

## Delight, Meditate, Get planted Psalm 1:2-3

### **Ps 1:1-3**

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;

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.

In verse 1 of Psalm 1, the psalmist refers to the blessed man as being one who does not WALK in the counsel of the wicked, does not STAND in the way of sinners and does not SIT in seat of the scornful.

A couple of years ago I spoke on these 3 things with respect to the life of King Jehoshaphat. To quickly review, Jehoshaphat was king of Judah and is described as a good King. He ruled at the same time as wicked King Ahab and Queen Jezebel of Israel.

The bible records in 2 Chronicles 17:3-4 that Jehoshaphat walked in the ways of his father David and did not walk after Baal....unlike his northern neighbor King Ahab who was completely immersed into Baal worship. But sadly, King Jehoshaphat began to waver in his walk with God. He entered into a marriage alliance with King Ahab. Jehoshaphat's son married Ahab's daughter. This alliance got Jehoshaphat into a mess . His walk seems to have slowed and now Jehoshaphat began to STAND with sinners. He started to enjoy Ahab's company. So much so that when Ahab went to war with the king of Syria, Ahab, invited Jehoshaphat to join him. And now that the marriage alliance had knit them together, Jehoshaphat could not refuse. But his conscience was pricking, he knew something was not right. This is good. Jehoshaphat asks Ahab to seek God's guidance on whether to indulge in this war with Syria. Ahab had some 400 prophets of Baal...who of course praised the idea as a sure success. Jehoshaphat was not convinced, he asked if there was a prophet of Yahweh. And Ahab summons Micaiah the only prophet at hand. And the bible records the interaction vividly, describing the 2 kings Ahab and Jehoshaphat SITTING on their thrones, while Ahab is pouring scorn on Micaiah for predicting doom and gloom regarding the Syrian battle. Jehoshaphat literally is SITTING in the seat of the scornful. What a sad state of affairs for someone who started out well by WALKING in God's ways. But in that battle with the Syrians,

Ahab loses his life just as the Prophet of God said. King Jehoshaphat, cried out in his distress, and the bible says that God spared his life.

### **Psalm 1:2-3**

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.

I want to present to you three scenarios. The first is **delighting** the second is **meditating** and the third is **being planted** so those are the three points I'm going to share with you today. There is a progression going from delighting to meditating and then finally being planted.

We all know what the word delight means. Delight is to take pleasure in something that we like, to have a longing for, or to desire and so it's all of these are definitions that are consistent with the Hebrew word being used here as delight.

The first question is **why should we delight in the law of the Lord?** in fact let's define what is the law of the Lord. So the law of the Lord is the law itself or what the Hebrew word refers to normally as the Torah, the first 5 books of the Bible and the word used here can also mean instructions that are given from the Lord or the Word of the Lord. All of these would be fair to use as law of the Lord. So when the psalmist says delight yourself in the law of the Lord, he is actually saying telling us to delight ourselves in what God has to say to us as revealed in His Word.

So why should we delight in the law of the Lord or in what God has to say? The Bible talks about many reasons but I'm going to place before you 3 reasons.

1. The words of God are always righteous. God himself defines it for us in **Deuteronomy 4:8** and what nation is there that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I have set before you today...so God himself is calling His instructions and His word as righteous.

So the first thing we see about the Word of God or the instruction of God is that it is righteous, it is the right thing, the only true thing.

2 and 3. **Psalm 19:7** the law of the Lord or the instructions of the Lord are perfect” and here it is kicker “**reviving the soul**” and then the rest on the verse “the testimony of the Lord is sure or trustworthy and **it makes wise the simple**”.

So the law of the Lord or the instruction of the Lord is perfect and it revives my soul.

Why do you revive somebody?

You're not going to revive somebody who is already breathing right?

You revive somebody on the verge of death, you are resuscitating them, and you're bringing them back to life.

Notice here the word does not say it revives the body. The word of the Lord revives not the body but **revives the soul**. The question is when did my soul die or when was it on the brink of death? When sin entered my life in the Garden of Eden, my soul and yours was on the brink of death.

