

# Psalm 1

## Delight in the Word of the Lord

Image Church // Summer in the Psalms// Week 1

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### Prayer Time

- Buffalo
- Laguna Woods
- Milwaukee
- Dallas

Our hearts grieve with the victims of these tragic events, their families, and their communities... The taking of life is devastating...

Our hearts are heavy for the continued impact of racism and the divide that still exists in our country...

**One of our core values is family:** My heart grieves for the impact that senseless acts of violence have on our black and brown brothers and sisters in our church family...

- The painful realities, the conversations they force, the fear that it ensues...

Our prayer is that Jesus would bring peace and restoration to our communities. That as the church we would respond to the gospel by pursuing unity, by loving deeply and by being agents of change as we lean into implications and power of the power of the gospel...

### Space to pray:

- Be with those hurting, bring restoration, give us hope.
- Would you help us respond to the gospel by being agents of restoration by pursuing unity and standing against injustice.

Close in Prayer...

### Announcement:

Before we jump in I wanted to give a big thanks to all of you that came out last night. We partnered with Cobb County DFACS to host a dinner for the foster care families and their kids from around Cobb county! It was an awesome night! *Big shout out to Pastor Bryson!*

- They loved how our space was flexible- we made it feel like home for them... This is how we want to continue to leverage our space!

**One other thing regarding leveraging our space:** One of our goals here at Image church is to **Partner with parents to raise up the next generation for Christ...** And so one of the ways that we want to do that this year is through **VBS**. This year we're hosting our first **VBS** here at our new space!

### VBS Plug: Put up VBS Slide

- Jun 27th-29th... from 9:00 - 12:15
- Family Night June 30th 6-8pm!
- **For kids that are rising Kindergarten to 5th grade.**

**To RSVP:** Go to ImageATL.com and visit our church calendar under events to register your kids **or** to sign up as a volunteer.

And listen, not only is it a chance to partner with you, but it's also an opportunity to **engage our community**- this is a strategic time to invite others to join us- so make sure to be intentional to invite!

### Intro

This morning we're kicking off a new series called **Summer in the Psalms**, because that's where we're going to be this summer...

And here's what I'm excited about- what you're going to see as we travel through the book of Psalms, is that we will constantly be pointed to pressing deeper into **knowing and experiencing God by leaning into who He is...**

Being from NC, I spent a lot of time in Wilmington NC, the Wrightsville beach area... Intercoastal waterway... Some cool beaches off the water way but there's a really strong current... The only way to experience the beauty of the beaches more than 2 min. Was to anchor up...

- **BTW:** the key to a good anchor is a long heavy chain... But the anchor would keep the boat held up in the midst of a strong current...
- We live in a world where there's a strong current...

We're going to look at the key of being firmly rooted in the midst of a strong current...

Let's look at Psalm 1...

## Psalm 1

1 How happy is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked or stand in the pathway with sinners or sit in the company of mockers!

**There's 3 things that are held up here:**

- Walking in the **advice** of the wicked...
- Standing in the **pathway** of sinners...
- Sitting in the **company** of mockers...

You can summarize this with these 3 categories: **thinking, behaving, and adopting the sinful practice of others**...

He's saying how **happy** or **blessed** you will be if you **don't**: Think sinfully, behave sinfully, adopt the sinful attitudes of others...

And let me point out, he's not *necessarily* talking about **association**, so much as he's talking about **participation**...

- He's not saying don't be around sinful people- this isn't a call to a Christian bubble...
- Active participation...

But to be fair, let me say this, oversaturation with people who consistently live against who God is without the counterbalance of a solid biblical community will lead you to participation in the things that are held up...

Let's take a deeper look at them, because what I want you to see is that **these categories held up summerize a life that's counter to the ways of God but congruent with the ways of the world**...

- Accepting sinful advice...
- Behaving in a sinful way...
- Adopting the sinful practices and attitudes of others...

**These categories represent a dismantled heart, mind, and hands**...

And here's the thing, it's easy to say, *yeah i don't do that... but is that really true? Let's talk about this for just a minute*...

