

Bible: The Key to Prosperity

Jerry Bridges

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Psalm 1:1ff and Jeremiah 17:7-8.

B. Both of these passages talk about the fruitfulness of people of God through prayer and biblical meditation.

II. The Word of God is a practical means of abiding in Christ.

A. There are two groups of people in the world according to Psalm 1.

1. The wicked, who are not necessarily practicing gross sins, but may simply people who live without God. Living without God progressively draws us into the web of sin. (Psalm 1:1)

2. Those who are walking influenced by God's Word. (Psalm 1:2)

a) These people delight in the Word of God because they have a relationship with Him. They know that God's Word is both pleasurable and profitable for them. (2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 19:7-10; Proverbs 8:10-11)

b) They meditate on God's word day and night. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

1) Meditate means to "reflect" or "mutter".

2) This means that we seek to understand, pray over, and apply it to our lives.

III. Meditating on God's Word still applies today.

A. We choose to think about God's Word when we are free to think about whatever we want. Then when we need the Word of God in a specific situation, the habit is already there. (James 1:5)

B. In order to meditate on God's Word, it is essential to memorize scripture.

IV. There are different destinies for the two groups of people from Psalm 1.

A. The wicked are like chaff that the wind blows away. Their lives amount to nothing at the end of life.

B. The godly person's life is stable and fruitful like a tree because of the relationship that they have with God. The Word of God is vital to that relationship.

Application questions:

1. What do you think about when you can think about anything? How can you think about the Word of God more in those moments?

2. Do you have a scripture memory plan? Make a point of finding out how you memorize scripture best and make some reasonable goals for memorizing some of your favorite passages.

3. What are some things you come across everyday that can remind you to be meditating on God's word? Think about a certain sign you notice on your way to work or a time of day that you have freedom to direct your thoughts toward the Bible.
