

## The Importance of Knowing and Living God's Word

### WHO is called to know the word of God?

1 Peter 2:1-2

1 Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, 2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, 3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

James 1:21

21 Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

### WHAT is the word of God?

John 17:17

17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth

### WHEN am I to read and study the word of God?

Psalms 1:2

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

### WHERE am I to store up the word of God?

John 8:31-37

31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 31 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." 33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free'?" 34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. 35 "The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. 36 "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. 37 "I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you

Psalms 119:11

11 Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.

### WHY is the word of God so important?

Deuteronomy 32:44-47

44 Then Moses came and spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people, he, with Joshua the son of Nun. 45 When Moses had finished speaking all these words to all Israel, 46 he said to them,

“Take to your heart all the words with which I am warning you today, which you shall command your sons to observe carefully, even all the words of this law. 47 For it is not an idle word for you; indeed it is your life. And by this word you will prolong your days in the land, which you are about to cross the Jordan to possess.”

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Did you get the point? Everyone is to know and live the word of God because it is the truth by which we are to meditate day and night, treating it as a treasure that is stored in our hearts to keep us from what displeases the Father. His very word to us is our LIFE!

So, how can we come to know and live the word?

2 Timothy 2:15

15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

Note that “be diligent” in the above verse can also be translated as “study”. Study is both a noun and a verb. As a noun, study is “the devotion of time and attention to acquiring knowledge on a subject; it is a detailed investigation and analysis of a subject or situation. As a verb, study is “to devote time and attention to acquiring knowledge on a subject; to look at closely in order to observe or read” The tool by which study is accomplished is by the means of books. So, I want you to be in THE BOOK OF BOOKS! The word of God! This “study” is going to walk you through, step by step, how to you can study God’s word so that you know what He is saying and can live accordingly. Don’t faint in the process, because at the end, you will reap many treasures that will bring you in closer fellowship with God, more intimacy with His Son, and sweet communion with His Holy Spirit. Before we get started, let’s begin with prayer.

*Father, thank you for bringing it to my attention, how important it is for me to know and live your word. I pray that you open the eyes of my understanding, so that I may know what is the hope of Your calling. Equip me with truth so that I can accurately teach others your ways and fulfill your call by making disciples of all nations. I praise you for what I am about to learn, and I wait in expectation what you are about to do in my mind and in my heart, knowing that transformation is your will for me. In Jesus’ name I count it done – Amen!*

## Inductive Study

The foundation of inductive reasoning is observing a situation carefully for the purpose of drawing your own conclusion. It takes out “the middle man” – and allows you to have a first hand encounter with the text. This positions you to hear straight from God. If we are called to be in relationship with Him, doesn't it make sense that we should be able to talk to Him, and He with us? So, in order to know truth for ourselves, we want to hear His testimony, what He says about Himself, and what He says about how we are to live our lives.

Inductive study involves thinking. Just because we go to a bible study or church does not mean that we check our brains at the door. Everything that we hear and are taught by others should be examined based on what we have studied in the scripture. But the problem is, if we have not devoted significant time in the word for ourselves, we are not going to be able to discern whether or not we are hearing truth! So let's get prepared to think and reason together.

Inductive study has 3 major components: Observation, Interpretation, and Application

### Observation

This component deals with discovering what the text is saying. This involves interrogating the text by asking the 5 W's and an H: WHO?, WHAT? WHEN? WHERE? WHY? and HOW? Other things to look for in this stage of study is: key repeated words or phrases, comparisons and contrasts.

### Interpretation

This component deals with discovering the meaning of the text. Careful observation will lead to an accurate interpretation. Observation helps you to have a solid understanding of the context of a passage, so that you will not conclude something that is not clearly supported in its context. To take scripture out of context, is to distort the message that God wants us to have on a particular topic. This leads to many problems such as misappropriated application. This means that if there is a text of scripture that has not been interpreted correctly, it will lead to one trying to live out a misinterpretation of scripture that causes a distortion of truth to be evident. We see this a lot in many that profess to be Bible Believing Christians. So, how should we interpret a passage? There are 2 main tools to use for this.

- 1) Cross Referencing. Simply put, cross referencing is the idea of allowing Scripture to interpret Scripture. Even though God chose to use 40 different men to record what

God was saying, there is only one author- God! The bible consists of 66 books that fits together in one cohesive way.

