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How well do you know the lyrics?

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CORE VERSE

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Joshua 1:8

After the people of Israel escaped their bondage in Egypt, God established a new covenant with Israel. He had Moses record all of the expectations of the agreement between the nation of Israel and God Himself in the Book of the Law, or Torah. So when Moses died and Joshua was appointed the leader of the Israelites, God reminds Joshua to

remember and obey all of the instructions in the Torah. As Joshua faithfully obeyed God's Word, he experienced the blessings and growth that God had promised.

USE THE SPACE BELOW TO HELP YOU REMEMBER THIS VERSE. FEEL FREE TO WRITE, DRAW OR DESIGN IN WAYS THAT MAKE SENSE TO YOU.

READ PSALM 1.

Whom will you listen to—really listen to? Whose advice will you follow for how to live your life?

The writer of Psalm 1 wants us to know that our answer to that question will determine the course of the rest of our lives. We will end up on one of two paths. Period. There are no others.

One path is blessed, and the other leads to a short and worthless existence.

When the Bible uses the word *blessed*, it means happy or secure or well provided for or successful. A blessed person will thrive. A person who is not blessed will wither and fade away.

Psalm 1 starts off defining the blessed person by whom he does not listen to, whose advice he does not follow. This person doesn't walk in or live by the advice of wicked people. He doesn't make sinners and scoffers his role models, doesn't make the goal of his life to be like them (to end up sitting where they sit and standing where they stand).

In other words, the blessed person is not setting the pattern of his or her life by those who have rejected God's ways and His Word.

Instead, this blessed person uses God's Word as the pattern for her whole life. And it's more than just a recipe she is following or a set of rules to be performed. She loves God's Word. She delights in it. It's not a book she visits every day or two; her mind is literally always in it. She rolls it around in her head and heart (or meditates on it) all of the time.

And the result? One path and not the other.

Verse 3 uses the metaphor of a healthy tree to describe this person's life. He always has plenty of water. He bears fruit at the right time. His leaves aren't shriveled up. He succeeds. Period. Because God's Word—God Himself—is the source of this person's life, he literally cannot fail. He will become what God intends for him.

Verse 4 describes the lives of those who reject the Word of God: chaff. Chaff is the part of the grain that the farmer wants to get rid of. It's not good for anything. In ancient times, the farmer would throw the grain into the air to get the nearly weightless, worthless chaff to blow away in the wind.

A life built apart from God and His Word is a meaningless life.

Verses 5 and 6 drive the point home. Those two paths end in two different places. Those who reject God and His Word will fall in the judgement. Those who build their lives on God's Word will stand with His people forever.

As faithful disciples of Jesus, we are called to experience this blessed life according to God's plan as we reflect and respond to His Word.

CORE CONCEPTS

A disciple reflects and responds to God's Word on a regular basis in order to live as God intends.

SCRIPTURE:

The definitive collection of 66 divinely inspired books that make up the Old and New Testaments of the Holy Bible

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE OVER THE NEXT TWO DAYS

- » WHAT DOES THE WORD *MEDITATE* MEAN ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE?
- » HOW IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S WORD LIKE THAT OF A TREE TO WATER?
- » USING SCRIPTURE, HOW WOULD YOU EXPLAIN GOD'S PLAN TO REDEEM AND RESTORE US TO A NONBELIEVER?
- » WRITE YOUR OWN QUESTION: