

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

Join your life with

1 Cor 15:33 “*Bad company corrupts good character!*”

- Counsel

Advice/Plan/Counsel

- Ungodly

Morally Wrong behavior

- Not Stand in

Hang out with; Constantly

John 18:18 “*Peter was standing with them, warming himself!*”

- Way

Path; Way; Place

- Sinners

Criminally wrong actions

- Not Sit

Sit down; remain; abide

- Seat

Abode; Dwelling; House

- Scornful

to Scoff; Scorn; Mock Deride

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

Pleasure; joy; happiness

- Law of Lord

Statutes; teachings of Moses

- Meditate

Ponder; study; examine; 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
- Blessing of God Prosper

Internal resources and strength to sustain you in tough times
 Is 43: *“Pass thru waters, with you, rivers not sweep away, flames...”*
 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
- No Acceptance In Final Judgement
- No Acceptance W/Other people

When troubled times come, like house built on Sand
 Mt 7:26-27 *“hear my words, not do, house on sand, fall”*
 James/Jude/Ephesians, *“tossed around by wind and waves”*
 1Pet 4:5, Heb 4 *“Give a account to God on final day!”*

Not accepted in the community of God; Isolated and alone
 1 Cor 5:5: Unrepentant sin; isolate fm 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!