



#### Getting Started:

- What is the one thing you could not live without? How would you handle it if it was taken away?
- What was your favorite tv program or movie as a kid? How do you feel about it today?

#### Going Deeper:

- What is God showing you this week as you read His Word and pray?
- What decisions or life struggles do you need Biblical direction or prayer for?

#### Message Summary

Psalm 1:1-6

February 7, 2021

This week Cody Ohnmeiss, our Go Local Director, brought us a message from the book of Psalms. He is the first of many staff and elders who will be preaching from the Psalms and guiding us through this great collection of scriptures over the next year. This will help give Pastor Josh a break and allow you to hear from others in our faith family. Before jumping into our text, we learned that the 150 chapter books of Psalms were written by a few different authors during a period of about 500 years. Right around half of the psalms were written by King David, but no matter who penned the words we read, the purpose is the same-- *"The Psalms have always served as the songbook of God's people."*

*“The collection of songs and prayers reflect so many of the Bible’s major themes including God: His sovereignty, His majesty, His glory, and even His just wrath. Creation: the beauty and vastness around us and how we can marvel at God’s work. Sin & Redemption: That we are broken people, who cry out to God for forgiveness and seek reconciliation that we now have through Jesus.”*

As we examine these six verses in Psalm 1, we see what a blessed man does and does not do. But what does it mean to be a blessed man? Scripture tells us that a blessed man is one who shouts for joy in response to knowing his sins have been forgiven. He is also one who takes refuge in the Lord, and by doing so, he finds *“comfort, peace, hope, security, all of those beautiful things that come when we take refuge in Him.”* Blessed is also, *“The feeling that comes for those who shout for joy in the Lord and walk in the light of His face, exulting and joyfully praising His name ALL day.”* Now, this joy and delight the psalmist is talking about is specifically found in the law of the Lord and meditating on it day and night.

But we also see that there are those who combat the one who is finding their joy and delight in the law of the Lord. There is wickedness that the blessed man does not partake in. The blessed man chooses to not walk in the counsel of wickedness - choosing to not even flirt with the idea of wickedness. He also refuses to allow his sin to become a habit that has the potential to lead to being so comfortable with sin *“that he has taken a seat and the very table of, not just wickedness, not only sinners but because he is so comfortable now, he is scoffing at it, boasting about his sinful ways and mocking the way of God.”* So the question becomes, “Who is this blessed man?” The answer that we all shouted was: Jesus! He is the standard. He did not walk in wicked counsel, join in with sinners or participate with the scoffers. Because of what was accomplished in His life, death, and resurrection we as Christ-followers can strive to experience this blessedness.

Continuing, we looked at the importance of delighting in reading our Bibles. The psalmist reminds us that to delight in this, we should meditate on the Word day and night. We can do this by being intentional about reading our Bible every day. We can study our Bibles with our families and Life Groups, as well as take the time to memorize what we are reading. We were encouraged to have the same desire for the Word of God as we do something that we say we can’t go without in our daily lives - be it coffee, food, or sleep (just to name a few). Even those who have a strong desire to read their Bibles can struggle. Reading the scriptures can be just a box we check and at times it can be hard or seem boring. The key is we need to approach the Bible with the right attitude. *“Rather than viewing the Bible as an outdated piece of ancient writing, view the Bible as text that is breathed out by God and is incredibly relevant and essential to us today. When we value the Bible as highly as we should - as God’s infallible Word, as having the final authority on all matters, as having the ability to save our souls - Nothing will keep us from delighting in it so much that our desire is to meditate on it day and night.”*

Next, we see this blessed man is described as a tree. The psalmist tells us this tree is beautiful and planted by streams of water. It is flourishing and produces fruit. The leaves of this tree never wither. As we read verse three, we can’t help but think it sounds familiar to something we have heard or read in scripture before. That is because we see a mirror image of these very verses in the book of Jeremiah. Both verses highlight what is in store for the blessed man who trusts in the Lord.

We also learn that by comparing these two verses we can confirm what we see in the Westminster Confession when it comes to interpreting the Bible. *"The infallible standard for the interpretation of the Bible is the Bible itself. And so any question about the true and complete sense of a passage in the Bible (which is a unified whole) can be answered by referring to other passages which speak more plainly. (WCF, Holy Scripture, pt. 9)"*

While it is true that trusting in the Lord and delighting in His Word is a great foundation that will give a godly individual a continual source of life, the tree described is not an illustration or example of worldly prosperity. We were cautioned not to misunderstand this verse in support of a prosperity gospel. This is a dangerous theology that has spread rapidly that states if you have partnered with God in faith He will give you physical, financial, and material success. But scripture reveals in many places that this is false theology. Jesus speaks against this thinking as we read His words in Matthew and similar (and maybe even more powerful) are Paul's sobering words in 1 Timothy. This view (as we can clearly see) will lead to harmful desires that will plunge people into ruin and destruction. Many have fallen victim to this when their prayers are not answered for that promotion, healing, or other accomplishment. This disappointment often leads to questions of having enough faith. What it really points to is that we have faith in Jesus when the hard times come (and they will come) and we will be stronger on the other side *"because the godly individual is rooted in God's word and planted by a stream of God's grace."*