- 2) Word Studies. The bible is split into two parts. The Old Testament and the New Testament. The majority of the Old Testament is originally written in Hebrew, and the majority of the New Testament is written in Greek. It is important that when we are trying to gain understanding in what the human author means when he uses a certain word, then we need to dig a little deeper, and find out its original meaning. In this study we will use a free online word study tool called “blue letter bible”. We will also use a standard Webster’s dictionary.

### Application

This component is just as important as observation and interpretation. This is where we decide to BELIEVE what we have discovered and then walk it out. If we don’t believe what God has said, then we will not live it. The renewing of the mind is the process that occurs in us as we devote adequate time to reading, studying, and meditating on God’s word. Transformed lives is the goal. If we have been in “bible study” for any length of time, and we do not see a change in our lifestyle – something is wrong. It is not a word problem, it is a heart problem. Never forget that knowledge puffeth up! (1 Corinthians 8:1) The purpose of bible study is not for us to collect a bunch of facts in our brains so that we can use the word to point the finger at what the pastor, deacon, husband, wife, kids, President, and any other “so called Christians” ain’t doing....BUT, it is to examine our own lives and live accordingly. As I am appropriating God’s word to my personal life I then get to bring others along side of me, those that are willing and hungry for truth, and make disciples!

## **OBSERVATION**

### **Assignment #1**

We will begin with observation. Read Psalm 1 several times to get a feel for what this Psalm is about.

### **Assignment #2**

WHO is mentioned in Psalm 1? Write their names or references that point to the people below:

### **Assignment #3**

You should have noticed that there are three people mentioned in Psalm 1: the righteous, the wicked, and the LORD.

Now, we are going to slow down and mark the text. Read Psalm 1 again and mark in a distinctive way: the righteous, the wicked, and the LORD. Make sure to mark any synonyms that refer those people.

### **Assignment #4**

Look at every place that you have marked the people and list what you observe about each person. Use the chart provided in this study (on the next page).

### **Assignment #5**

As you made your list on the 3 people, did you notice any key repeated words or phrases? You should have seen “law” repeat! Read through Psalm 1 again and mark the word “law” in a distinctive way. List what you observed about the “law”. Use the chart provided in this study.

### **Assignment #6**

Let’s make a connection. From your observations so far, draw a conclusion about what you know about the LORD, the righteous, the wicked, and God’s law. In other words, what relationship do you see about how the 3 people interact with one another and the law. Still confused? Think about it this way: Who gives the law? How does each person respond to the law? What is the consequence that occurs based on how each person responds to the law? Write your response below:

CHART: List on the righteous, the wicked, the LORD, the law

Observations on the righteous	Observations on the wicked
Observations on the LORD	Observations on the law

### Assignment #7

Look for contrasts in Psalm 1. A contrast is an evaluation of things that are different or opposite in the context being viewed. Many times, contrast is noted by the word “but”<sup>1</sup> There are three contrast in this chapter. Once you find them, mark the word “but” in a distinctive way, and discuss below what truth is being revealed through the contrast. In other words, what point is the author making through the contrast?

Contrast #1: Verses 1 and 2

Contrast #2: Verse 4

Contrast #3: Verse 6

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<sup>1</sup> The New How to Study Your Bible by Kay Arthur, David Arthur, Pete DeLacy

### **Assignment #8**

While observing the contrast and discerning the point that the author is making with the contrast, did you see how there are 2 “ways” that came to the surface! The “way” of the righteous and the “way” of the wicked. Let’s make a connection to the entire chapter. How does these 2 ways relate to the chapter as a whole?



INTERPRETATION

**Assignment #1: interpreting verse 1**

In this assignment we are going to interpret a couple of words found in verse 1 and look at some cross references to see if we can gain a deeper insight into the meaning of the text. Psalm 1:1 shows that the righteous man:

- is blessed
- does not walk in the counsel of the wicked
- does not stand in the path of sinners
- does not sit in the seat of scoffers.

Let's look at what it means to be blessed.

