



Repentance Tabernacle Church

RepentanceTabernacle@gmail.com
www.RepentanceTabernacle.org (984) 369-5171

Life's two roads!

Scripture: Psalm 1:1-3

There are only two paths of life before us—God's way of obedience or the way of rebellion and destruction. By choosing your pathway, you choose your eternity. Psalm 1:1-3 describes the characteristics of the blessed or righteous person by contrasting them with the wicked. It begins by outlining what the righteous person avoids: walking in the counsel of the wicked, standing in the path of sinners, and sitting with scoffers. Instead, the righteous person finds delight in and meditates on God's Law day and night. This contrast sets up the idea that a life centered on God's word leads to spiritual prosperity, while a life influenced by the wicked leads to ruin.

You can learn about God by meditating on His Word. Meditating means spending time reading and thinking about what you have read. It means asking yourself how you should change so you're living as God wants. Knowing and meditating on God's Word are the first steps toward applying it to your everyday life. If you want to follow God more closely, you must know what He says. God doesn't judge people on the basis of race, sex, or national origin. He judges them on the basis of their faith in Him and their response to His revealed will. Those who diligently try to obey God's will are blessed. **Those who don't obey God have meaningless lives that blow away like dust.**

Our friends and associates can have a profound influence on us, often in very subtle ways. If we insist on friendships with those who scoff at what God considers important, we sin by becoming indifferent to God's will. This attitude is the same as scoffing. **Do your friends build up your faith, or do they tear it down?** The influence of true friends should draw you closer to God. Trying to be one of them harms our witness for God. Ask yourself about the people you enjoy, **"If I am with them often, will I become less obedient to God in outlook or actions?"** If the answer is yes, carefully monitor how you spend your time with them and what effect it has on you. It is difficult for people to accept that friends and acquaintances might be luring them to do wrong. Young people want to be accepted, so they would never want to confront or criticize a friend for wrong plans or actions. Many other people can't even see how their friends' actions could lead to trouble. While we should be accepting of others, we need a healthy skepticism about human behavior. When you feel yourself being heavily influenced, proceed with caution. God's blessing results in joy. To obtain God's joy, the psalmist says we should avoid the company of mocking sinners. In addition, we should seek an understanding of God through His Word. The shadowy influence of mockers can separate us from the radiance of God's joyful presence, as a dark cloud separates us from the joyful presence of the morning sun.

It may seem strange to hear the psalmist in (Psalm 119:12-24) talk of rejoicing in God's laws as much as in riches. But God's laws were given to free us to be all He wants us to be. They restrict us from doing those things that will cripple us and keep us from being our best. God's guidelines help us follow His path and avoid paths that lead to destruction. There is a most simple bit of wisdom in these verses—the more we delight in God's presence, the more fruitful we are. On the other hand, the more we allow the dark influences of those who ridicule God to overshadow us, the more we separate ourselves from our source of nourishment. **We must have contact with unbelievers if we are to witness to them, but we must not be influenced to join in or imitate their behavior.** If you want despair, spend time with scoffing sinners; but if you want joy, make friends with those who love God and His Word.

When Scripture says, *"Whatsoever he doeth shall prosper,"* it does not mean immunity from failure or difficulties. Nor is it a guarantee of health, wealth, and happiness. What Scripture means by prosperity is this: When we apply God's wisdom to our lives, the fruit we bear will be good and receive God's approval. As a tree soaks up water and bears luscious fruit, we also are to soak up God's Word, producing actions and attitudes that honor God. To achieve anything worthwhile, we must have God's Word in our hearts. **Are you satisfied with being unfruitful, or do you, like a well-watered tree, have strength for times of crisis and even some to share?** It's strange to equate success with obedience. For many, success is controlling others; for Joshua it meant being controlled by God (Joshua 1:8). God told Joshua that to succeed he must obey the rules for living found in God's Law. Often we can't see what the results or future benefits of following God will be. When we are not certain what to do, obedience to what God has revealed in the Scripture is the only sure step we can take. **Resolve to set aside time each day to read and think about God's Word.** Remind yourself of God's words day and night. Act today on what you know God has said, and God will assure your success in carrying out His purposes.