



Psalms
The Book of Praises

Lesson 19

Instructional Psalms:
The Righteous and the Wicked - Part I

Review

- Original title of this book?
 - Sepher Tellihim – book of praises
- Who was the earliest writer?
 - Moses
- Other writers?
 - David, Sons of Korah, Solomon, Asaph, Heman
- How many books make up the psalms?
 - Five

Review

- Types (categories) of psalms so far:
 - Psalms of Praise
 - Psalms of Lament
 - Instructional Psalms
 - Psalms of Thanksgiving
 - Psalms of Penitence
 - Psalms of Trust and Assurance
 - Messianic Psalms
 - Acrostic Psalms

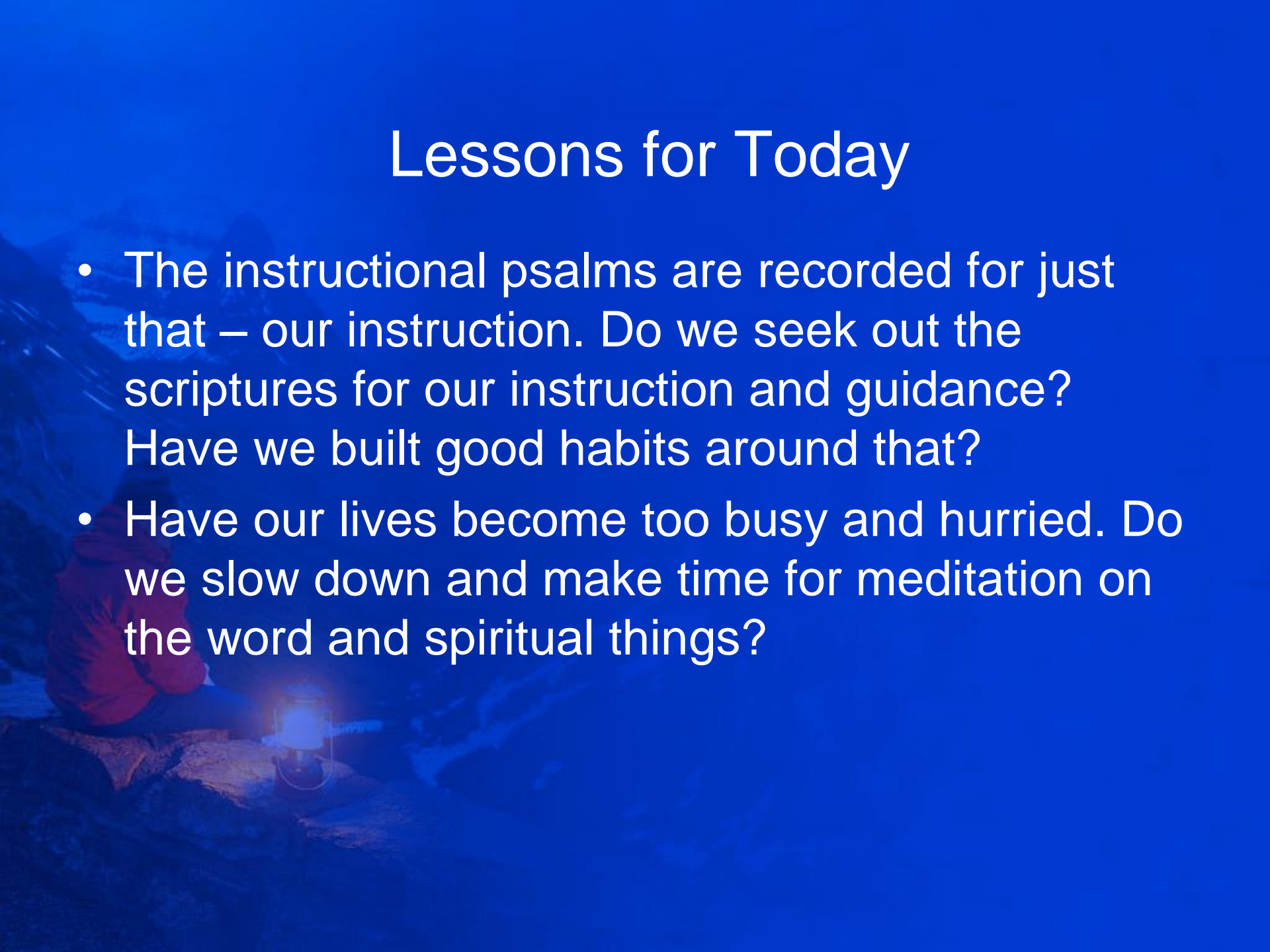


Instructional Psalms: The Righteous and the Wicked

- These instruct regarding those who are righteous and those who are wicked
- “Clearly, there are only two roads to travel and only two possible destinations. And just as clearly, we cannot travel wrong and end up right.” (Jim Ward)
- We must strive to develop the character consistent with the Godly man
- Starts with the heart (mind) as does the first psalm (Ps. 1)

Lessons for Today

- The instructional psalms are recorded for just that – our instruction. Do we seek out the scriptures for our instruction and guidance? Have we built good habits around that?
- Have our lives become too busy and hurried. Do we slow down and make time for meditation on the word and spiritual things?



