

I'm Glad I Did Psalm 1

We've all heard it, "Hindsight is 20/20." There isn't one of us here who cannot honestly say, even over this past year, "I wish I had known. If I only knew what I know now. I wish I had not said ... If only I had responded differently," etc. The gambit of "I-wish-I-would" and "If-only-I-had-not" is as endless as our sensitivities and could apply to everything from our professions to those personal moments within a family.

There are some who *wish they had* gotten out of the stock market in July and others who were glad they did. Others *wish they had* gotten that check-up but didn't. There are those who *wish they had* been more sensitive, understanding, and less selfish in their marriage or family but just didn't think about it at the time. Still others *wish they had* worked out in the gym, worked harder at work, managed their money more wisely, or *wished they had not* been speeding or been so self-involved. Given time, we each could make our own list. There's no end to it, is there?

That was last year. What choices will we make this next year that would cause us to look differently at the *wish I had* and *had not*?

A year from today we could well be living in a very different world. Our lives could be radically different economically, through promised change politically, as a result of rapidly changing cultural values, moral standards, and spiritual absolutes once held firm. This next year could be one of the most significant years of each of our lives and will be largely influenced by the choices we make. Just how *are* we *to* live in an ever changing world while at the same time keeping a firm grip on the one, immutable God who promises us confidence and no regrets in Him?

It's true; hindsight will always be 20/20. And it's equally true that we can learn from our failures, even if only slightly. But what if we were to agree that God has provided a way that could make this next year the most significant and fulfilling year of our lives? In fact, it is possible.

Hindsight does have its limitations. Limitations of circumstances, timing, and people involved, etc. However, the God of eternity in His omniscience has *clearly* given us insight and promise into His future for us. With that promise He has also provided the directives, the "*what we should do's*" in order for us to look forward with confidence and anticipation to the future He has for us.

In Psalm 1 He has clearly drawn a dramatic life and death contrast between those who live in the helplessness of hindsight and those who live in anticipation of looking and living in His foresight.

At the end of this next year will we be able to say "I'm glad I did" or lament over "I wish I had."

LIFE RESPONSE

1. This week **MEMORIZE** and **MEDITATE** on Psalm 1:1-3 "*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! But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. 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*" Make this Psalm your theme for the year.

2. Note in this chapter the sequence and chronology of how easily we can lose our focus and suffer the consequences. List each of the steps of progression of the downward spiral and write beside each the influence each have or have had on your life. Think about where you go for counsel? What influences your choices? What/who do you tend to fixate? What biblical values and spiritual sensitivities have you once had but have lost their significance? You may want to start a page for each of the three areas.

3. At the risk of feeling guilty from failure to keep a New Year's resolution, make the choice to apply Psalm 1:2 as a means of appropriating the power of God's Word for counsel in your walk in Him. How will you build this consistency? Who would assist in holding you accountable?

4. Focus on the following passages as you begin to reshape your thinking for this New Year.

Psalm 1	Jeremiah 29:11-14	Philippians 4:4-9
Psalm 139	Ephesians 1:3-14	Romans 12:1-3; 16-21
Jeremiah 17:5-10	Colossians 3:1-17	1 Peter 1:2-7

“Where the word *blessed* is hung out as a sign, we may be sure that we can find a godly man within.” - Sir Richard Baxter

Psalm 1 Encompasses the theme of all 150 Psalms

A chapter of great contrast – no nominal

Righteous	vs	Wicked
Way of life	vs	Way of death
Fruit	vs	Chaff
Prosper	vs	Perish
Security	vs	Insecurity
Firmly planted	vs	Chaff
tree		driven by wind
Substance	vs	Shallow

THE RIGHTEOUS PERSON

“I’M GLAD I DID” Psalm 1:1-3

Blessed = Emotional state, lit. “Happy”
to be right, straight, well ordered

What he does not do: vs. 1
Walks not counsel of the wicked (UNGODLY)
Stands in path of the sinners
Sits in seat of the scoffers

What he does: vs. 2

- Finds delight in absolute truth – God’s Word
- Cultivates consistency in thinking, searching, and applying absolute truth.

What he looks like:

vs. 3

“Tree firmly planted”

- Solid as a tree

“streams of water”

- Supernaturally growing in strength

“yield its fruit in its season”

- Consistent and faithful

“does not wither”

- Reflects grace when others fade

“whatever he does he prospers”

- Prospers when others fail

THE WICKED (ungodly) PERSON

“I WISH I HAD” Psalm 1:4-6

_____ Never satisfied; often complaining for something better

What he does:

Walks – Listen/tries every counsel

Stands – Identifies and drifts

Sits – Buys into a secular mindset

What he looks like:

Chaff - - Empty, unstable, easily influenced

Fails to pass the test

THE CONTRAST OF EACH

“I CHOOSE TO. . .”

Prosper or Perish