



February 6, 2022 Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

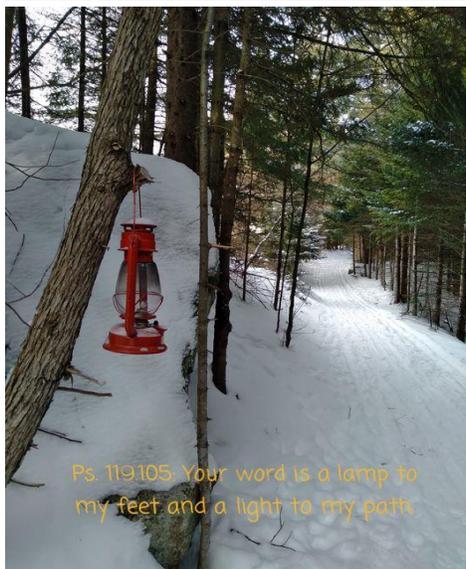
Psalm 1: the Righteous and the Wicked

Psalm 1 is an appropriate introduction to the Wisdom of the Psalms. The writer, with the quiet wisdom of one who has meditated on life, writes simply and clearly about human experiences, giving us the key to human happiness: *right living of life in obedience to God's laws*. In other words, Wisdom. Notice how Psalm 1 is like a Proverb: the "righteous" and "wicked" are compared with their behaviors' consequences. Note how the verbs in verse 1 describe successive steps on a path to wickedness: walk, stand, sit.

*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.*

The book of Psalms is a collection of 150 ancient Hebrew songs and prayers. Unlike many proverbs, Psalms are poetry, not essays of religious doctrine. Psalms express deeply human feelings, and Psalms require us to read with our hearts as well as our minds. Through Wisdom Psalms God responds to our human highs and lows.

Walking the Path of Life with Wisdom and Experience: Psalm 119:105



*Ps. 119:105 Your word is a lamp to
my feet and a light to my path*

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" reads verse 105 in Psalm 119, the longest Psalm in the Bible. As we walk life's path, we are accompanied by the Wisdom of our religious teaching and faith and guided by God's divine light: "This is how life should be lived." Yet sometimes our experiences don't seem consistent with those beliefs and teachings. What happens then? Shouldn't we look to the Bible's wisdom literature for understanding and solace?

Wisdom Psalms, like Psalm 1, are a reminder of where to find Wisdom for human problems. Psalm 1 is simple and straightforward, but probably does not answer some of our "big" questions: Who are we? Why are we here? What is life's purpose? Where is God? Why do bad things happen to good people? ...to which we will turn in future "Blasts" about Wisdom literature.

(Left: picture of trail on John Brown's Farm in Lake Placid, NY.)

Special prayers this week: for Mark's grieving family; Elizabeth's continued healing; those enduring extreme weather; first responders who have met with violence this past week; those suffering in the pandemic. Hear our prayers O Lord!