

## A Look Behind the Curtain of Our Response to 2020 – Psalm 1

We are halfway through 2020, so... how's it going so far? Can we talk?

Our 2020 woes:

- It started off with the winter that would not end!
- It's an election year – and there is a lot riding on this election!
- It has been a year of Corona virus – COVID 19!
- It has been a year of quarantine, economic crisis & unemployment!
- It has been a year to “wear the mask” or to “not wear the mask”, to open or not to open, to do this... or to not to do this...!
- It has been a year of awareness of the racial injustice in our country!
- It's been a year of protests, riots, destruction of property/landmarks!
- It has been a year of our freedoms and liberties being challenged!
- It's been a year of exposing just how broken, divided & sinful we are!

And we are only halfway through the year! I wonder what's still ahead!

How are you/we dealing with all of this? To whom, or to where are you/am I/are we turning for perspective, for answers, for truth, for hope?

I don't know about you, but I don't know who to trust anymore! Everyone has a perspective, everyone has an opinion, and everyone claims it's factual!

I don't know about you, but I have also found myself not even knowing how to pray, what to pray for, or what to expect from God during this time!

In my struggle I have turned to the Psalms, & now I turn us all there as well! Why? B/c it is in the Psalms that we learn how to listen, and how to speak!

For it's here that we know the voice we're listening to is reliable & true, b/c it's God's voice/Word! We also find here words to be our voice back to God, for the Psalms are also intended to be our words as well!

The Psalms are prayers & songs expressing a two-way conversation between the Psalmist & God. What if we were to use them in the same way today?

Maybe we could gain a better perspective on the things we are living through right now! Maybe we could know how to better speak - to God, to ourselves & to others! Maybe we could find hope & purpose thru all of this!

This series will hopefully speak to you, but also give you the words to speak!

If we were given access to look behind the curtain of one another's responses to all these 2020 woes, what would we see? Social media

Have our responses been honoring/dishonoring to God? Do they reveal great faith or great fear? Do they reflect the wisdom of God or of this world? 1 Cor. 1:25

Psalm 1 - *The way of the righteous and the wicked!* What does it look like to respond to our circumstances in ways that are righteous/honoring to God?

***“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, not sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law (instruction) of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day & night.” Vs. 1-2***

Whose counsel are we following? Whose voice(s) are we lending our ear to?

What side are we standing on & why? What kind of stand are we taking?

Are we filling the seats of the scoffers? What is our hopes/desires?

Is our delight in the law/instruction of God? Are we meditating on that day & night? Are we gaining wisdom from His Word, or are we looking elsewhere for your answers? Are we trusting in God or in the wisdom of this world?

For those who turn to God & stand on His Word – **Vs. 3**

But for those who forsake God & reject His ways – **Vs. 4-6**

But it may not always seem to be that way from our perspective! We may often have a year 2020 lens that distorts our 20/20 vision of who God is.

When we find ourselves in that place, let us meditate on the Psalms & let God speak, let His voice be heard, for His perspective is what we truly need!

He will also provide the words we need to speak back - to Him, to ourselves & to others! This is the way of the righteous, the way that is honoring to God!

God never promised us an easy life! This year may not get any better in terms of the struggles we are facing! But God will be with us and that makes all the difference in the world!

My favorite verse in the Psalms is **Psalm 37:4 – “Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.”**

If our greatest delight is in God, then our greatest desires will always be met

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