

1 **Planted by Streams of Water**

- The Wisdom of Simple Godly Living

2 **Psalm 1**

- Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. (Psa 1:1–2 NIV)
- He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. (Psa 1:3 NIV)

3 **Psalm 1**

- Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. (Psa 1:4–5 NIV)
- For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. (Psa 1:6 NIV)

4 **I love the rain**

- I don't know if you know this about me but I love the rain.
- I love to listen to it when it rains at night and watch it as it rains during the day.
- In fact, I will often stop what I'm doing and go to a window or door and watch it rain—especially if it is a downpour.
- For me, rain represents life and during long hot summer days, rain also brings relief from the oppressive hot temperatures we often experience in Kentucky.

5 **Kentucky Green**

- Up to July 13th, we have received in Lexington 36.49 inches of rain.
- This is 42% above our average and is 81% of the rain we get for a total year.
- No wonder, our state looks more like Ireland and everywhere all the rivers and streams are full and everything is abundantly green.
- But not so for California.

6 **California Drought**

- In the 1930's California was the destination of many who were escaping the Dust Bowl and the drought conditions found in much of the lower Midwest.
- But today the tables have been turned and it is California that is experiencing drought that some are saying are of biblical proportions.
- Snowfall from the Sierras that once filled the reservoirs with fresh mountain water has for the most part failed and the state and local governments are forcing everyone to conserve their water use.

7 **California Drought Levels**

8 **Folsom Lake**

9 California Drought

- Whatever the cause -- long-term climate change or an unusually severe transient weather pattern -- drought is serious business.
- In fact, a drought is the most costly of all natural disasters.
- It tops earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, blizzards and even a sharknado.
- Considering California is a major agricultural producing state, we will no doubt see higher prices for our vegetables, fruits, and other produce.

10 Drought

- Drought has been the scourge of farmers for as long as agriculture has existed.
- The ancient Israelites knew the experience quite well.
- Their yearly rainfall was at its best one-third of what we get in Kentucky and when they had a bad year it often meant the difference between life and death.
- So, when the author of Psalm 1 sings of "trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither," it's an idyllic vision or utopian ideal.

11 Psalm 1

- Now in Psalm 1 the psalmist isn't really referring to real farmers. He is highlighting a basic truth that refers to the whole word of God.
- Those who delight themselves in God's word and diligently learn and apply what it says will be blessed and yield spiritual fruit much like a plant does when planted by abundant sources of water.
- So then plant yourself deep in God's word and you will grow and produce good and abundant fruit.
- In other words you will be blessed, which is another way of saying we will be "happy."

12 Happiness

- You know, much of the world strives to be happy and views that money is the means in which to find it.
- While poverty is not bliss, money can't buy us happiness.
- However, one luxury-car ad proclaimed: "If money can't buy happiness, consider leasing it."
- In fact, all day long, we're bombarded with advice like this and to tell you the truth, it is not good advice.
- Moreover, it sets us up for failure in our Christian walk with the Lord as it undermines the sound biblical values and beliefs.

13 Don't Listen or Follow

- According to Psalm 1, our best chance for happinesses is not to listen to the advice of the wicked or consider their ways.

- In fact, the Hebrew word for listen here doesn't just mean listening, but getting up and following.
- And as you know many people are willing to lie, steal, and kill as well as deflate footballs, delete emails, and commit all kinds of sins, just for temporal rewards.
- So then, don't listen to people like this who are on the road to destruction.

14 **The Way of the Wicked**

- In regard to this, what does the Lord say?
 - For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. (Psa 1:6 NIV)
 - But the wicked will perish: The LORD's enemies will be like the beauty of the fields, they will vanish — vanish like smoke. (Psa 37:20 NIV)
 - The LORD detests the way of the wicked but he loves those who pursue righteousness. (Prov 15:9 NIV)

15 **Who Should we Listen To?**

- Now then, my sons, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways. Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not ignore it. Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. (Prov 8:32–34 NIV)
- For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the LORD. But whoever fails to find me harms himself; all who hate me love death. (Prov 8:35–36 NIV)

16 **Scoffers**

- In Psalm 1, there is another description for the wicked and that is scoffer.
 - These are people who live around us who question, criticize, and mock our devotion to God and the time we spend in church.
 - They are often people in our own family and those who we work with.
 - They seek to weaken our faith by mocking our values and ridicule those things we hold dear.
 - If fact, Satan will seek to use them to test your faith and obedience in Christ.
- So don't listen to them or be easily persuaded by their arguments for unless they repent their destruction is assured.

17 **Roots**

- What do you believe is the most important part of a tree?
- Ask any landscaper who's transplanting one, and you'll quickly find out it's the roots.
- Landscapers take inordinate care to ensure the rootball stays tightly-packed and moist -- that it gets into the right kind of soil, at the right depth.

- All kinds of damage can happen, in transit, to the trunk or branches or leaves, but as long as the roots are intact, there's hope for recovery and growth.

18 **Roots**

- The psalmist's tree is "planted by streams of water."
- Its roots are sunk in the best possible place.
- Thirstily, they drink of the life-giving water.
- If the roots are sunk deep and permanently, not even a drought can keep it from flourishing.

19 **No Trust**

- This is what the LORD says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the LORD. (Jer 17:5 NIV)
- He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes. He will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. (Jer 17:6 NIV)

20 **Trust**

- "But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him." (Jer 17:7 NIV)
- "He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." (Jer 17:8 NIV)

21 **Contrast of Trust**

22 **Abiding in the Vine**

- In John 15, Jesus gives the illustration of the Vine & Branches and how our fruitfulness is connected to abiding in Him.
- His promise is that if we abide in His Word, He will abide in us and produce much fruit through us.
- This is consistent with what the Bible teaches in Psalm 1 and in Jeremiah 17.
- If we listen and learn God's Word and apply it to our lives, we will be blessed and prosper producing good fruit to the glory of God.

23 **Paradise Lost**

- When God made man He put him in a well watered environment—known as the Garden of Eden.
- Yet man chose to listen to a wicked liar (Serpent/Satan), instead of listening to God and obeying His word.
- In so doing, man brought a curse upon himself instead of a blessing.

- Nevertheless, God is offering the sons of Adam and the daughters of Eve hope—where they can once again prosper and produce good fruit.

24 **Paradise Lost**

- However, this promise is not to restore the Garden of Eden, but that in the midst of living in a spiritual desert, we can produce life and good fruit.
- So then, let us not complain about our environment, circumstances, or situations.
- Instead, let us trust in the Lord and abide in His word.
- As Jesus confronted the Jews of His day, he said, Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. (Matt 21:43 NIV)
- You my brothers and sisters in Christ are those people.

25 **Conclusion**

- If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. (John 15:7–8 NIV)
- Let us therefore be like that tree planted by streams of water where we produce fruit no matter the season and prosper in everything we do. Amen