

# Spiritual Talk

Discussion and Understand the Context are adapted from EXPLORE THE BIBLE: PSALMS –INSPIRING TRUTHS  
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## Psalm 1

1 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.  
ESV Bible

## Understand the Context

Psalm 1 is often classified as a wisdom psalm. Wisdom psalms give us examples of human behavior to demonstrate that some behaviors are wise and some are foolish. Wisdom Psalms tend to be proverbial. Indeed, many of the ideas in this psalm have parallels in the Book of Proverbs.

Psalm 1 should be viewed in relation to the entire Book of Psalms. The first psalm serves as an introduction to the entire Psalter. In like manner, Psalm 150 functions as the conclusion to the book. In Psalm 1 the righteous are blessed by God, and in Psalm 150 the righteous bless God. Psalm 1 describes what God does for His people, and Psalm 150 instructs God's people to bless God.

Psalm 1 easily divides into two parts: the path of life (Vs 1—3) and the path of death (vs 4—6). The two life styles are contrasted in the first two verses. Then in verse 3—4 the nature and value of each lifestyle are sketched with a botanical analogy. The last two verses then disclose the ultimate fate of each lifestyle.

## Discussion

- What stands out to you in this passage? What do you find encouraging, timely or convicting?
- In verses 3 & 4 the righteous are compared to a tree and the wicked as chaff. What do these images convey to you? How do you feel when you read about the judgment of the wicked?
- In what ways has obedience to God produced fruit in your life?
- What does this passage teach you about God?

