

## A Psalms' Reality Check

The Gospel of John reminds us that “faith” or that which we believe has more to do with what we love than any evidence or proof demonstrated. John 12:37 sates, “Though He (Jesus) had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him...” The answer for this is found in verse 43, “For they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.” The book of Psalm is used to help us reflect on the influential role of our emotions and how they form our affections.

Psalm 1 tells us who you associate with, listen to, hang around and eventually choose to be with has a huge effect on how you look and feel about things. ( I.e. Who you form relationships with is crucial) (“Blessed” is often defined as “happy”)

According to Psalm 1:1, what sets you on the road to happiness?

According to Psalm 1:2, what emotion is pivotal in your decision to reject one and embrace another?

Psalm, chapter 2, gives a very inclusive list which describes the vast majority, the powerful, and the authoritative experts. According to Psalm 2:2, are these forces in tune with and or pro God in any way? According to Psalm 2, if you are in harmony with how the world feels about something, would you be right with God?

According to Psalm 3:2, what are the “many” saying to you? According to Psalm 3:8, what belongs solely to God?

According to Psalm 4, the “sons of men” tend to “love what is worthless and aim at deception.” What do these refuse to believe about God and boldly say as the “many” in verse 6?

According to Psalm 5:7 & 11, where does the Psalmist go to express his adoration for God and where does he find gladness? Who is it that declare God as their shelter (vs. 11)? (Who would be the ones who didn't (vs. 11)?) According to Psalm 5:9, can their counsel be reliable? What if they were really, really “nice” to you? Are those who turn to God (vs. 3) “safe” (vs. 12)?

According to Psalm 6:6-7, sorrow has literally worn the psalmist out. What is the cause of his sorrow (vs. 7)? (Who might his adversaries turn out to be? (Ps 35:12-15, 55:12-14) What epiphany causes you to give God all the glory? (Ps 116:10-19)) What did this grief cause him to do (Psalm 6:4)?

### Side Notes:

Godly men and those who speak the truth are hard to find- Psalm 12:1,2

The corrupt deny the real existence and efficacy of God and demonstrate their depravity by not calling upon Him (Psalm 14:4) and by refusing to truly seek Him (Ps 14:2). Because of this they live in fear (Ps 14:5).