

Pastor Peter Norton's message notes from July 5, 2020

## Summer in the Psalms: Psalm 1



Psalm 1 opens the first of the five books of the Psalms by inviting us into the guidance that God offers us in our lives.

**Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; Psalm 1:1**

Several times in my life I've realized some of my friends weren't offering advice that I wanted to follow. They weren't bad people, but I remember important moments when I realized that people I was associating with weren't pursuing the same values as I was. I grew to have the strength to follow my own values.

Later, when I was living in Dallas, each day my roommates and I would pray part of a Psalm. It was amazing to see how much we grew in our spiritual lives and our emotional intelligence over months and years of praying the Psalms. The guidance that God offers is what will continue to bring us back home to safety as we face sin and challenges in life.

This is the Fourth of July weekend, and it's always a joy to celebrate the independence of the United States from Great Britain. I love the hope that the United States is founded on. At our best, we aren't a country of scoffers as described in the Psalms. At our best we are a country that trusts that through God's help we can make this world look more like the kingdom of God.

As we continue reading, Psalm 1:2 says, **"Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night."** Each week we provide suggested daily scripture readings to encourage each of us to "meditate day and night" on the "law of the Lord." Reading a Psalm each day before you go to sleep will change your life. It will provide calm assurance and draw you closer to God.

Psalm 1:3 goes on to promise that those who make scripture a part of their daily lives **"are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper."**

We are being tested right now with everything going on in the country and in the world. The challenges are real. The hurt is real. But God is also real. The Psalms tell us that hope is what God offers us and that those who are grounded in the scriptures will weather the storm.

This pandemic has made us more aware than ever how important churches are in sharing the message of God's hope in a world of challenge. If we continue to meditate on his word and ask God to guide our lives, we will not only survive; we will bear the fruit. New people will come to faith in Christ. We will share the hope that only God can give.

This first Psalm invites those who are overwhelmed and broken to lean on God's strength. We may be weak today, but with God's help and guidance, we can be like strong trees planted by streams of water. God will watch over us and we will get through this together.

## Preparing For Worship

### Scriptures for the coming week

Monday	July 13:	Psalm 42
Tuesday	July 14:	Psalm 3
Wednesday	July 15:	Psalm 13
Thursday	July 16:	Psalm 34
Friday	July 17:	Psalm 46
Saturday	July 18:	Psalm 63

### Worship Service

**UMC-Burg is now open for church! Join us Sunday mornings at 8:30 or 11:00. Or, you can still join us on Facebook at 9:30 a.m.**

The Psalms, more than any other part of the Bible, express our deepest emotions and encourage us to bring them to God in prayer. Join us this summer for the sermon series "Summer in the Psalms" as we pray together through the Psalms.

## Our Church Family

### Prayer concerns from our church family

Aura Tavernner, Judy Murray, Bill Brame, Donna Rosiere, Jaccie Blaszczyk, Linda Riddle, Camden Garcia, Peggy Province, Nita Woodrel, Charles Baile, Jim Hudson, Marcella Fler and her brother Orville Welker, June Mellinger

### Birthdays for the coming week

July 12: Christi Cummings, Mary Jane Poynter  
July 13: Mike Hutchko  
July 18: Amber Ilnicky

### Anniversaries for the coming week

July 12: Paul and Nancy Gregg  
July 14: Don and Mary Peterson



A huge thanks to the Holmes family for spending several hours July 4 weeding the playground. Above: Evan. Top right: Ron and Cameron. Bottom right: the finished product.