Word	Strong's Number and Hebrew transliteration	Definition
blessed	H835 - "esher"	it means blessed or happy. "blessed" – since the Strong's definition gives us the 2 English words-"blessed and happy" – we can look at the Webster's dictionary to gain more insight. Webster's define blessed as: to be endowed with divine favor and protection. The synonyms provided for blessed are: favored, fortunate, lucky, privileged, select, happy, joyful, joyous, blissful, glad, and enviable. WOW! What a list! Now take what we have just discovered, and put it back in the verse.

- The verse will now read as: A man that is endowed with divine favor and protection, living fortunate, having privileges, being happy and joyful, and living in such a way that others envy him.....does not walk in the counsel of the wicked...etc...
- The study bible that is being used in this study (New Inductive Study Bible) does not provided a cross reference for "blessed" in this verse. So, let's move on to the next precept.

Let's look at what it means to "not walk in the counsel of the wicked"

Word	Strong's Number and Hebrew transliteration	Definition
walk	H1980 - "halak"	There is a literal and figurative definition. According to the context of Psalm 1, the author is not describing how one is to physically "walk", putting one foot in front of the other, so don't use the literal definition-choose the figurative definition. Walk refers to how one behaves himself, a person's manner of life.
counsel	H6098 - "etsah"	Counsel means to give someone advice, a plan, a purpose, or prudence (wisdom).
wicked	H7563 - "rasha"	The wicked is a person that is morally wrong, an actively bad person, one who is condemned, guilty, ungodly, a wicked man that did wrong.

- So now, let's put what we have discovered back in the verse! The blessed man does not behave or adopt as a manner of life the advice, wisdom, plans of a morally wrong, actively bad person who is ungodly and condemned!

Let's go a little deeper and look at several cross references that go with this text. Read the following and note more insight that you have gained about how the bless man does not walk in the counsel of the wicked.

Psalm 5:8-10

8 O LORD, lead me in Your righteousness because of my foes; Make Your way straight before me.

9 There is nothing reliable in what they say; Their inward part is destruction itself. Their throat is an open grave; They flatter with their tongue.

10 Hold them guilty, O God; By their own devices let them fall! In the multitude of their transgressions thrust them out, For they are rebellious against You.

Psalm 10:2-11

2 In pride the wicked hotly pursue the afflicted; Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised.

3 For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire, And the greedy man curses and spurns the LORD.

4 The wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, does not seek Him. All his thoughts are, "There is no God."

5 His ways prosper at all times; Your judgments are on high, out of his sight; As for all his adversaries, he snorts at them.

6 He says to himself, "I will not be moved; Throughout all generations I will not be in adversity."

7 His mouth is full of curses and deceit and oppression; Under his tongue is mischief and wickedness.

8 He sits in the lurking places of the villages; In the hiding places he kills the innocent; His eyes stealthily watch for the unfortunate.

9 He lurks in a hiding place as a lion in his lair; He lurks to catch the afflicted; He catches the afflicted when he draws him into his net.

10 He crouches, he bows down, And the unfortunate fall by his mighty ones.

11 He says to himself, "God has forgotten; He has hidden His face; He will never see it."

Psalm 36:1-4

1 Transgression speaks to the ungodly within his heart; There is no fear of God before his eyes.

2 For it flatters him in his own eyes Concerning the discovery of his iniquity and the hatred of it.

3 The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit; He has ceased to be wise and to do good.

4 He plans wickedness upon his bed; He sets himself on a path that is not good; He does not despise evil

Let's look at "not standing in the path of sinners"

Word	Strong's Number and Hebrew transliteration	Definition
stand	H5975 - "amad"	It means to abide behind, continue, or remain in. This is a position of the heart, one's beliefs. This is not referring to physical standing on one's two feet.
path	H1870 - "derek"	This means a course of life, a mode of action.
sinner	H2400 - "chatta"	This means a criminal, one accounted guilty, an offender.

- So, now let's put what we have seen back in context. The blessed man does not abide behind, continue it, remain in, the course of life and mode of action that is set by criminals, those accounted guilty, offenders of God.

Let's go a little deeper and look at several cross references that go with this text. Read the following and note more insight that you have gained about how the bless man does not stand in the path of sinners.

Psalm 17:3-5

3 You have tried my heart; You have visited me by night; You have tested me and You find nothing; I have purposed that my mouth will not transgress.