Instructional Psalms: The Righteous and The Wicked Characteristics Contrasted

• Righteous

- Meditates in the law
- Upright
- Truthful
- Cares for poor and needy
- Honest
- Kind
- Worships God

• Wicked

- Scoffs at the law
- Sinful
- Liars; flatterers; boastful
- Prowls on every side
- Deceitful
- Violent, bloodthirsty
- Idolatrous

Instructional Psalms: The Righteous and The Wicked God's Dealings Contrasted

- Righteous
 - Care for
 - With mercy
 - Bless
 - Establishes
 - Provides refuge
 - Set in safety
 - Uphold; hide; deliver
 - Deliver
- Wicked
 - Destroy
 - Will not stand
 - Fall by their own counsel
 - Bring to an end
 - Rains coal and fire upon
 - Cut off
 - Cast down
 - Reprove; tear in pieces

Psalm 1 - “The Truly Happy Man”

Outline

- Two paths (vv. 1-2)
- Two results (vv. 3-4)
- Two conclusions (vv. 5-6)

- Article, p. 87 – “The Psalm of the Godly Man”
Paragraph: “The challenge of the two ways”
- V. 1
 - The very happy state of the man whose life has the right roots is about to be described
 - “happiness of the man” – Hebrew: O how very happy is the man!

Psalm 1 - “The Truly Happy Man”

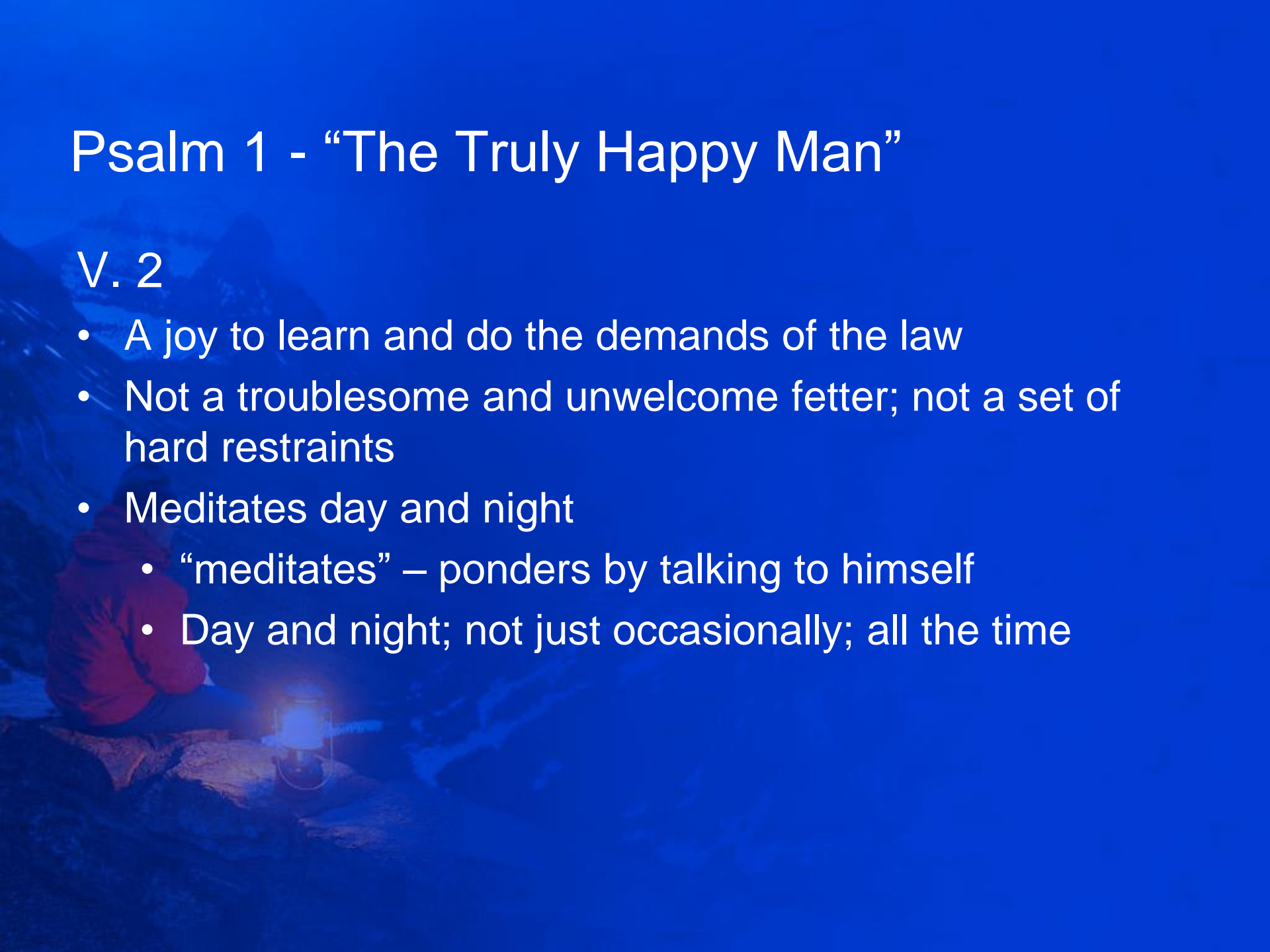
Q1. Explain v. 1. (i.e. What does it mean to not “walk in the counsel of the ungodly”?)

