



UNSHAKABLY COMMITTED TO HIS WORD

WEEK OF 01/04/26

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PSALM 1

Silence (1-2 minutes)

Sit silently for a minute as a way to center your heart and invite the Holy spirit to help you listen to and receive God's Word.

Opening Prayer (2-3 minutes)

Read: Psalm 1

Devotional

Nothing is more vital to your life than belonging to the congregation of the righteous.

As we begin a new year, we are also embarking on a new focus that emphasizes a key part of our vision statement: *Unshakably committed to God's Word*. We desire to **know** the Word, **trust** the Word, and **do** the Word so that, as a church, we will be deeper, sturdier, and more resilient. As the world around us grows more unsettled, we can be an unshakable spiritual resource for our community.

1. Do you usually have New Year's resolutions? Why or why not?

Our text for this week offers two directions (vv. 1-2), two descriptions (vv. 3-4), and two destinies (vv. 5-6) for our lives. One direction leads to life; the other, death. One description depicts a person of substance; the other, not so much. One destiny leads to God's presence; the other, His judgment. There are only two options – there is no Plan C. And only one path leads to a blessed life – a life of wonder, joy, and satisfaction in the refuge of God. The blessed person is the righteous person. But how do we get there?

Read Psalm 1:1-2. The blessed person is defined as much by what they **do not** do as they are by what they do. They do not walk with the wicked, or stand with sinners, or sit in the seat of scoffers. The blessed person delights in the Lord, not drifting away from Him. He/she focuses their heart on a new object of delight: God's Word.

2. The process of drifting is subtle and slow, not sudden. No one wakes up and decides to become a scoffer; they drift there, starting by walking with those shaped by a false theology and worldview, and slowly becoming comfortable with the compromise. This leads to actually mocking righteousness itself, a point beyond merely sinning. How do we guard against this drift?
3. What does it mean to "delight in the Lord"? What does that look like in your life?

Read *Psalm 1:3-4*. Two descriptions are presented to explain the result of these two directions: the tree or the chaff. A tree represents stability, vitality, productivity, and durability. Chaff is known for what it is not – it is the useless husk of the grain, weightless, with no roots or substance. The tree represents a life that is rooted in the soil, watered by the Word, so that it will produce fruit. Chaff is separated from the kernel at harvest and blown away with the wind. It represents wasted potential, a life wasted on trivial pursuits.

4. Chaff does not blow away when it appears, but only after harvest. At first, it appears fruitful, but the winnowing process reveals its true nature. In the same way, wickedness appears prosperous in the moment, but its end is quite different. There will be a time when the Lord returns to set everything right. Does this truth encourage or frustrate you?
5. How does being rooted in God's Word allow us to live in the tension of our present time, where the wheat and the chaff coexist?

Read *Psalm 1:5-6*. Psalm 1 began with a promise but ends with a warning – "blessed" is the first word and "perish" is the last. Two vastly different destinies, no middle ground or third way. The wicked will not stand in judgment; in fact, they cannot. But the righteous will be secure because they are known by God. The Hebrew word for "known" is *yada*, and it means more than just informational knowledge. This knowledge is deep, intimate, soul-piercing. God is passionately invested in the ways of the righteous. In other words, God is saying, "I know you. I see you. You are Mine. You are Blessed."

6. Take some time to consider that God intimately knows you. What feelings or thoughts come to you – joy, fear, peace, etc.?
7. How does life look different for the person who more fully embraces this truth?

Our Big Idea for this week is this: Nothing is more vital to your life than belonging to the congregation of the righteous. It is there that God fixes His eyes. To belong to the congregation of the righteous is to step out of the shadows of anonymity and become a child in a house. God's house. This is the essence of the blessed life.

If Psalm 1 were a checklist for our morality, we are all chaff. But our hope is not in our own morality, but in Christ's finished work. He took the punishment meant for the wicked so that wanderers and scoffers could be grafted into His righteousness. It is only because of Him that we can be named among the righteous and live.

8. This year, we choose to relocate our roots from the poisoned soil of the world and into the deep waters of the Word. What are practical steps that you can take to do that? If you are meeting in a group setting, how can you encourage one another?

Closing Prayer

Thank You, Father, for the truth that we are truly known by You. We are objects of Your love and affection because we have been grafted into the True Tree, Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. We pray for hearts that are rooted and grounded in Your Word. Grow us into oaks of righteousness, with roots deeply planted in Your love and watered by Your Word. In Jesus' name – Amen.

Share Prayer Requests (10-15 minutes)