Now the Word of the Lord or testimony of the Lord also makes me wise because it shows me, my true condition. The simpleton becomes wise.

The Word of God or instruction of God makes foolish me into a wise man. In fact if you remember the Garden of Eden what was one of the one of the things that the serpent promised Eve?

What did the serpent say would happen if Eve ate the fruit?

### **Genesis 3:5-6**

For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you'll be like God knowing good and evil. 6 so when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a **delight** to the eyes or pleasant to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired **to make one wise** she took of its fruit and ate and she also gave some to her husband who was with her ...and the rest as they say is history.

The reason for why our souls need to be revived from being on the brink of death is because of disobedience to the Word of the Lord.

So Eve and Adam by rejecting the Word of the Lord and eating of the fruit did not become wise they became fools. Because they lost what was the most precious thing in all of the universe namely fellowship with their creator and also almost lost eternal life with God. The connection that their souls had with God was disconnected because of Sin.

And we are their children so the only way we can become Wise again is to be able to take delight in the word of the Lord.

So my dear brother and your sister do we delight in the word of the Lord? Do we have a desire for the word of the Lord? For the instruction of God for what is revealed in His word through His son Jesus who is The Word? If we have no desire for the word of God, then we ask for that desire and it will be given to us! And if we can also ask for God to pour out His Spirit on our family and friends who have no desire for God's Word.

So why should we Delight in God's Word...it is because the word of the Lord is **righteous** and perfect **it revives my soul** and it **makes me wise**.

### **Psalm 1:2-3**

But his delight is in the law of the Lord and on his law he meditates day and night 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 prosper.

The Word of Lord is worth meditating on. Delighting and meditating - what is the difference?

Let me give you a couple of illustrations.

It's really hot these days outside correct? Imagine if you will you are working outside, are you spending some time outside in the hot sun and someone offers you an ice cream.

Now, if you are like me I would love to have ice cream on a hot summer day I delight in having ice cream I desire it, I long for ice cream on a hot summer day something to cool my parched lips that's delighting or taking pleasure in something.

But I am not too interested in the details about HOW the ice cream is made. So my relationship with my vanilla ice cream is very utilitarian. And also perhaps even rather superficial I like it but that's about it. The ice cream brings me some comfort, relief and is highly desirable. I don't necessarily dwell on the ice cream and its details after I'm done eating it. However if I start to research where the ice cream came from, what are the ingredients, how are they put together, how is it manufactured, how is it packaged how does it come to me, what does it cost? And how does it satisfy me? There are so many details that I am not aware of about the vanilla ice cream. I would need to devote a considerable amount of time and effort to be able to get to know my ice cream and that is the meaning of meditation.

To ponder, to Muse, to imagine, to study, all of these are associated with the Hebrew word used here for meditate or meditation.

I like the Saints. I am even married to a saint. But my son Nik takes great delight in the Saints and more so in the game of American football. He has a handful of football trading cards. And he can recite the vital statistics of all his dozen or more favorite players. How does he remember such information? He meditates on these statistics over and over again soaking in all the information he can get because he delights in the game.

Our delight should lead us to meditate. We are what we eat. If I eat donuts all day long, I will become a donut. If I feed on God's Word and meditate on it, the Word of God will transform my life.

Just like we saw reasons to delight in the Word of the Lord, we are also going to also see some reasons to meditate on the instructions of the Lord.

**Joshua 1:8** This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth but you shall meditate on it day and night so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it" ..and here is why...the reason "for then you will make **your way prosperous** and **you will have good success**". God is telling Joshua and the Israelites "look I have given you a set of instructions that are meant to be a guide for your life, a set of instructions which I want you to live by, so that you will have success in all that you do and your way becomes prosperous.

