

Contrasting Paths

Text: Psalm 1

Introduction:

1. There is a world of difference between the way (*path*) that the righteous and wicked travel.
2. The paths are as different as day and night.
 - a. Where Jesus spoke of those who are of the day – knowing and abiding in the truth’s of our Great God traveling on a well illuminated path of our Savior.
 - b. While those of the night or darkness travel an opposite path.
 - 1) Seeking darkness to hide their devious deeds.
 - 2) In darkness not knowing or caring about the life-giving light of our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Tonight we are going to look at some of these differences between these two different paths as shown in **Psalms 1**.

I. The Way (Path) Of One Who Is Righteous (The Righteousness of God).

- A. Their way is blessed. (v1)
 1. All blessings come down from the Father of Blessings – Our Great God.
 2. A way that is well lighted with the Son (*a play on words*) – whom is Jesus Christ
- B. They delight in the law and commandments of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate upon His word continually. (v2)
 1. Meaning that His word is in the forefront of their mind at all times – and all decisions are made according to what God wants done in their lives (***but, notice, we must know what He wants done in order to make the decision – and this knowledge comes from knowing and meditating upon His word***)
- C. Be likened to a tree that is firmly planted by streams of water. (v3)
 1. Tapping into the riches of God’s knowledge and wisdom.
 2. Tapping into a never ending supply of energy.
 3. Tapping into a foundation that will not move with every wind and doctrine of the devil.
- D. Be able to stand at the judgment as He tells us – “*Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*” – **Matthew 25:34**
- E. The way, through Jesus Christ, leads to eternal life. (v6)
 1. Established by God Himself – His Way
 2. A Way of righteousness
 3. A Way along the King’s Highway (Our Great King Jesus). (**Numbers 20 & 21** – *Israelites sought to walk upon the king’s highway, **which is straighter, smoother and easier**, but the king of Edom did not allow them to, therefore they had to trek a different, **very difficult highway and treacherous** to get to where they were going)*

II. The Way (Path) Of One Who Is Wicked.

- A. They are scoffers and they set around all day seeing what evil they can do. (v1)
 1. Constantly devising ways to do battle with those who do not walk in the same path that they do.
 2. Even, to the point of doing battle with each other.
 3. They are just plain evil – *their heart hardened and callous with no feeling of compassion* – likened to a **‘cold blooded killer**.

- B. They have their own laws in which they abide and live in.
 - 1. Do it their way with no compromise of their evil laws. “***every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes;***” **Deuteronomy 12:8**
 - 2. Known as the ‘*law of the jungle*’ – their law is the **survival of the fittest** – sounds familiar to the ‘**laws as set forth by evolutionists!!**
- C. They are likened unto a tree that does not have any roots and soon dry up and perish. (v4)
 - 1. Nothing to base their evil ways upon, but themselves – whatever is **right in their own eyes**, their foolishness will catch up with them eventually.
 - 2. No roots to tap into for energy – once gone – gone forever. Likened unto a dry well that has been dug, no life sustaining water to keep one going – such as those who pursue this course.
- D. They will not stand in the judgment as the Great Judge of the universe passes sentencing.
 - 1. They will indeed bow before the Majesty upon high – “*For it is written, AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD.*” – **Romans 14:11**
 - 2. They will indeed see their Creator the Great God of the heavens because “*BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be.*” **Revelation 1:7**
- E. They will not be able to assemble with the righteous.
- F. The way of the wicked will perish. (v6)
 - 1. For Jesus has told the lawless in His sermon on the Mount “*And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'*” **Matthew 7:23**

Conclusion:

- 1. Yes, there is contrast between the two paths people chose to take in their lives.
 - a. One path is allowing God to be in their lives and establishing the path that He wants them to go and to live on.
 - b. While, the other is a path that is established by oneself in the doing of wicked and evil deeds that they deem necessary for their own benefit.
- 2. The paths or ways of these contrasts have totally different endings.
 - a. The path of the righteous, in obedience to God and ALL of His commandments, leads to eternal life.
 - b. While, the other path in wickedness and evil are destined for hell damnation for eternity.
- 3. God does not want that any should “*perish but for all to come to repentance.*” **2 Peter 3:9**
- 4. As you will notice, it is our choice that we make, as to which path we shall travel on. Our prayer is that all are on the righteous path, because the destination of the other path is **HELL** forever. It’s **our choice** to make!!!!