

# Flourish or Fade

## Message Notes

### Intro to the book of Psalms

- Psalms is 150 poems, prayers, and songs, compiled for the Jewish people to use as private and corporate worship
- There is a psalm for every situation and emotion.
- King David wrote 73 of the 150
- Jesus treated the Psalms as a prophetic book by quoting from it 20 times in the gospels and using the text to talk about himself.

### Psalms 1 - A wisdom psalm

Psalms 1:1–6 (NASB95) — 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.

**Note for video team - On one screen put image of chaff, on one screen put verses 4-6, on one screen build out the points below**

### Image of the wicked

- They are **worthless** chaff - without value/like packing peanuts
- They are **scattered** by the wind - disappear/what happened to...?
- They will be **condemned** at judgment - the sadness of a court sentencing
- They **will not stand** in the assembly of the righteous - will not be welcome
- Their way will **perish** - forever separated

**Note for video team - Keep image of chaff on first screen, put verse one on second screen, build out points below**

### How to become like worthless chaff

- **Walk in the council of the wicked**

- Follow their advice
- Have you ever gotten bad advice before?
  - Restaurant recommendation - Expensive, not good, not great environment!
- The wicked have recommendations! The problem is, it is the worst advice.
- **Stand in the path of sinners**
  - Live in their way
  - The Bible talks a lot about roads. Wide roads and narrow roads.
  - This simply means, “way of life.”
  - If you adopt a sinner's way of life, it will lead to destruction.
  - What we know about a sinner's way of life
    - It's easy
    - It's broad
    - It's selfishly indulgent
    - It gratifies the flesh
- **Sit in the seat of scoffers**
  - Think like they think
  - If you take their advice long enough, you will start to live like them, and eventually you will sit in their seat and think like them.
  - A mocker
    - Sceptical
    - Critical
    - Proud
    - Bitter

**Note for video team - On one screen put image of tree, on one screen put verse 3, on one screen build out the points below**

### **Image of the righteous**

- Firmly planted (He will be like a tree firmly planted)
  - To phrase this as a question: “Do you want permanency?”
  - Me trying to pull up a tree from the yard
  - Righteous people are unmovable
- Always nourished (By streams of water)
  - Do you want guaranteed nourishment?
- Bearing fruit every season (Which yields its fruit in its season)
  - Do you want fruitfulness
- Evergreen (and its leaf does not wither)
  - Do you want to stay radiant health?
- Prospering in all they do (in whatever he does, he prospers)
  - Do you want to succeed in all you do?

**Note for video team - Keep image of tree on first screen, put verse 2 on second screen, build out points below**

### **How to become like tree**

#### **1. Delight in the law of the Lord**

1. Learn it
2. Love it
3. Live it

#### **2. Meditate on it day and night**

1. Let's talk about meditation
  1. Eastern meditation - empty your mind of everything
  2. Biblical meditation - fill your mind with God's Word
2. Jewish meditation involved muttering "hit-BOH-deh-doot"
  1. Saying verses out loud, muttering truths about God's Word
3. Pete Maravich - "finger tip control, back-spin, follow through"

**Note to video team - on screen one, put the chaff, on screen two, put the tree**

### Closing

- Our world is faced with a choice - Flourish or Fade
- Each person is faced with the same choice.