**The world is constantly giving you sinful advice** when it comes to how we should **think** about:

- Our jobs...
  - World says succeed at all costs...
  - Ignoring family, friends, church, God at the expense of work...
  - Your identity is in your job... You are what you do...
- Our money
  - Buy stuff...
  - Money is the end game- it leads to comfort and happiness... Status is achieved by possessions...
  - God says give sacrificially to His mission through the church... The Bible talks about tithing (10%) this is looked at as a joke for most...
  - The world says that's ridiculous... Or if you're going to give a little so you can feel good...
- How we date
  - Live together...
  - Be intimate...

- Our goals
  - Get it all in this life...
  - You *have* to be married...
  - You *have* to have kids...
  - You have to be successful...
  - You have to have it all together...
- Our self image
  - You have to look a certain way...
  - *I've told youL, this never works: you want their abs, they want your cheesecake!*
  - If you're a stay-at-home-mom your looked down on, if you're a working mom you don't prioritize your kids
- Parenting
  - Your kids are your identity...
  - The success of your kids defines you...
- How we spend our time
  - Spend it on you...
  - Spend it on your phone- become the next influencer...
  - Binge watch Netflix shows

**The world informs your behavior...** The world fuels and feeds:

- Selfishness... I'm going to get mine...
- Pride... Boasting about our performance and status...
- Envy...
- Judgmental...
- Sexual fulfillment...

**You adopt the practices and attitudes of the world...**

Sitting in the company of mockers is settling in and doing what they're doing... you know what **mocking** is?

Someone who Jeers/makes fun of someone, or treats someone as less than, to ridicule...

- At work and there a guy or girl that's always the butt of the joke and you jump in...

- Toxic culture at your job and you play into it rather than against it...
- Make yourself better at the expense of others...
- **BTW:** Sitting in the company of mockers doesn't mean physically anymore - social media (instagram, twitter, facebook, tik tok)
  - Saying hurtful things, making hurtful comments,

**The reality is that we all fall in and out of these things...** The reason why is that we believe that they will bring us happiness. but that's exactly the opposite of what the Psalmist is saying...

He's saying how **happy** or **blessed** you will be if you **don't** fall prey to living in line with these ways of the world...

So what do we do? How do we combat the ways of the world, how do we not fall prey to the lies of the world?? How do we live a blessed life, how do we experience happiness??

Here it is... **verse 2**

**2 Instead, his delight is in the Lord's instruction, and he meditates on it day and night.**

**Note** that the goal here isn't to seek happiness- the goal here is to seek God...

- Happiness, the blessed life, is the **byproduct** of seeking the things of God...<sup>1</sup>
- **God is the goal**- and when He's the goal you don't participate in the sinful things of this world that will continue to let you down... You experience Him and through him you experience the blessing that comes with Him, the happiness that comes from Him!

**Key: Delight in the Word of God and meditating on it day and night**

<sup>1</sup> Thoughts shaped by Tim Keller

*It will keep us centered on who He is and combat the lies of the world...*

**Example:** When I was a kid I had athletic goals... I wrote on my board that I wanted to be 6'5" and 250... *Turns out I failed...* You're like that's not a goal...

- *Ok, I had others to...* And my athletic goals keep me from doing certain things and participating in certain things...
- And the delight came when I experienced the outcome of what I had focused... The same is true when you make God your goal... it will help keep you centered, it will keep you from things and ultimately it you will delight in who He is the more you get to know Him and the Psalmist says the way we do that is by:

**Delighting in the Word of God and meditating on it**, look at what he says next!

### Verse 3:

3 He is like a tree planted beside flowing streams  
that bears its fruit in its season,  
and its leaf does not wither.  
Whatever he does prospers.

He says that if you **Delight in the Word of God and meditate on it day and night** that you will be like a tree planted by a stream that thrives...

Ok, here's the thing you have to understand about trees... I worked in landscaping for years, you ready for this: They grow slowly... They also grow really well by a water source...

But a tree isn't a conduit that just sucks up water and transports it, it's a living organism... That functions within the rhythm of seasons...<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Derek Kidner, *Psalms 1-72: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 15, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1973), 65.

And they change throughout the seasons... And if it's a fruit bearing tree, it doesn't produce fruit year-round... It produces fruit in season...

And another thing trees do is in the winter time they lose their leaves...

Listen, the same is true with you, you will go through different seasons, some more blessed than others, sometimes more happy than others, you will go through times when your leaves fall off, when times are more difficult...

