

What Do You Do When You Come To A Fork In the Road?

Psalm 1

In Psalm 1, we are confronted with 2 men, 2 roads, and 2 destinies.

I. **Reach after the life that pleases God. (1-3)**

- Psalm 1 serves as an introduction to the entire Psalter.
- It is a wisdom psalm, a practical psalm, reminiscent of the wisdom of Proverbs as it draws a contrast between 2 men, 2 approaches to life, 2 roads we can travel, and 2 destinies.

1) **Know what to say “no” to. (1)**

- Wisdom is as much about knowing what to say “no” to as it is what to say “yes” to.

a. **Don’t walk with the wicked.**

- Blessed (pl) – blessedness, supremely happy, how rewarding and fulfilling is the life
- Note the digression: association to identification to fixation
walk ~ stand ~ sits (habits of life)
counsel ~ path ~ seat (people you listen to)
ungodly ~ sinners ~ scornful (company you keep)

b. **Don’t stand with sinners.**

- Stand- idea of staying a while
- Path- way, manner of life, the way one lives
- Sinners (*hattaim*) – those who miss God’s mark, and since it is their path it is their habit of life

c. **Don’t sit with fools.**

- Sit – you move from thinking like the wicked, to living like the rebellious, to ridiculing like the cynic
- Scornful – mockers, scoffers, it describes the proud and self-sufficient
- **Proverbs 21:24, Proverbs 15:12, Proverbs 3:33-35**

2. **Know what to say “yes” to. (2-3)**

- The positive case for the righteous, God-honoring life.

a. **Say “yes” to God’s Word. (2)**

- Delight- take joy, that which gives one pleasure
- Law (Torah) of the Lord – a synonym for the Word of God

b. **Say “yes” to God’s wisdom. (2)**

- He meditates – lit. thinks over by talking to himself. He ponders, weighs carefully.
- Day and night- continually, **Joshua 1:8**

c. Say “yes” to God’s will. (3)

- Romans 12:2 says God’s will is good, acceptable and perfect.
- The psalmist says God’s will is fruitful and prosperous.
- What then does a spiritually prosperous life look like?
 - He walks in the counsel of the godly.
 - He stands in the path of the righteous.
 - He sits in the seat of the hopeful.
 - He studies the Word.
 - He acts with wisdom.
 - He is devoted to God’s will.
 - * This is the truly prosperous life.

II. Run from the life that displeases God. (4-6)

- Matthew 6:24, Matthew 7:13-14

1. Stay away from the useless life. (4)

- Lit. “not so the ungodly (wicked).” A stark contrast with the man of verses 2-3.
- Kidner: “Chaff is...the ultimate in what is rootless, weightless...and useless” (p. 49).

2. Stay away from the senseless life. (5)

- Not stand in the judgment- When it comes time to stand before God and give an account, something we will all do, they will have no standing, not a leg to stand on.
- Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous- nor will there be a place for them among God’s people.

3. Stay away from the hopeless life. (6)

- Jesus often talked of “the 2 ways.”, 2 gates, 2 roads, 2 trees, 2 types of fruit, 2 houses, and 2 foundations.
- Only 2 roads to take when you come to that fork in the road: 1) the righteous road or 2) the ungodly road.
- The righteous road is God’s road. (John 10:10)
- The ungodly road is the devil’s road. (Proverbs 14:12)

Conclusion: The supreme blessed man is Jesus. (Heb 4:15)

The wise blessed man should be you and me. (1 Cor 11:1)

