

The Way of the Righteous**1) Resist Sin****2) Love God's Word****3) Produce Fruits of Faith***Two Paths to Follow*

- **Vs. 6.** 2 ways, paths; R/L; fork/road. In days before GPS navigtn, ppl going on trip'd use old fshnd travel tool called map. Hardly anyone uses maps anymr, unless Ggl Maps on phone. But I remem keeping set/maps in car, consltng those maps help me get where going – bec wrong turn down wrong road'd get me lost; then nvr make to destntn. But good map shows right path follow, right road take.
- Ps 1 is like a good map: shows us right way, and wrong way – not for travlng in car but journeyng thru life, on path to hvn. But we'll nvr make it to hvn if take wrng turn & follow wrng road. And there are plenty of wrng roads & dangrs pths that all lead hell. **Vs. 6b.** But there is one (only!) path that leads to Lord & etrn life w/him. **Vs 6a.** And so ev day we all as Xians stand at fork/road, w/2 paths b4 us, 2 ways follow; L/R. Which path take; which road follow? What do? Conslt map! Ps 1 shows us WR.

1) Resist Sin

- To follow WR, 1st/all, means: resist sin. **Vs. 1.** Ever heard phrase: grbg in/out? It's true for your soul. If you surrnd self w/filth/wrld; if watch shows/movies & listen music/podcasts that not only condone but aggrsvly promote anti-Xian tchns; if you're always talking w/ppl who use filthy lang & brag re sins – then what doing: letting all that grbg come into mind/hrt/soul, and evntly corprt you too. Dsn't take long: sin lose shock factor. The filth gets stuck in mind; get used to it. Then tempted think not big deal; might even join in. So grbg in/out. If you let all non-Xian inflncs/wrld into eyes/ears/hrt, into your tmpl/God: going make home there! Think re own home; you don't want bags/grbg stacked up in living rm. But when we unlock front gates/hrts & let grgb in, it's going to trash our faith. Evntly we will become okay with: filty lang, sexual media, sex outside marg, all things LGBTQ, evolution, vague sprtly over true Xianity – unless we vigilantly resist sin.
- Ps 1: **vs. 1.** Notice progrssn fr walkng to stndng to sittng. Think of it like devil thrwng party. At first, walk by party: check out, look in from distnc, see what like. Then get little closer, stand there & stay there, w/other prtygoers; little more comfrtbl w/atmphr. Evntly, sit down, right mid/action; surrddd/englfd by it. **Vs. 1.** Prob: we do this all time! We: guilty not only of giving into temptn, but not even putting up fight, smtms even embracng it! How can we follow WR when we're so obvsly unrights?
- But there is one who is rights, who never did **walk...vs. 1.** J! J came into this sinful wrld, lived amng sinful ppl, not to live like them, but live for them – to actly follow WR, way God intended. Nvr once did J: stray fr path, take wrong turn, fall into sin. His entire life, in thght/wrd/actn: perf, holy, sinless. And in love, J makes a gracs exchng w/us: takes all our sin upon self & suffrd the terrbl punshmnt for that sin on cross. And in exchng, J gives us credit for his sinless life; transfrs his holiness onto us. So now, when God looks at us, dsn't see the wickd/sinnrs/mckrs; sees his ppl made rights by J. That: J's missn fr beg: follow WR, in order make us rights. So now, as Xians we want: follow J on WR, resist sin; trnsfrm our lives/behvr to conform to God's will, so that we do not **walk...vs. 1.** That's WR.

