**Psalm 1:1-6 Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2But his delight *is* in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. 4The ungodly *are* not so, But *are* like the chaff which the wind drives away. 5Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.**

 This morning, we’re looking at Psalm 1. This is a Psalm that has inspired songs and given peace and comfort to countless people down through the ages. It’s known as a Wisdom Psalm. It would feel right at home in Proverbs or Ecclesiastes. It’s a Psalm of reassurance and this is a time that the people of God need reassurance. More than any other time in my life, I need to be reminded that God is in control, He loves me, and He is caring for me. Nothing is happening right now that is not in His plan. I must trust the plan.

 Anyone who refinishes furniture, restores old cars, or does any type of restoration work knows, before the beauty can emerge, ugly must be revealed. Before the beauty can emerge, ugly must be revealed. Cars are sanded to bear metal, rust cut out, interior stripped. Furniture treated with paint stripper and sanded. Cloth cut with sharp scissors. Before the beauty can be emerge, ugly must be revealed. I believe we’re seeing the ugly right now, before God applies the beauty. God brings beauty from ashes. Hold it in your heart and wait for the beauty.

 Psalm 1 is divided into two clear parts: Righteous and Wicked. We learn what happens to both. One is blessed, the other is not. One is established, the other is not. One enjoys Godly prosperity, the other does not. Verse 1 says *Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful.* Blessed is the individual who makes the choice to not follow the wicked, nor choose the way of sinners, nor to sit and heap scorn and derision upon people. It’s easy to sit in the seat of the scornful, to criticize, to tear down. It feels good to elevate ourselves as smarter, more righteous than those we disagree with… but we’re not to do that. Why? It poisons our heart. Matthew 15:18 – what proceeds from our mouth reveals our heart and defiles us if it is not of God.

 Verse 2 *But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.* The blessed individual finds pleasure and value in God’s commandments*.* He literally murmurs it always. An interesting note to make on the Hebrew word used for night – it means “away from the light” and is used to mean adversity. We are to meditate when we’re in the sunshine and when we’re in the rain. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 reminds us – Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

 Verse 3 - *He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.*The blessed will be like a tree planted, literally transplanted by the water. The idea is that God has lovingly picked the tree, dug it up, transplanted it in a place of His choosing. That’s you. That’s me. In Matthew 15:13, we read - *But He (Jesus) answered and said, “Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.* By the rivers of water – not like a great big river. The tree is planted beside small irrigation streams that deliver the water from the river. It is intentional. This is important. God has transplanted His chosen ones and given each of them a personal connection to the Source! We each have our little stream. That’s exciting.

 The tree brings forth fruit – in the time of the trees choosing? No. In its season, as God decides. What fruit? Right fruit of the kind that the tree should produce. In whatever he does, the blessed will prosper.

 Let’s looks at verse 4 *The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.* The wicked produce no lasting fruit, they are like the waste product of wheat, lost to the winds of time.

 Verse 5 - *Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.* This verse can be confusing. It has the idea that the wicked will not receive a favorable verdict in the Judgement. They won’t stand up under God’s examining eye. Sinners won’t be a part of the righteous when we assemble in heaven.

 Verse 6 *For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.* God has His eye upon the righteous – those who are meditating on His commandments and holding His word in their heart. Psalm 34:15 says *The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry.* But listen to verse 16 - *The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.* Like chaff on the wind, we might see the ungodly flutter by, but, in the end, they won’t bear lasting fruit.

 During this time of uncertainty, know that, if you are in Christ, then you are a plant that God has transplanted. You won’t be uprooted. You have a rivulet of water lovingly created to irrigate you day and night, in good times and adversity. There’s no reason to be upset at the ungodly – they will one day be lost to the winds of time. There’s no reason to envy their wealth or their position – all of this will be lost when the last breath is drawn. The verdict on their life will not be favorable, only just.

 But we have hope! Blessed are we to walk in God’s counsel, study His word, and be allowed to love our brothers and sisters! If you don’t have that hope this morning, won’t you come and receive it? Won’t you let God pick you up from where you are and transplant you? He’ll give you your own personal rivulet irrigated straight from the River of God, Living Water that never shall fail and those who drink will never thirst again. Come as we sing.