



The Two Ways

Key idea:

There are two ways, one of life and one of death, and there is a great difference between the two ways.

Key text:

Psalm 1

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does 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 will perish.

Key points:

1. Psalm 1 and 2, along with the rest of Scripture, teach that there are two ways - one which is the way of blessing and life and one which is the way of destruction and death.
2. The way of blessing is the way of righteousness, while the way of destruction is the way of wickedness.
3. The way of blessing and life is walked by only a few, while the multitude walks the way of destruction and death.
4. The way of the righteous leads to a stable life of godly fruitfulness and blessing, while the way of the wicked leads to an unstable life barren of godly fruit and blessing.
5. The two ways lead to very different eternal destinies - eternal life or eternal death.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Why does our culture dislike such clear, sharp distinctions as the teaching of the two ways? Why is there such deep antipathy to such ideas?
3. Does the teaching of the two ways mean that there is no nuance in life? Is there nothing in common between those on the path of the righteous and those who walk on the path of the wicked? If there is nuance and things in common, why does the teaching of the two ways make such a sharp distinction?
4. Why would the book of Psalms, which contains so many laments, begin with such a strong emphasis on the two ways?
5. Why is the teaching of the two ways not salvation by good works? What is the relationship between the two ways and salvation?
6. Is it possible to be a Christian, saved by the grace of God, to live a life characterized by the way of wickedness? Why or why not?
7. How can I keep the reality of the two ways fixed before my eyes?
8. Who will I call or see to encourage this week?

For Further Study:

[The Psalms As Instruction: The Abundant Life](#) (October 19, 2003)

[Two Women, Two Ways, Two Destinies](#) (October 15, 2006)

[The Path of Blessing, The Path of Trouble](#) (December 31, 2006)

[Walking the Way of Wisdom - A Series on the Wisdom Literature](#) (2006-2007)

Preview of next week: The Way: Meditate on God's Instruction (Psalm 1)