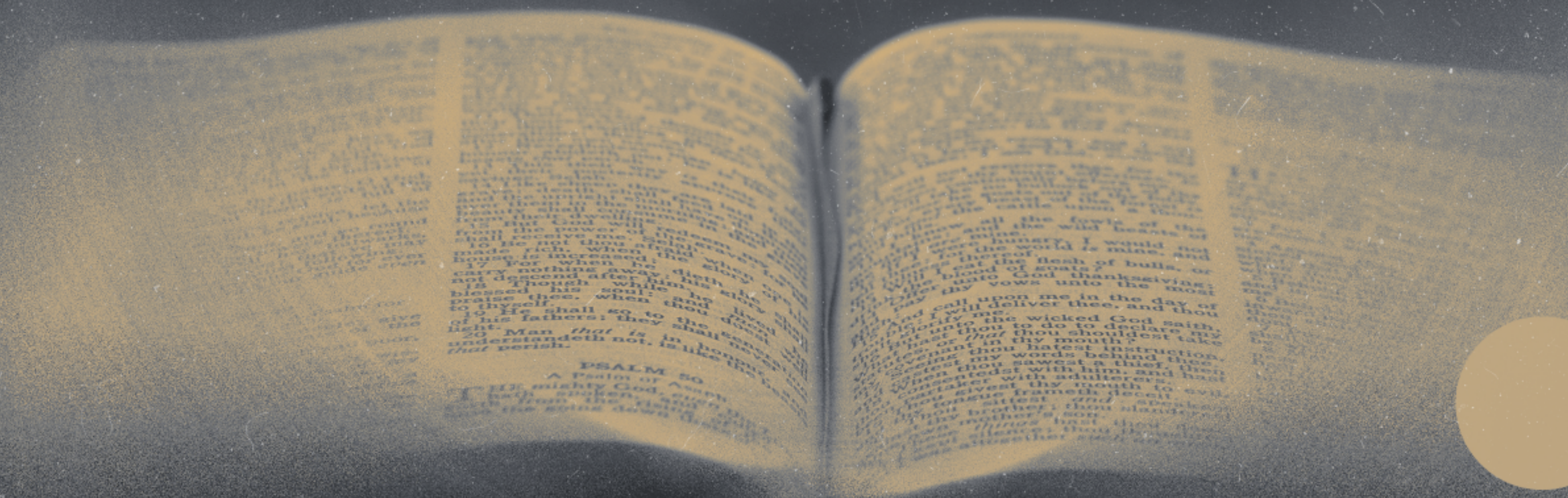


MEETING GOD IN THE PSALMS



Psalm 1 (ESV)

Blessed is the man

who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law he meditates day and night.

3 He is like a tree

planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.

In all that he does, he prospers.

- 4 The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
- 6 for the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

The background features a faint, centered image of an open Bible. Overlaid on this are several semi-transparent decorative elements: a large white circle at the top center, a smaller white circle at the bottom right, and various light gray and white geometric shapes (triangles and circles) scattered across the scene. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

1. The Blessing of a Life Built on God's Word

Prospering because of God's word



Acts 17:2-5

As was Paul's custom, he went to the synagogue service, and for three Sabbaths in a row he used the Scriptures to reason with the people. He explained the prophecies and proved that the Messiah must suffer and rise from the dead. He said, "This Jesus I'm telling you about is the Messiah." Some of the Jews who listened were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with many God-fearing Greek men and quite a few prominent women.

But some of the Jews were jealous, so they gathered some troublemakers from the marketplace to form a mob and start a riot.

Acts 17:10-12

The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. Many of them therefore believed.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Mark 4:3-20

“Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. 5 Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. 6 And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. 8 And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”
9 And he said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

10 And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. 11 And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, 12 so that

“they may indeed see but not perceive,
and may indeed hear but not understand,
lest they should turn and be forgiven.”

13 And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?
14 The sower sows the word. 15 And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. 16 And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. 17 And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.

18 And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, 19 but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. 20 **But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."**

Delighting in God's Word



Psalm 119:24

Your testimonies also are my delight;
They are my counselors

Psalm 119:35

Make me walk in the path of Your commandments,
For I delight in it.

Romans 7:21-25

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 **For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,** 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Meditating on God's Word



Proverbs 2:1-15

- 1 My son, if you accept my words
and store up my commands within you,
- 2 turning your ear to wisdom
and applying your heart to understanding—
- 3 indeed, if you call out for insight
and cry aloud for understanding,
- 4 and if you look for it as for silver
and search for it as for hidden treasure,
- 5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God.