But here's the thing, *the promise of the leaf not withering is not saying that the tree won't lose its leaves, it's pointing to freedom from the crippling damage of drought.*<sup>3</sup>

When you **delight in the Word of God and meditate on it**, slowly but surely you will continue to grow and produce a delightful harvest... You will **prosper...**

- Which means that you will make steady favorable progress, that you will succeed- not necessarily in the way the world defines it but the way that God does...
- Prospering according to God looks a whole lot different to the world... this is the dichotomy that's presented in this Psalm...

**Prospering according to God is bearing fruit that looks like Him...**

- Happens from the inside out...
  - Not outside in... that is religion...
- And when you Godly fruit you prosper!

**Example:** The way I parent... I want my kids to prosper... I instruct them so that they do... I want them to see that they will prosper if they listen to me!!

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

God is saying the same thing to us... And the key is **Delighting in the Word of God and meditating on it...**

*The question is what does this look like??*

You have to start viewing the Word of God like food...

### **Freedom in feasting**

Think quality over quantity... Quantity without quality is not helpful... Think lifegiving over long time...

- If I spend 5 min and meditate all day, you spend an hour and can't remember it's not as fruitful...

Listen life gets crazy and your called to navigate that crazy life- your called to work and to love and lead your families, parent your kids, be present for friends and the church... Some seasons are harder and more chaotic than others...

This means that your time in the Word may look different and that's ok! This is the beauty of the freedom you have...

**Your time in the Word should not be a burden that's dangled over your head, but a source of life that you know that you need...** And the more you taste the more you will see you can't live without it...

The Word of God is not incantations you say but truths that you cling to...

- *You don't just say them like a magic spell... You use it to anchor your heart in the truth of who God is...*

**Example:** 3 masons laying brick... They were asked what they were doing... The first said I am working to make money for my family, the second said I'm building a wall, the 3rd said I'm building a cathedral...

The Word of God reshapes our mentality on this life...

And then the way that the Psalmists closes is by showing the difference between those that **Delight in the Word of God and meditating on it...** And those that do not...

4 The wicked are not like this; instead, they are like chaff that the wind blows away.  
5 Therefore the wicked will not stand up in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.  
6 For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to ruin.

He says that the wicked are like Chaff... chaff doesn't have a root system... Floats and blows everywhere... *Explain...*

**Example:** The years from 1965 to 1985 were 20 years of economic prosperity. There has never been a 20 year period where the standard of living went up at such a great rate. During that same time the percentage of teenagers trying to commit suicide tripled. Socialists really tried to analyze why that was but perhaps the best reason comes from a note that one of them left tacked to a tree where he had hung himself on and it says "this is the only thing around here with roots."<sup>4</sup>

The thing is we're all longing to be rooted in something, the problem is we end up looking in all the wrong places that ultimately lead us away from God...

- We're blown around in this life like chaff...

**One scholar says it like this:**

*The chaff is connected to nothing outside of itself. The tree is connected to something outside of itself. The chaff has only it's desires and it's feelings. So you commit yourself to something outside of yourself and not just any old thing: Hitler had principles. He has the wrong principles and he destroyed the world. You commit yourself to God.*<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Example from Tim Keller

<sup>5</sup> Tim Keller, *The Search for Substance*

His Word keeps you centered on Him and committed to Him...

Because here's what you will see over and over again... It's not just how you should live, it's who God is...

**GOSPEL...** Common thread throughout the bible...

It is the gospel that the Bible points to, that will allow you to stand in **judgment...**

The wicked and the righteous... The righteous are righteous because of Christ's righteousness that we have received... And it drives us back to God over and over again- to His Word...

*delighting and meditating on the word...*

## Conclusion [VAMP]

For some of you this morning you're realizing that you're more like chaff than a tree planted by a life giving stream...

- You're being blown all over the place and you need to be rooted in the gospel...

For others of you, you've not been *delighting and meditating on the word...*

- You need to reorient and lean into the lifegiving power from the Word of God...

For some of you, you're here and you're like I want to know more... I want to know how to read the Word of God rightly in order to see the reality of who God is- I want to delight in it but I don't always understand how to read and understand God's Word...

We're going to be rolling out a class called how to Study the Bible...

- If that's you we have cards in all of your seats... I want you to put down your name and email and we'll follow up with you to let you know more about when this will be starting...

Some of you are looking for a place to start.. We have a Psalms reading plan that we're going to be pushing through the church center app...

**Pray...**