Now we have to pause for a second here.. Remember what was their immediate challenge? For Joshua and the Israelites it was an existential challenge they were on the brink of annihilation. They were a bunch of former slaves from the land of Egypt who had wandered the desert for 40 years their forefathers had died and their children, who were now grown-up men and women are at the edge of the promised land of Canaan. The land of Canaan was not a western frontier USA that was wilderness with nobody living there, on the contrary it was chock full of 7 nations that were already there, the bible even calls them nations who are mightier and more numerous (Deut 7:1). We're not going to list all of the seven that were there including the Hittites, Jebusites, the Perizzites, etc.

The Israelites remember were terrified of those that dwelt in the land of Canaan. They had names for the Canaanites... Giants in comparison to themselves - Hebrew grasshoppers. So in the present circumstance the terrified Israelites are reassured and encouraged by God even BEFORE they enter the land.

**Deut 7:1** (NLT) When the Lord your God brings you into the land you are about to enter and occupy, **he will clear away** many nations ahead of you: the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. These seven nations are greater and more numerous than you.

God's promises are in His Word and the only condition for us to avail His leading and guiding in our lives is for us to meditate on His Word to find out what He wants us to do in our lives.

So the first reason to meditate on His Word is for our lives to prosper and succeed in terms of eternity. We do need to be careful about how we think. Prosperity and success in the world's eyes is different than what God wants for our lives. God is interested in a relationship with His people, and often times can be accompanied with material success, but our eyes need to be on Him alone!

### **Psalm 77:12**

I will also meditate on all Your work, And talk of Your deeds.

### **Psalm 143:5**

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands.

The second and third reasons for us to meditate on His Word is to bring to **remembrance His leading** in our lives over the years. We must not forget. And the best way not to forget something is to **talk about it**. We need to be talk about His deeds in our lives. It's called our testimony, in reality, the story is about His deeds in our lives!

How many times have we heard someone's testimony and it has strengthened our own faith. And the same is true in reverse, when we share how God has been speaking to us through His Word, because of our

meditating and waiting to hear from His word, our testimony encourages other believers.

So we must meditate on His Word in order **to succeed** in our relationship with Him, **to remember** His leading us through the different times in our life and to be able **to testify** about this with others.

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Delight in God's word, Meditate on God's Word. Now we are going to see what it means to be Planted.

### **John 12:24-25.**

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Jesus is using wheat as an example. The wheat kernel must die first before a new wheat plant can emerge from it and eventually produce much more wheat. Similarly, we cannot produce fruit for eternity unless we first die. So what does that mean and what does it look like?

### **Colossians 3:1-10**

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 **For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.** 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too **once walked**, when you **were** living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have **put off the old self with its practices**

10 and have put on the **new self**, which is **being renewed** in knowledge after the image of its creator.

God is much more interested in our souls than in our body! Because our soul lives for eternity. In fellowship with God in heaven or without fellowship of God in hell. Therefore in God's economy, our earthly life and its grandeur have little to no value, because the earth and all that is in it will soon be gone.

So, it is God who plants us. He plants inside our heart His Word. And through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are made NEW and renewed in the knowledge of our creator. But we need to be willing to allow all these things to happen. We have to work hard to put to death our natural selves, which is driven by the cravings of our physical life. Our appetites for various things already listed including my desire for ice cream and donuts! What Paul is saying is that we should not let our appetite control us, rather we need to be led by the Holy Spirit. This is very hard.

It is relatively easy to take delight in God's Word, to meditate on God's Word. Even planting, is something we do not do, God plants the Holy Spirit into our lives when we accept Jesus' death on our behalf. But to produce fruit, is hard work, but it also comes naturally the more we are connected to Him...the stream that gives life. That's why Jesus said, abide in me for without me you can do nothing.

The closer we draw to Him, the more we realize that He is good and there is nothing good in me.

The challenge I want to leave us with today is this: have we invested more in Our new self in this unique season we are living in? If, not, may we take greater delight in His Word, spend more time reading, meditating and asking God to lead us and guide us in these difficult times so that we bear fruit in this season and every season thereafter.

Ravi Zach..total looser, committed suicide, he even failed at that! But God had plans for him!