

Psalm 1 – Bible Study Notes The Wicked vs. The Worthy

Background context: The author is anonymous. This particular psalm was likely placed in the beginning of the book to serve as an introduction to the whole collection. Psalms serves as the opening book of the third section in the Tanak (Hebrew Bible).

Outline Structure:

- I. Keeping God's law brings great blessings (vv. 1-3)
- II. Disobeying God's law brings terrible judgment (vv. 4-5)
- III. God knows those who keep is law and those who don't (v. 6)

Keeping God's law brings great blessings (vv. 1-3)

Verse 1 – who are these people?

Wicked = Those who reject God.

Sinners = Those who rebel against God.

Scoffers = Those who ridicule God and God's people.

Verse 2 – what Christians must do.

We must not join in with these people, but rather...

... Delight in the Lord

... Meditate on His law day and night

Life Questions

How can we delight in and meditate on God's Law?

What does it mean to meditate day and night?

Verse 3 – the benefit of keeping God's law (an illustration of a tree)

- Strong faith;
- Spiritual nourishment;
- Strength in time of adversity.

Disobeying God's law brings terrible judgment (vv. 4-5)

Verse 4 – The wicked (cf. verse 1) described.

Chaff = the worthless junk that comes off wheat stalks farmers want to get rid of.

Wheat is tossed into the air.

The lightweight chaff blows away in the lightest winds.

The healthy wheat remains, the worthless chaff goes away.

The wicked cannot withstand stressful times.

The wicked are easily misguided and tricked (blown by the wind).

The wicked are unwanted, undesired by God.

The wicked serve no purpose for God.

The wicked are unusable by God.

Verse 5 – the consequence coming to the wicked.

The wicked will face eternal judgment and condemnation.

The wicked will not be allowed into God's presence (heaven).

Life Question

Think about a time you acted like the wicked. What kind of punishments or consequences did you face because of your sin?

God knows those who keep is law and those who don't (v. 6)

Verse 6 – God knows and judges all.

God knows who are truly His; if you are wicked or worthy.

God says all those who follow him will be blessed; all those who are wicked will perish.

Life Questions

What will you do to keep your life worthy of God's use?
How will you ensure God is glorified in your life?