



The Grove

BIBLE CHAPEL

• TAMPA •

LIFEGROUP RESOURCES: 09.10.2023 Pulpit Curriculum

The Two Paths

Main Passage: Psalm 1

1) Intro: Doctrine divides and theology separates. We often hear people ask, “*Can’t we just love Jesus?*” The problem often lies in their false definition of both love and Jesus. We cannot allow the world to define these terms.

A. How does the world wrongly define love? How does it falsely define Jesus?

- Devotion requires sacrifice and commitment. Jesus is our LORD (not just a friend). He is our Messiah, our master, and our ruler. We must submit fully to Him.

2) The Path of Joyful Submission to God’s Word (Psalm 1:1-3): The path of God’s blessing avoids the wickedness of the world. It is the path of joy, treasure, obedience, goodness, and eternal life.

- **Joy in God’s blessing**: There is an emphasis on the first word in this passage, blessed (*esher*). It means total well-being and complete protection and provision.

• What does it mean to be blessed? See: Psalm 34:8, 65:4, 112:1, 119:1, 32:1-2.

B. In contrast to this Biblical description of dwelling in God’s blessing, what would it be like to be apart from God’s grace? _____

C. How has God’s goodness brought joy to your life? _____

- **Joy in rejecting the world’s ways**: The path to destruction is often gradual. There is a concept in the passage here of progression into the sinful lifestyle of the world (walking → standing → sitting). Casually observing sin may lead to participation.

D. Can you think of a time when you were in a tempting environment and it was challenging to reject joining in sin? What helped you? _____

- The world wants to degrade us and lure us into sinful behaviors. The antidote is Romans 12:1: Make your body a living sacrifice. It is not just about Bible *intake*, it’s about Biblical *living*.

E. Is there room for improvement in your intake of Scripture? _____



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- **Joy in the glories of God's Word:** We should delight in His law. A changed heart means a new appetite. (See Psalm 119 verses 2, 14, 16, 20, 24, and 163-167 for more on delighting in God's Word.) Sometimes to enjoy God's Word, we need a better taste—more consumption. *Challenge: Read Psalm 119 for 21 days.*

F. Do you have as much delight in the Scriptures as you want to? _____

G. What is your initial reaction to this reading challenge? _____

- **Joy in the prosperity of wise, obedient living:** We should be planted by streams of water (multiple tributaries of truth). For example, reading, studying, and meditating.

H. Where are my delighted streams of truth/input coming from? _____

3) The Path of Disastrous Dismissal of God's Word (Psalm 1:4-6): The path of destruction leads to pain, suffering, and death.

- **Pain of being driven away by the wind:** There is imagery in verse 4 of the wicked being blown away. There is no anchor. They have no roots. Like chaff, there is little substance to their nature. This is the path that the world's wickedness leads to.

I. Was there ever a time in your life you felt this way (easily influenced)? _____

- **Pain of being rejected by God:** Complacency leads to downfall. If you neglect God's Word, you reject God. (See *Proverbs 1:32* and *Psalm 119:118*.)

J. What are some hindrances that prevent you from fully devoting to Christ and treasuring God's Word? _____

- **Pain of perishing:** Diverting from the way of life leads to eternal separation from God. The way of the wicked will perish (*abad* – to be lost, broken, destroyed). Jesus reminds us in Matthew 7:13-14 that the gate to destruction is wide and spacious, but the gate to life is narrow and the path to life is difficult.

K. How have you seen with your own eyes the separation from God's goodness that sin leads to? _____

L. Can you think of anyone in your life that is walking the path of righteousness? How can you connect with them this week? _____

"The path of God's blessing avoids the errors and sins of this world by delighting in the perfect law of God, leading to eternal life."