4 As for the deeds of men, by the word of Your lips I have kept from the paths of the violent.

5 My steps have held fast to Your paths. My feet have not slipped.

Psalm 119:104

104 From Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.

Let's look at "sit in the seat of scoffers"

Word	Strong's Number and Hebrew transliteration	Definition
sit	H3427 - "yashab"	It means to sit as judge, to dwell, remain, or settle.
seat	H4168 - "mowshab"	It refers to a site, an abode, a dwelling place.
scoffers	H3887 - "luwts"	It means to make mouths at, to scoff. The Webster's define scoff as to speak to someone or about something in a scornfully derisive or mocking way.

- So, let's put these definitions back in the verse. The blessed man does not sit as judge nor dwells, remains, or settles in the site, abode, or dwelling place of those who mouths at, or scoffs at God. Wow! Have you ever thought that a scoffer is a judge of God!

Let's go a little deeper and look at several cross references that go with this text. Read the following and note more insight that you have gained about how the bless man does not sit in the seat of scoffers.

Psalm 26:3-5

3 For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes, and I have walked in Your truth.

4 I do not sit with deceitful men, nor will I go with pretenders.

5 I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked.

Jeremiah 15:17

I did not sit in the circle of merry-makers, nor did I exult. Because of Your hand *upon me* I sat alone, for You filled me with indignation.

Summarizing the interpretation of Psalm 1:1

The blessed man, also referred to as "the righteous", is living in a happy place with God. The favor of God rests on his life. His life is full of joy and protection. Why? Because the blessed man don't fool with the wicked. Those that are against God – the wicked, the sinner, the scoffer- have a way of life that is contrary to the will of God. We saw where they are described as even

being judges of God. They determine what is true and right and good- and they issue their counsel to all who want to live like them – live a life where you can be your own god!

**Assignment #2: interpreting verse 2**

In this assignment we are going to interpret a couple of words found in verse 2 and look at some cross references to see if we can gain a deeper insight into the meaning of the text. Psalm 1:2 shows that the righteous man:

- delights in the law of the LORD
- meditates on God’s law day and night

**Let’s look at what it means to delight.**

Word	Strong’s Number and Hebrew transliteration	Definition
delight	H2656 - “chephets”	It means delight or pleasure. “delight”- the Webster’s dictionary provide some interesting synonyms: captivate, thrill, excite, gratify, take someone’s breath away.

- Let’s put this back in the verse and contrast it with what we saw in verse 1. The righteous man does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, BUT takes delight, pleasure, and is captivated, thrilled, excited, gratified by the counsel of God’s law!

Let’s go a little deeper and look at several cross references that go with this text. Read the following and note more insight that you have gained about how the righteous delight in the law of the Lord.

Psalm 119:14

14 I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, as much as in all riches.

Psalm 119:16

16 I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word.

Psalm 119:35

35 Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it.

Let's look at the meaning of the law \_\_\_\_\_

Word	Strong's Number and Hebrew transliteration	Definition
law	H8451 - "towrah"	It means a precept or statute, especially the Decalogue (Ten Commandments) or Pentateuch (first five books of the bible)

- Put this back in the verse. The righteous man delights in the precepts, statutes of God, especially those in the Ten Commandments and those found in the first five books of the bible.

Let's look at what it means to meditate

Word	Strong's Number and Hebrew transliteration	Definition
meditate	H8451 - "towrah"	it means to murmur in pleasure, to imagine, meditate, mutter, speak, study, talk, and utter.

Lastly..." day and night" gives the idea that something is happening continually!

Let's go a little deeper and look at several cross references that go with this text. Read the following and note more insight that you have gained about how the righteous delight in the law of the Lord and to mediate on it day and night.

Joshua 1:8

<sup>8</sup>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; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

*Summarizing the interpretation of Psalm 1:2*

The righteous man finds pleasure in the precepts of God's word. He especially finds delight in the first five books of the bible, where one gets to meet Creator God! The righteous man not only ponders God's work, but talks about it, studies it, and makes it a habit of life. He is continually captivated by truth- to the point that God's word simply takes his breath away!



## Observation Worksheet for Psalm 1

Psalm 1: \_\_\_\_\_

1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,

Nor stand in the path of sinners,

Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD,

And in His law he meditates day and night.

3 He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,

Which yields its fruit in its season

And its leaf does not wither;

And in whatever he does, he prospers.

4 The wicked are not so,

But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.

5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,

Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,

But the way of the wicked will perish.