

## **Building a Life that Stands in 2009**

### **Psalm 1**

#### **Introduction:**

1. Everybody builds their life on or around something. For some people it may be their job, others their children, others a hobby, others sports, others their church, etc.
2. Whatever it is you build your life on, it tends to dominate your thinking. You think about it constantly.
3. As it dominates your thinking processes, it tends to affect everything else in life. It determines your priorities, your goals, your direction, your decisions, etc. It affects your relationships in life.
  - Whatever you choose to build your life on has a trickle down effect in every area of your life.
4. Did you know there is only one eternal, unchanging, thing on this earth that you can build your life on? It is tangible - you can look at it, hold it, feel it, touch it - yet it is divine.
5. I am referring to the Bible - God's Word! It is the only sure foundation to build your life on in 2009.
6. This first psalm is about a person who chooses to build his life on God's Word.  
vs. 2
  - The psalms were written under the dispensation of the Old Testament law. This was God's Word for them and it was all they had. Today we have God's completed Word and much more divine revelation than they had.
7. Did you know you can build your life on God's Word? It is the only sure foundation.
  - **Illustration: Matthew 7:24-27; cf. 2 Timothy 3:16-17**
8. This psalm pictures for us what happens in people's lives when they choose to build their lives on God's Word. Let's apply this to our lives here in 2009.

#### **First, it enables you to live a transformed life. vs. 1-2**

1. The Bible says that the whole world lies in wickedness. This world system that we live in is of satanic origin and is corrupt. Satan's goal is to program people's minds with the philosophy and ideas of his world system.
2. Of course, Satan's world system leads to the destruction of lives, marriages, families, children, teenagers, etc. But Satan cleverly wraps his ideas in candy coating. **2 Corinthians 11:14**
3. We are inundated every day with Satan's lies, and his plan is laid out here in verse 1.
  - Satan has a plan of rebellion against God - "*counsel (plan) of the ungodly*"
  - Satan has a road (way) in which to carry out his plan - "*way of sinners*"
  - Satan has a seat (abiding place) where his plan leads people - "*seat of the scornful*"
4. Satan captures people's minds so that he can get them on his course of sin which leads them to a place (seat) of scorn (total contempt and disregard for God).

5. This is Satan's world plan and he uses education, religion, entertainment, government, culture, and anything else he can to accomplish his plan of rebellion.
6. How does a person swim upstream against the current of wickedness in this world? How does a person get wise to Satan's lies and get off of his course?
7. Verse 1 pictures a man who has done just that, but how did he do it? vs. 1-2
  - He made a wonderful discovery of something that exposed Satan's lies and allowed him to see into the mind and heart of God Almighty - God's Word.
  - He delights and takes pleasure in God's Word and ponders it day and night.
8. The greatest decision you could make here at the beginning of 2009 is to build your life on God's Word this year. Read it, study it, learn it, and ponder it. It will renew your mind and allow you to live a transformed life, different than this satanic world system.

**Second, it brings spiritual stability in tough times. vs. 3-4**

1. The psalmist uses two illustrations:
  - A tree planted by a river.
  - Chaff. (the husk separated from the corn - worthless garbage)
2. The wind blows against both, but the tree stands firm while the chaff is blown every direction and is controlled easily by the wind.
3. The winds of adversity blow against everybody (Christian and non-Christian). But a Christian who has built his life on God's Word is likened to a beautiful, healthy tree.
  - Notice, it is planted. Unlike grass which is mowed down, a tree sends its roots down deep into the soil. It has a deep, hidden life, and because it is beside the river, it has an unfailing source of life.
4. This is a picture of a person who sends roots down deep into God's Word. There is a spiritual stability which leads to a spiritual fruitfulness.
5. Under the law, Israel was promised material prosperity if they found their delight in God's law to them.
  - Today we are not living under that old covenant, but we have something better.
6. God's Word today builds up and strengthens us in our inner man so that no matter what life may throw our way, we are able to see it, understand it, and deal with it wisely through the application of God's Word. God's Word settles us when life's wind blows. **2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 16-18**
7. Life can't toss you around. When trouble comes to the ungodly, they can't understand it and they are often devastated by it. It controls them like chaff in the wind.
8. Who knows what 2009 holds for each of us? But I do know this - regardless, the best way to prepare is to get rooted in God's Word. **Ephesians 4:14-15**

**Third, it leads to God's approval. vs. 5-6**

1. There is coming a day of judgment by God. God's Word tells us how we can stand in that day. It explains what God has done on our behalf.
  - Once you accept Christ as your Savior, notice what the Bible says.  
**Romans 5:1-2**
2. What does the Bible say about those who reject God's Word? vs. 5-6

3. Satan has many "ways" that look good and seem right, but the end is destruction.  
**Proverbs 14:12**
4. Once you believe God's Word and place your faith in Christ, how do you live a life in 2009 that God approves of and that pleases God? **2 Timothy 2:15**
5. Build your life on God's Word, rightly divided. I want to challenge you to avail yourself of every opportunity here at Crossroads to grow in your understanding of God's Word this year (Bible Institute, L.I.F.E. Groups, worship services, Bible Studies, discipleship, etc.).
6. How do you build a life that will stand through the twists and turns of 2009 and that will stand into eternity? Build your life on the sure foundation of God's Word.