

THE UNEXPECTED SECRET OF HAPPINESS
PSALM 1

Introduction

We believe that the Bible is the written Word of God, and that a foundation of biblical truth must be laid in every area of our ministry, and for every aspect of our individual lives. Therefore we emphasize Bible preaching, Bible teaching, and both personal and group Bible study in our life together. We believe that when the Bible is accurately understood and faithfully applied, in the power of the Holy Spirit, people's lives are changed.

I. Two Different Points of Reference

A. The world without God

- *Romans 12:2; I Corinthians 15:33*

B. The Word of God

1. Source of delight

- *Psalms 19, Psalm 119*

2. Focus of meditation

- *Psalm 119:97*

II. Two Different Outcomes

A. Life based on God's Word

1. Happiness (1:1)

2. Fruitfulness (1:3)

3. Endurance (1:3)

- *Philippians 4:4,11,13*
- *II Timothy 4:7*

4. Prosperity (1:3)

- *Joshua 1:8; I King 2:2,3; Psalm 20:1-5*

5. Protection (1:6)

B. Life based on this world (1:4-6)

1. Uselessness

2. Impermanence

3. Conviction

4. Exclusion

5. Destruction

DAILY BIBLE READINGS
SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 5

Follow-throughs

What reasons does the psalmist give for appreciating God's Word so greatly that he would write 176 verses in celebration of it? Each day thank God for one aspect of his written Word that you are especially thankful for. Ask the Lord to increase your appetite for, and your appreciation of, his Word.

Monday **Psalm 119:1-32**

Tuesday **Psalm 119:33-72**

Wednesday **Psalm 119:73-112**

Thursday **Psalm 119:113-144**

Friday **Psalm 119:145-176**

Warm-ups

Saturday **Luke 4:1-13**

How did Jesus counter each of Satan's temptations? How did each Bible verse he quoted answer the particular challenge Satan presented? What temptations are you facing most strongly right now? Is there a verse you read from Psalm 119 this week that could help you to face that challenge?

Sunday **Luke 4:14-30**

What applications to his own life did Jesus find in passages from the Bible? Is there anyone in the Bible whose story is similar to your own? Which Bible character do you tend to identify with most closely? Ask the Lord to help you to find more parallels between the teachings of the Bible and your own life.