As we concluded our time together, we affirmed that our prosperity comes through the enduring hope we have in Jesus. But the final three verses reveal the fate of the wicked. They tell us that they will not stand the judgment that is to come and their way of life will perish. *"The wicked are in line to experience the wrath of God due to their neglect of His Word and their rejection of Christ."* The encouraging thing about these verses is they remind us that we can not earn our righteousness. *"Believers in Christ, we are made righteous, not by our own means, but because we are faithful followers of Christ. Because of our faith in Christ, we are blessed in that we are joyfully thankful. Because of that faith, we delight in the law of the Lord. Because of that faith, we can flourish and prosper. And because JESUS paid it all, by faith, we can have eternal life in Him."*

## DISCUSSION & APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Take a moment to read our sermon text:

Psalm 1:1-6

After briefly reviewing the message summary, use these questions to further examine the sermon and to discuss how these truths apply to daily life, so we can “be doers of the word, and not hearers only” (Jas.1:22). Based on your knowledge of the people in your life group, select the questions that will best help you frame the group’s discussion of this sermon and sermon text.

### GENERAL SERMON QUESTIONS

1. What do you think is the key message of these verses? Explain why you think this.
2. After hearing the message and reading the scriptures, what was your biggest takeaway and why?
3. In what ways do these truths, which were written thousands of years ago, apply today?
4. Which point in the sermon spoke to you the most? How did it affect you?
5. In what ways do these passages point to Christ? What can we share with others about Him from what we just heard and read?

### QUESTIONS FROM CODY

1. We (Gateway Church) believe that the Bible is the infallible Word of God, without error, and has ultimate authority over our lives. Understanding this is strong language, does this help or hinder your ability to delight in your Bible reading? Why or why not?
2. The prosperity Gospel teaches that if you believe in Jesus and obey the commandments, then you will be rewarded here on earth with wealth - physically, financially, and materially. However, examining the life of many of the apostles, especially Paul, we see that they were not rewarded here on earth for their faith - rather they were persecuted. How do YOU view prosperity? What does it look like in our lives?

### Read Psalm 1:1-6

1. What did we learn about the purpose of the book of Psalms? Why is this still relevant today?

### Read Psalm 1:1-2, 32:1-2, 34:8, 89:15-16.

2. What are the two paths or ways we see? Define what it means to be a blessed man.
3. We looked at the traits of a blessed man...what are they? What things does he do and what things does he not do?
4. Who did we conclude is this blessed man? Say it together! How does knowing this give us hope?

### Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17, James 1:21-22

5. Do you meditate on the Word of the Lord day and night? What keeps you from delighting in God’s Word? How can a different attitude help you as you read your Bible?
6. Where did Scripture originate? What is it good for? Why is memorization important?

### Read Psalm 1:3, Jeremiah 17:7-8

7. Look at Psalm 1:3 and Jeremiah 17:7-8 side by side. What are the similarities?
8. In what ways does the Bible help you interpret or better understand what you read?

### Read Mathew 6:24, 1 Timothy 6:6-10, Romans 5:1-5

9. What did you learn about the prosperity gospel? Why is this thinking dangerous? How does Scripture confront this?

### Read Psalm 1:4-6, Philippians 3:9

10. What do the final three verses of Psalm 1 reveal about the fate of the wicked? Why are these verses encouraging to us?
11. How can your Life Group encourage or hold you accountable based on what you learned this week from God’s Word?

### ***The Challenge - Life Application***

- ☐ Read the passages used in this week's message. Write down any scriptures you need to be reminded of on sticky notes and place them around the house. Try to memorize as many as you can.
- ☐ Reflect on the message and ask God to give you His strength as you follow Him.
- ☐ Pray that, as Christ-followers, we would reflect the change God has made in us.
- ☐ Go back and listen or watch the sermon if you missed it or you need to be reminded of its truths.

### ***Weekly Prayer Focus***

Pray for Our Church:

- Ask God to use us as instruments for His purpose and glory.
- Pray that we are a GOING church, proclaiming the gospel to the nations.
- Ask God to help each of us to live a life that reflects Him.
- Pray for all of our campuses.
- Pray for our pastors and leadership here at Gateway.

Pray for Our City:

- The government and civic leaders
- Those in need in our community and the services that help them
- The fire and police departments
- Schools, students, and teachers

Pray for Our World:

- Pray for the Christ-followers in Sri Lanka, Lebanon, Cuba, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh.
- Pray for all of those who are being persecuted in harm's way for the Kingdom.
- Pray that the message of Christ will reach all of mankind.

Pray for Life Groups at Gateway:

- Pray for those who are leading our groups.
- Pray that everyone involved in our groups would continue to be rooted in the Word and connected to each other.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers and that we will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for discipleship opportunities.