart what God just gave you. It doesn't mean you understand it all, but it means you trust God enough you know He's not only going to give you what's going to help you but you're patient enough to wait for God to develop it for you, so you just ponder. You meditate.

Here's how it works. During the day you read your Bible or listen to it online. Then in the evening you should be thinking about what God gave you that day and meditate on it in the evening and night. Now within this process, if I were you, I'd tell God at least a hundred times how much you love him; however, that's another sermon. In time you'll develop what I call a God consciousness. God will bring your thoughts into captivity (2 Corinthians 10:5) then Job 33:16 tells us that at nighttime He seals your instructions for the next day. Now I can attest to how that works. Monday morning I get up and start putting my sermon together for the next week. Many times there's been passages where I've looked at it in the afternoon, and I thought to myself, what am I going to do with that? I don't worry or fret about it. Here's what I've learned to do: I just commit it to the Lord. The last thing I do before I go to bed is read the passage and say God here it is, then I'll wake up at 5 o'clock in the morning having the outline clearly imprinted in my mind. That's what he'll do for you.

You learn from everything, and you use the Bible principles that God gives you to understand it and then you meditate on it. And you know what God does—He teaches you by it. He'll use every event in your life to show you the principles by which He wants you to learn about people and how to deal with circumstances. The best way to deal with other people's personal problems and become a really good counselor is to 1) learn the principles of the Word of God and 2) watch people's lives who go against the principles of the Word of God. It's just that simple, and when you ponder those things, when you meditate on the Word of God, when you use the principles, God will take them and show you through the things that you see during the day. Through that process you will start to see what God is doing and everything you do during the day becomes God's classroom. God showing you and teaching you throughout your day and then pondering in your heart, meditating on what he shows you, and then learning from it and growing through it.

## VIII. Summary

It all comes down to your attitude toward the Word of God, and this is based on three key words: delight, law, and meditate. Job said in Job 23:12 as he was going through his trials of life, *"Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have*

*esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.*” The key to learning the Bible is loving it more than anything on this planet, that it becomes the desire of your life, it becomes what you meditate in, it becomes so much a part of you that even the bitter things are sweet. It becomes everything that God has for you, and you recognize that, and it is the key to your walk with God which is the key to the blessings of God which is the key to your rewards that you receive. And if you love it, you’ll learn it.