

Treasures from the Psalms

For this series of Bible study we will be skimming through the Psalms. We could spend years in this book of 150 chapters but I would like to share things that have spoken to my heart and helped me as opposed to a verse by verse study. We will go through the book in order and pause some days on a one Psalm and sometimes just on selected verses from the Psalms. I hope you will read ahead each week and bring things the Lord is showing you. I turn to the Psalms for comfort. It helps to know someone else has walked through the same trials that we are going through. The book is actually three books and has such authors as David, Moses, Asaph, and others. It is probably the first hymnal of those who trusted in the LORD. Much of it is written in a poetical style. There are many prophetic passages about Jesus.

Ps 1 – a memory chapter of many. It tells of the blessing of one who meditates in the Word and the future of the ungodly.

Blessed – or happy, to receive God’s goodness, is the man that does not walk in the counsel of the wicked... If a man doesn’t listen to and act on wicked counsel he will be blessed. Too often we seek advice from people whose lives do are not filled with the fruit of the Spirit. We have no idea of their life but they have a degree and we place our faith in that degree. Man at his best state is altogether vanity! Seek counsel from godly men. ...or stand in the way of sinners... Like Lot living amongst them we vex our own souls. Don’t stand where they stand, in the paths they take. Stay clear of the destructiveness of evil, physically and spiritually. ...or sit in the seat of mockers. Don’t be one that scorns or mocks God or man that is made in his image. If you do you forfeit this blessing.

Vs 2 But his delight is in the Law of the Lord... Is your joy his Word? Do you delight in it, or in things of the world? Sometimes we need to pray for a love of God’s word. If you love it you spend time in it. Many say they love it but only pick it up on Sunday to take to church and open it just to read along with the sermon passage. Delighting in the word is set in contrast with the one above who likes the counsel of the wicked, etc. He gets his counsel from the Word, he stands in the way of the Word, and sits in the seat of the Word. ...and on his Law he meditates day and night. How can you do this without memorizing or at least getting the concept into your heart? I love to take a passage with me through the day. If you mull over what it means to you day and night your mind will not run off into vain things. This meditation transforms your thought life. 119:97

Vs 3 What is the fruit of delighting in the Word, in meditating on it? “He is like a tree planted by the streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither.” Along Oak Creek we have trees that grow very rapidly, Box Alders. The wood is light but durable. The tree rings are all large for every year there is steady rapid growth. Isn’t that what you would like to see in your life? Then live these verses and you will be like this tree planted by the rivers of water. Don’t see fruit in your life? Meditate on the word and in season you will see fruit. Jn15 Sometimes fruit comes early or late. It is never as good as the seasonal fruit that is rich in flavor and size. Out of season fruit is smaller and not as tasty. There is an investment of time to see fruit in its season. His leaf does not wither. What a promise! Do you feel at times like you are drying up? Time to immerse myself in the word. To be sure my mind is fixed of it. To check and see where I walk, stand and sit. Whatever he does prospers. Wow! Josh 1:7,8 Gen

39:3 That is a promise to stand on. Let the word be your delight and meditation and like Jacob and Joseph, whatever you do will have the blessing of God. Ps 46:4

Vs 4 Now in contrast here is the description of the ungodly life. Not so the wicked. They don't have God's hand of blessing. They don't grow steadily. When trouble comes their leaf does wither. They are like chaff that the wind blows away. That flaky nothingness that has no substance but is blown easily away to oblivion, is the substance of the wicked. It looks as if they are prospering but it is an illusion. They are fruitless and without value.35:5

Vs 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment... At the Day of Judgement they will be on their faces and have no defense. The fear of God is largely gone today. There is no fear of having to answer to God. But that Day is coming and they are without excuse. ...nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. In heaven, no one who is a rebel of God will enjoy his loving presence or have the privilege of worshipping round his throne. We forget how glorious and privileged our future is. Get a vision for the glory that awaits us.

Vs 6 For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous... It should encourage you. There are times it seems He is not watching. Look a little harder or look back after the battle is done and you will see Him there in all his faithfulness. God is watching over you! I'm sure you have testimonies about that as well as I do. His loving care is plain to see if we look. ...but the way of the wicked will perish. What a contrast! Life is about knowing God through his word. It brings such incredible blessing. Ro 8:28 is true in our lives. But the way of wicked – his work and plans and dreams – will perish. Nothing is left of it all. The wages of sin is death.

No wonder it is a favorite to memorize. It reminds us the path of blessing is drinking in the Word and meditating on it. It is full of promises of blessing if we do. It warns us the destiny of those who do not but choose rebellion against God.