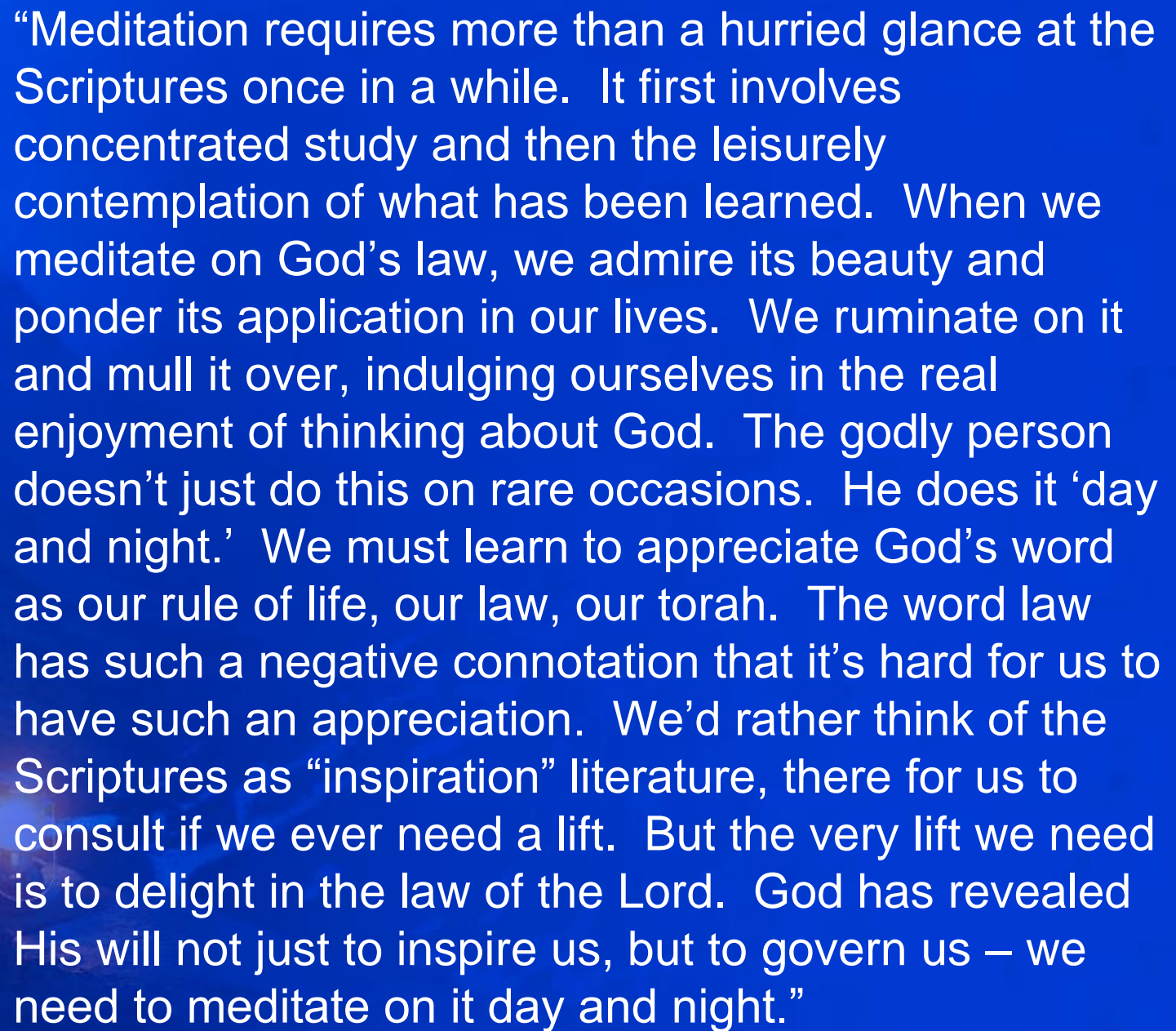
- Wrong conduct continually surrounds us
- A godly man shuns sin at all times and in all places
- Note the progression
 - Walks ... Stands ... Sits
 - When a man begins to live in the company of ungodly men, he will find himself becoming more and more involved

