Intro: Rick Amato used to say it this way: “God gives us the freedom of choice. We can choose how we want to live. But…He reserves the CONSEQUENCES of those choices to Himself.” We can choose what we DO… and God chooses the consequences!

That is the essence of Psalm 1. Here the Psalmist describes for us a couple of different choices in life…and then… details for us the outcome of those choices. Then…we can choose…how we want to live…knowing the outcome God will provide.

Psalm 1  Pg 383

1. First, Notice The Choice That We All Have To Make.
Vs 1-2
In the first couple of verses the Psalmist clearly lays out for us two very different pathways... two different ways of living. First look at the Negative path: This is the, “Do Not Enter” pathway!

Three things to AVOID if we want the blessing of God in our life!

Blessed: Lit = to be happy, to be content, to be happy: It is more an exclamation: How Happy is the man!

Who avoids a progressive decline into sin and a life lived without regard for God… and the things of God

Negative Choice:
- Not Walk With Counsel Ungodly
  - Not Stand in Way Sinners
  - Not Sit Seat Scornful

Notice two things here:
1. There is an increasing amount of time being spent with those who are doing the wrong thing
2. There is a constant progression downward.

That is the way of sin in our lives! It starts with something innocent...but the longer your are in the wrong place, with the wrong people...the deeper in you get, the further down you go, and the hard it is to stop the decline and get out!

Illus: Peter: Warming himself at the enemies fire!
For me: Started with drinking...but I would NEVER do ANY drugs... but all my friends were...Then...one day
Ended up at the place where I was taking pills...I had no idea what they were! Seemed like a good idea!
Found myself like Peter one day...Denying that I even knew the Lord Jesus!

Time to stop it...is before it even begins! The time to stop it is at the root...when we make a different choice!

Positive Choice:
Instead of living the way of the world... the way of the wicked... The way of the ungodly, Sinner and Scornful

Delight Law of Lord Meditate
- Delight
  - Law of Lord
  - Meditate

You see, the Psalmist is laying out for us the choice every person must make in their life.

Whose path am I going to walk? Mine; Others; God’s?
There is only ONE path that leads to happiness! That comes when we walk the path God lays out for His Children.

We can choose another path:

Proverbs 14:12 “There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.”

2. The Consequences Of The Choice We Make.
Vs 3-5
As we said earlier... you can choose how you want to live... But... God reserves the Consequences of that choice to Himself

That is what we find in the next 3 verses.

5 Consequences of Choosing God’s Path
- Stability: Tree Planted
  - A cultivated lifestyle with wonderful result
  - Prov 10:25 “when the storm has swept by”
- Provision: Streams of water
  - God sustains and nourishes. When trouble comes... dry... stream
  - Jn 7:38 “believe in me, streams of living water spring fm within”
- Positive Outcome: Fruit
  - Used of making a positive contribution to life: Goodness to share
  - Gal 5:22 “fruit of spirit is love, joy, goodness, gentleness, meekness”
• Strength in tough times  Not wither  Internal resources and strength to sustain you in tough times  Is 43: “Pass thru waters, with you, rivers not sweep away, flames…”
• Blessing of God  Prosper  Not just financial; Healthy, emotionally, spiritually, Go forward!!!  Je 29:11 “I know the plans I have for you, prosper you, not harm”

3 Consequences of Choosing the Wrong Path:
• No Stability  Chaff Blown away  When troubled times come, like house built on Sand  Mt 7:26-27 “hear my words, not do, house on sand, fall”
• No Acceptance  In Final Judgement  James/Jude/Ephesians, “tossed around by wind and waves”  1Pet 4:5, Heb 4 “Give an account to God on final day!”
• No Acceptance  W/Other people  Not accepted in the community of God; Isolated and alone  1 Cor 5:5: Unrepentant sin; isolate from community, turn over

The Psalmist is telling us, make a choice in life.
God gives you the free will to do so…
But always keep in mind…When you choose…
God determines what the consequences will be…So keep those in mind when you make your decision!

CONCL:

3 Questions To Ask Yourself This Morning
1. Am I pursuing happiness in the way God designed… “Blessed is the man!”
2. Am I in the place where I can be assured of God’s hand of blessing and protection? Vs 6
3. Do I want the consequences of the lifestyle I am choosing?

Today, if you need to make some changes…That is what a time of invitation is all about!