- 6 For the Lord gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.
- 7 He holds success in store for the upright,
he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,
- 8 for he guards the course of the just
and protects the way of his faithful ones.
- 9 Then you will understand what is right and just
and fair—every good path.
- 10 For wisdom will enter your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.

- 11 Discretion will protect you,
and understanding will guard you.
- 12 Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men,
from men whose words are perverse,
- 13 who have left the straight paths
to walk in dark ways,
- 14 who delight in doing wrong
and rejoice in the perverseness of evil,
- 15 whose paths are crooked
and who are devious in their ways

The background features a faint, semi-transparent image of an open book with text on its pages. Overlaid on this are several large, semi-transparent geometric shapes: a large circle at the top center, a large circle at the bottom right, and a large triangle on the right side. The overall color palette is light and airy, with soft gradients.

2. The Warning Against the Wrong Path

Genesis 3:1-7

Now the serpent was **more crafty** than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, “**Did God actually say**, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” 4 But the serpent said to the woman, “**You will not surely die...**

5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

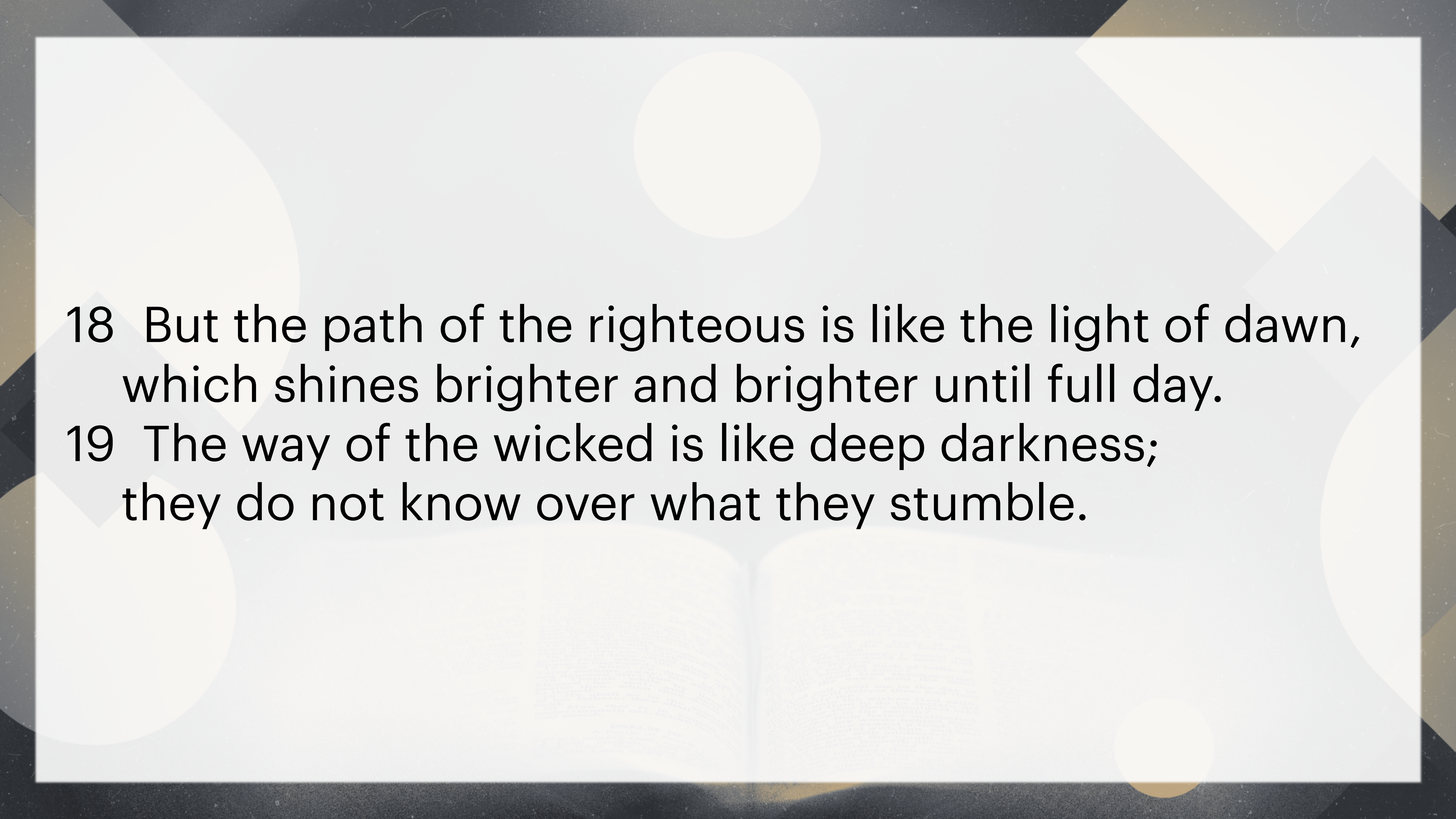
Proverbs 4:14-19

Do not enter the path of the wicked,
and do not walk in the way of the evil.