2) Love God's Word

- To follow WR also means to: love GW. **Blessed...vs. 2.** Here word "law" means all of GW. Reading, stdyng, pondrng GW is not a hassle/burden for Xians; it's a delight! Ps 119 (really big) has lot psgs re how loving GW & follwng WR go hand/hand: **"⁹How can a young prsn stay on the path/purity? By living acc to your word. ¹⁰I seek you with all my hrt; do not let me stray fr your coms. ³⁰I have chosen the way/faithflns; I have set my hrt on your laws. ³⁵Direct me in the path of your coms, for there I find delight. ⁴⁷I delight in your coms bec I love them. ⁷²The law fr your mouth is more precious to me than thousnds of pieces of silver & gold. ⁹⁷Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. ¹⁰⁵Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."**

- But, we will never develop a love for GW if we're hardly ever in it! In my mind, 3 main ways to **vs. 2**. #1) Come to ch, regly, wkly. Don't just come ch when kids singng for schl or wkend schdl is light. Make wrshp a wkly priority for you/fam. There are 168 hrs/wk. We can spend time w/Lord in house for 1! It's 3rd Com! And benefits are enormous: hearng Gos, recvng HC, singing praise, time in prayr, fellwshp w/bels. So wkly wrshp is #1. #2) Come to Bible study. In Guide this wk you'll read: re PH's new ECHO class – ovrview of basic tchngs/Bible; re Sun AM BC – looking at 10 dangrs Lies re God wrld wants you bel true; and re SS for our chldrn, where grow in grace/faith. The Sun AM BC schedl begins this Sun, 9/11, btwn 8am/10:30am services. And in addtn, plans are being finalzd to restart our Wed AM BC in coming wks. So, come to Bible study – you and fam! That's #2. #3) Be in Word at home. How do that? Here's couple ideas: Medttns; WELS app (Daily Dev, Thru My Bible, Fam Dev, Marg Mmnts). And of course, tried/true, open Bible & read it. If don't have Bible at home, talk to me, I'll give you one. I also want give you this: on kiosk, packets of Bible readng plans. Each packet has diff plans so can choose one that fits best. Pick packet up & put to use, bec a Bible reading plan: very helpful tool to keep us in Word at home. So whether it's wkyl wrshp at ch, Bible study at ch, or Bible reading at home, Ps 1 says the WR is to **delight...vs. 2**.

3) *Produce Fruits of Faith*

- Finly, to follow WR also means to produce frts/faith. **Vs. 3**. When you trust in J & resist sin & love GW, Ps 1 says you're like well-wtrd tree that produces frt. J once: **"I am vine; you, branches. If you remain in me & I in you, you'll bear much frt; apart fr me you can do nthng"** (Jn 15:5). J wants us produce frt, i.e., produce wrds/behvr/lifestyle of a Xian. Apart fr water/Gos you can't do that. But when the roots/faith run deep into grnd & have steady supply of life-givng Wrld/God nourshng them, then frts/faith will natrly follow. Sept/Oct: apple pickng seasn; and if you're like my fam, you enjoy going to apple orchard, picking big bag of frsh, ripe, delicious apples! Those apple frmrs keep their orchards irrigated; othrs, trees'll dry up and won't produce fruit worth eating.
- In your life a Xian, strive to stay well-wtrd by GW, so that your roots'll stay nourshd and you can produce frts/faith. Challenge yourself live/act/talk/think/treat nghbr way God wants you to. This will be your frt/faith as you follow WR. **Vs. 3**.

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- And all this (resisting sin, loving GW, producing frts/faith) is in direct contrast to those who do not follow WR. **Vs. 4-5**. Strng warnng! Chaff: useless shell surrndng good fruit – husk/corn, peel/banana, shell/peanut, husk around grain. Can't use it or eat it; just throw it away. That's what God calls those who reject Lord; don't resist sin, love GW, produce frts/faith; refuse to follow WR. **Vs. 6b**.
- But there's another path, better one. **Vs. 6a**. Evry day we stand at fork/rd; before us, 2 pths/ways. Go L/R? Only way know right path: consult right map. Turning down wrng road leads destrctn. Knowing right path ahead/time & follwng map dsn't necsrly make journey easy, but does lead to destination: etrnal life w/J in hvn. And there's only one way to get there: follwng J. He is: **"way, truth, life"** (Jn 14:6). He is the WR.

Psalm 1

¹ Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, ² but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. ³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.

⁴ Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

⁶ For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.