

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**  
**PSALMS**  
**PSALM 1 - LESSON 1**  
**WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14 – SEPTEMBER 19**

**CONTRAST OF THE TWO WAYS**

**Psalm 1** and **Psalm 2** form the introduction to the entire collection of the Psalter. The first two Psalms do not identify an author. Some theologians think that Ezra penned the first Psalm which together with the second Psalm set the stage and the tone of the rest of the Psalter. The first two Psalms together provide the main themes of the rest of the Book; (1) *the way the righteous are to live among the wicked or ungodly*; and (2) *the salvation of the righteous provided by the divinely chosen King*.

**Psalm 1** contrasts the way of the righteous with the way of the ungodly or wicked. **Verses 1-3** describe the way of the righteous and the fruit of following the way of righteousness. **Verses 4 and 5** describe the consequences that flow from living a life of wickedness and rejection of the promised King. The Psalm concludes in **verse 6** with the sharp contrast of the respective fates of the righteous and the wicked. **Psalm 1** instructs us that those who are the righteous and order their lives by God's Word will experience blessing in this life and the life to come, but those who reject God's Word have no hope of escaping an inevitable judgment.

*As we read and meditate upon the inspired words of this Psalm may we grow in our love for God and obedience to His Word.*

**Read Psalm 1:1-2**

"Like the opening of our Lord's famous Sermon on the Mount (**Matt. 5:3**), the book of Psalms opens with a blessing. In the original, the word translated blessed is plural... Thus, we learn that God's justified will enjoy perfect multiple blessings. We could read it "Oh, the blessedness!" and consider it ... a joyful acclamation of great happiness. May this blessing rest on us." The Treasury of David, C.H. Spurgeon, p.3

1. In **Psalm 1:1**, how is the blessed man described by what he avoids?
2. What does the progression described in **vs 1** reveal about sin's subtle influence in our lives?
3. How does **2 Cor. 6:14-17**, **James 4:4** and **Jude 3** also instruct us in the danger of association with the ungodly?
4. In **Psalm 1:2**, what is the Psalmist's positive description of the righteous or "blessed man"?
5. What practical steps can you take to "delight in" and meditate upon the law of the Lord?

### Read Psalm 1:3

6. The blessed man is described in **Psalm 1:3** through the simile “like a tree”. How does that picture describe the impact of the sustaining power of the Word of God (the water) in the life of the believer?
7. What is the result of the obedience to and application of God’s Word?

“Trees do not plant themselves; neither do sinful people transport themselves into God's Kingdom. Salvation is His marvelous work of grace. Yet there is genuine responsibility in appropriating the abundant resources of God which lead to eventual productivity. [MacArthur Study Bible](#), footnote, Psalm1:3

### Read Psalm 1:4-6

8. How is the way of the unbelievers (the wicked, the ungodly) described in **Psalm 1:4**?

“We might protest that even unbelievers are worth something. On the one hand they may be charitable and kind, involved in community works, and even improve everyone's living conditions by their deeds. And on occasion God will even use what they do for his own purposes. On the other hand the witness in the Bible is clear: unless good works are done by faith and to the glory of God they are worthless to God and therefore of no merit before him, (Psalm 127:1-2)” [Commentary on the Psalms](#), Allen P. Ross, Vol. 1, p.191

9. In **Psalm 1:5**, what becomes of the wicked?

“Since these folks have never come to faith, never repented of their sins, and never sought to please God, in the judgment they will not survive.” [Commentary on the Psalms](#), Allen P. Ross, Vol. 1, p.192

“Because **Psalm 1** announces the separation of the righteous and the wicked in the expected judgment it seems best to understand it as the final judgment. Besides, final retribution is a major theme in wisdom literature (**Psalms 49,73**) namely that at the end of the age the righteous will stand before God in glory, but the ungodly will not.” [Commentary on the Psalms](#), Allen P. Ross, Vol. 1, p.192

10. From **Psalm 1:6**, what great comfort is expressed to the righteous?

11. Read **John 10:14**. How does this passage also address this?

12. By contrast, what is the end of the wicked?

“To unbelievers the message (**of Psalm 1**) is urgent: they must come to faith in the Lord, because if they live their lives without faith in Him or His word, not even their good deeds will count and they will not survive the judgment to come. (**Revelation 20:11-15**)

“With all this in mind we see how the Psalm provides a fitting part of the introduction to the collection. Throughout the Psalter the reader will be confronted with the tension of living in a world that is not only alienated from God but antagonistic to Him and His people. They must therefore find their direction and confidence in His word. And in so doing, they will also find their hope that someday the Lord will judge the world and vindicate them.” [Commentary on the Psalms](#), Allen P. Ross, Vol. 1, p.195

13. How does **Psalm 1** challenge or comfort you in your current circumstances?