15 Avoid it; do not go on it;
turn away from it and pass on.

16 For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong;
they are robbed of sleep unless they have made
someone stumble.

17 For they eat the bread of wickedness
and drink the wine of violence...

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- The background features a faint, light-colored illustration of an open book with text on its pages, positioned centrally. Above the book is a large, pale yellow circle, resembling a sun or moon. The entire scene is set against a light gray background with soft, overlapping circular and triangular shapes in shades of gray and yellow, creating a layered, ethereal effect.
- 18 But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn,
which shines brighter and brighter until full day.
- 19 The way of the wicked is like deep darkness;
they do not know over what they stumble.

“There can be no doubt whatsoever that all the troubles in the Church today, and most of the troubles in the world, are due to a departure from the authority of the Bible... Men’s opinions have taken the place of God’s truth, and the people in their need are turning to the cults, and are listening to any false authority that offers itself to them.”

-Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones

“Satan’s first attack on me is often in regards to my point of view—just as he attacked Christ on his point of view during the wilderness temptation (Luke 4). I have met Satan more than once in the last two years disguised as a brother or sister seeking Christian unity and peace, often twisting God’s truth with heartfelt personal experience. Recently the pastor of a well- respected church asked me to meet with a woman who was part of his counseling staff. When I entered her office, she directed me to a comfortable chair and made one simple request: “Rosaria, I want you to change your message...”

“...I found this a bold and disarming request, and so I told her that I come in the gospel of peace. She said, “Change your message.” I told her that I stand in the risen Christ. She said, “Change your message.” Finally, I asked her what I ought to change in my message. She said, “Tell people that it is only in your opinion that homosexual practice is a sin.” I responded by letting her know that I am not smart enough to have this opinion, but that this is the position the inspired and inerrant Word of God upholds. It comes to me from the historic Christian church, handed down to us from the Apostles’ Creed, through the pages of Scripture, and so on down to me...”

“...I told her that changing my message would involve denying the plain meaning of Scripture, the testimony of the church, the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and the Gospel.”

-Rosaria Champagne Butterfield

“I either know about the God I seek from my own experience and insights, from the meanings which I assign to history or nature—that is, from within myself—or I know about him based on his revelation of his own Word. Either I determine the place in which I will find God, or I allow God to determine the place where he will be found. If it is I who say where God will be, I will always find there a God who in some way corresponds to me, is agreeable to me, fits in with my nature. But if it is God who says where he will be, then that will truly be a place that at first is not agreeable to me at all, that does not fit so well with me.”

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“In seminary [Mack] had been taught that God had completely stopped any overt communication with moderns, preferring to have them only listen to and follow sacred Scripture, properly interpreted, of course. God's voice had been reduced to paper, and even that paper had to be moderated and deciphered by the proper authorities and intellects. It seemed that direct communication with God was something exclusively for the ancients and uncivilized, while educated Westerners' access to God was mediated and controlled by the intelligentsia. Nobody wanted God in a box, just in a book. Especially an expensive one bound in leather with gilt edges, or was that guilt edges.”

-The Shack, WM Paul Young

Are you suggesting that everyone is saved? That you believe in universal salvation?

That is exactly what I am saying!

Here's the truth: every person who has ever been conceived was included in the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus

-The Shack, WM Paul Young

2 Samuel 6:3

They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart...

Numbers 4:20

“the Kohathites must not go in to look at the holy things, even for a moment, or they will die”

2 Samuel 6:6-8

When they came to the threshing floor of Nakhon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled. 7 The Lord's anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down, and he died there beside the ark of God. 8 Then David was angry because the Lord's wrath had broken out against Uzzah, and to this day that place is called Perez Uzzah.

2 Samuel 6:9

David was afraid of the Lord that day and said,
“How can the ark of the Lord ever come to me?”

Hebrews 12:28-2

“Let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our ‘God is a consuming fire.’”

3. The Invitation to Blessedness



Matthew 7:13-14

Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Matt 7:24-27

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

Luke 6:46-49

“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and **do not do what I say?** 47 “Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: 48 he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. 49 “But the one who has heard and has not acted accordingly, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great.”

Luke 8:21

But He answered and said to them, “My mother and My brothers are these who **hear the word of God and do it.**”

Romans 7:21-25

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 **For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,** 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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