

Psalm 1

¹ Blessed is the one

who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,

² but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.

³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.

⁴ Not so the wicked!

They are like chaff
that the wind blows away.

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

⁶ For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.



Eliminate chaff:

- You stop walking in step with the wicked (godless).
- You stop standing in the way of sinners.
- You stop sitting in the company of mockers.

"You don't hang out at Sin Saloon. You don't slink along Dead-End Road." – Eugene Peterson

Taking a chaff-inventory:

- ☐ What are relationships, activities, environments, and influences that leave you *distant* from God and *disconnected* from kind of person He's created you to be?
- ☐ Are there certain people, that when you spend time with them, the effect is a *net negative* to you feeling alive in Christ & motivated to walk in his ways?
- ☐ Are there certain activities that you participate in that make God seem distant?
- ☐ Are there certain media influences that don't bring out God's best in you? They don't leave you refreshed on the inside. They deaden your soul.

Build trees:



Chinese Bamboo Tree



- It's trees that are living in light of the large arc of eternity.
- It's trees that spend their lives on the stuff that matters the most.
- It's trees who stand strong & steadfast through life's deepest valleys & darkest days.
- It's trees that are discovering who they really are.
- It's trees who delight in God's word and meditate on it day and night.

What we say YES to grants us power over what we long to say NO to.

"Do not expect to master the Bible in a day, or a month, or a year. Rather expect often to be puzzled by its contents...Great men and women of God often feel like novices when they read the Word...Let the Word break over your heart and mind again and again as the years go by, and imperceptibly there will come great changes in your attitude and outlook and conduct. You will probably be the last to recognize these. Often you will feel very, very small, because increasingly the God of the Bible will become to you wonderfully great. So, go on reading until you can read no longer, and then you will not need the Bible anymore, because when your eyes close for the last time in death, and never again read the Word of God in Scripture you will open them to the Word of God in the flesh, that same Jesus of the Bible whom you have known for so long, standing before you to take you forever to His eternal home." – Rev. Geoffrey Thomas



C.S. Lewis (1898-1963) – Chronicles of Narnia, Mere Christianity

"...the most thoroughly converted man I ever met." – Walter Hooper
(Lewis' personal assistant at Oxford)