

What is Life All About?



Psalm One

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Introduction

- Psalms 1 and 2 appear to function as an introduction to the whole book of Psalms.
 - Psalm 1 – What is life (individually) all about?
 - Psalm 2 – What is history (life of societies) all about?

Introduction

- Psalm 1 divides into 3 sections of 2 verses each:
 - Where do we find out what life is about?
(verses 1-2)
 - What difference does it make here & now?
(verses 3-4)
 - What difference will it make when we die?
(verses 5-6)

Translation

Oh, the happiness of the man who

Does not walk in the advice of the wicked

Nor stand in the pathway with sinners

Nor sit in the seat of mockers

But rather his delight is in the Law of the LORD

And in His Law he meditates day & night.

Translation

So he shall be like a tree

Planted by streams of water

Bearing its fruit in its season

Nor do its leaves fall off

But all it produces it brings to maturity.

Not so, the wicked

But like chaff the wind scatters.

Translation

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment

Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous

For the LORD knows the path of the righteous

But the path of the wicked will perish.

Where Do We Find Out?



- From other humans (1):
 - Life is pictured as a journey from birth to death.
 - Don't take your advice on how to hike it from those who are wicked.
 - Pathways along life's journey are lifestyles.
 - Don't adopt the lifestyle of the sinner.
 - Seat beside the road?
 - Perhaps a worked-out justification, a philosophy of life
 - Don't adopt the philosophy of a mocker.

Where Do We Find Out?

- From God (2):

- Delight in law?

- A strange idea in today's society!

- But scientists delight in discovering natural laws.

- And engineers delight in obeying natural laws.

- Christians should be like scientists & engineers in regard to God's **moral** laws.

- Who else really knows what life is about?

- Blessed is the one who delights in God's law, thinking about it continually.



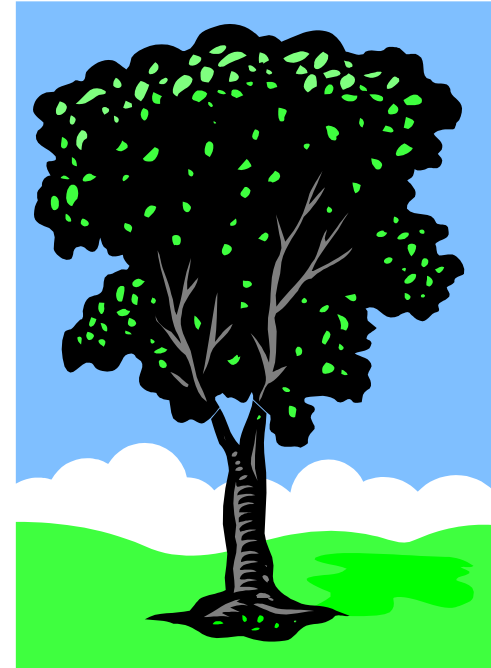
What Difference Does It Make Here and Now?

- A contrast, pictured in two diverse images from farming:
 - A tree (3)
 - Chaff (4)



What Difference Does It Make Here and Now?

- The tree
 - Planted
 - Watered
 - Fruitful
 - Healthy
 - Mature
- Planted by God for His benefit, but also for tree's multi-season usefulness



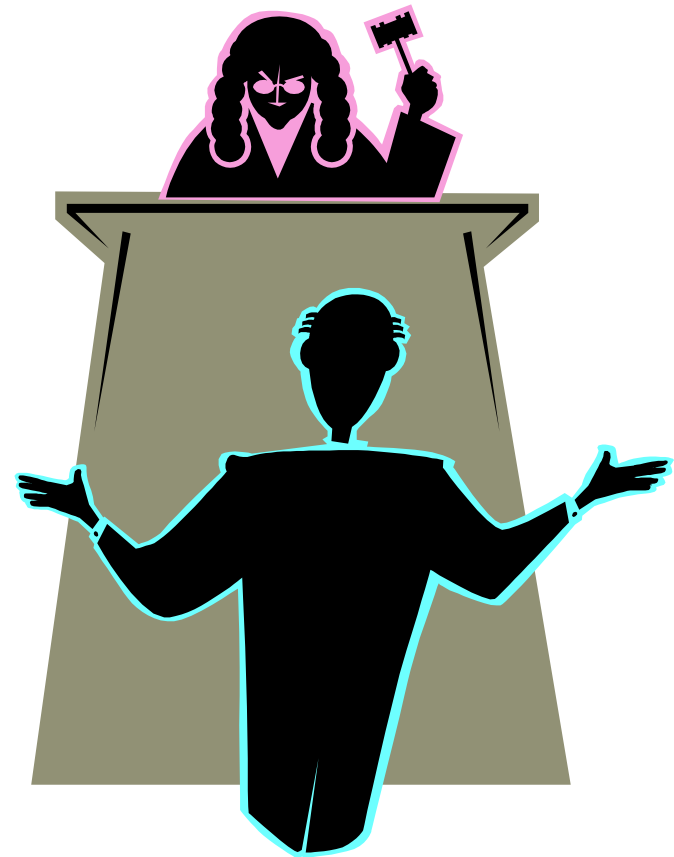
What Difference Does It Make Here and Now?

- The chaff
 - The hull on the grain
 - Not like the tree
 - Blown away
- Benefits with wheat until the harvest, but then discarded
 - One-season use
 - No root, no fruit



What Difference Does It Make When We Die?

- Judgment (5)
 - Wicked will not stand in judgment
 - Not "avoid judgment"
 - But case won't "stand up" in court
 - Wicked will not stand w/ righteous
 - Separation, but not from hypocrites!
 - Righteous will stand, in righteousness of Christ



What Difference Does It Make When We Die?

- Eternal State (6)
 - God knows (loves, approves) lifestyle of righteous.
 - Lifestyle of wicked will perish.
 - They will personally continue to exist.
 - Their lifestyle will cease to exist.
 - They will still continue to sin but now will be punished immediately.

Conclusion

What is life all about?

- Where do we find out?
 - From God, where else?
- What difference does it make here & now?
 - Whether our life is useful or wasted
- What difference will it make when we die?
 - All the difference in the world!



The End



May it be the beginning of a life that
is worthwhile for you!