Psalm 1 - “The Truly Happy Man”

V. 2

- A joy to learn and do the demands of the law
- Not a troublesome and unwelcome fetter; not a set of hard restraints
- Meditates day and night
 - “meditates” – ponders by talking to himself
 - Day and night; not just occasionally; all the time



A person wearing a red jacket is sitting on a log in a forest, reading a book. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting a quiet, contemplative moment. The background shows a dense forest with trees and a path leading into the distance.

“Meditation requires more than a hurried glance at the Scriptures once in a while. It first involves concentrated study and then the leisurely contemplation of what has been learned. When we meditate on God’s law, we admire its beauty and ponder its application in our lives. We ruminate on it and mull it over, indulging ourselves in the real enjoyment of thinking about God. The godly person doesn’t just do this on rare occasions. He does it ‘day and night.’ We must learn to appreciate God’s word as our rule of life, our law, our torah. The word law has such a negative connotation that it’s hard for us to have such an appreciation. We’d rather think of the Scriptures as “inspiration” literature, there for us to consult if we ever need a lift. But the very lift we need is to delight in the law of the Lord. God has revealed His will not just to inspire us, but to govern us – we need to meditate on it day and night.”

Psalm 1 - “The Truly Happy Man”

- V. 3
 - Like a healthy tree bearing fruit
 - Yields something worthwhile

Q2. What does the psalmist mean by “whatever he does shall prosper”? Are the righteous promised great prosperity?

- Whatever he undertakes, succeeds
- Prosper – “tsalach” - to push forward, be good, be meet, be profitable
- No ... the righteous are not promised great prosperity in terms that the world understands

Psalm 1 - “The Truly Happy Man”

- V. 4

Q3. Define “chaff.” Explain the illustration used.

- (1) The stalk of grain from which the kernels have been beaten out; the seed coverings and other debris separated from the seed in threshing grain;
- (2) something comparatively worthless.
- Threshing floors were on elevated ground. The mixture was thrown into the breeze to do the winnowing. The chaff was either burned with fire or left to the wind to dispose.
- Leave nothing more substantial than useless remains
- Live a life of vanity, with no real purpose

Psalm 1 - “The Truly Happy Man”

- V. 5 - Conclusions of the two paths
- The ungodly
 - “shall not stand in the judgment” – a Hebraism
 - Shall not be able to maintain himself or stand his ground when the judgment comes
 - “When the true congregation of the righteous is established in the final judgment, then the purge of the judgment will have removed these pretenders.”
(Leupold)
 - See Mt. 13:36-43 – Parable of the tares

Psalm 1 - “The Truly Happy Man”

- V. 6 - Conclusions of the two paths
- The godly
 - “the Lord knows the way of the righteous”
 - Takes notice of; cares for
 - God regards with favor the course of such a one’s life

“The righteous carves his name upon the rock, but the wicked writes his remembrance in the sand. The righteous man ploughs the furrows of earth, and sows a harvest here, which shall never be fully reaped till he enters the enjoyments of eternity; but as for the wicked, he ploughs the sea, and though there may seem to be a shining trail behind his keel, yet the waves shall pass over it, and the place that knew him shall know him no more forever.” (Spurgeon)

Psalm 1

To the tune “Be Still, My Soul”

Confirmed by God, the just one will abide,

Made like a tree upon the riverside.

It bears its fruit in plentiful supply;

In time of drought, its leaf is never dry.

In all he does, whatever he may see,

He will be sure to find prosperity.

Psalm 1

To the tune “Be Still, My Soul”

It is not so for those who disobey;

They are like chaff the wind will drive away.

They will not stand when judgment is complete,

Nor will they gather where the righteous meet.

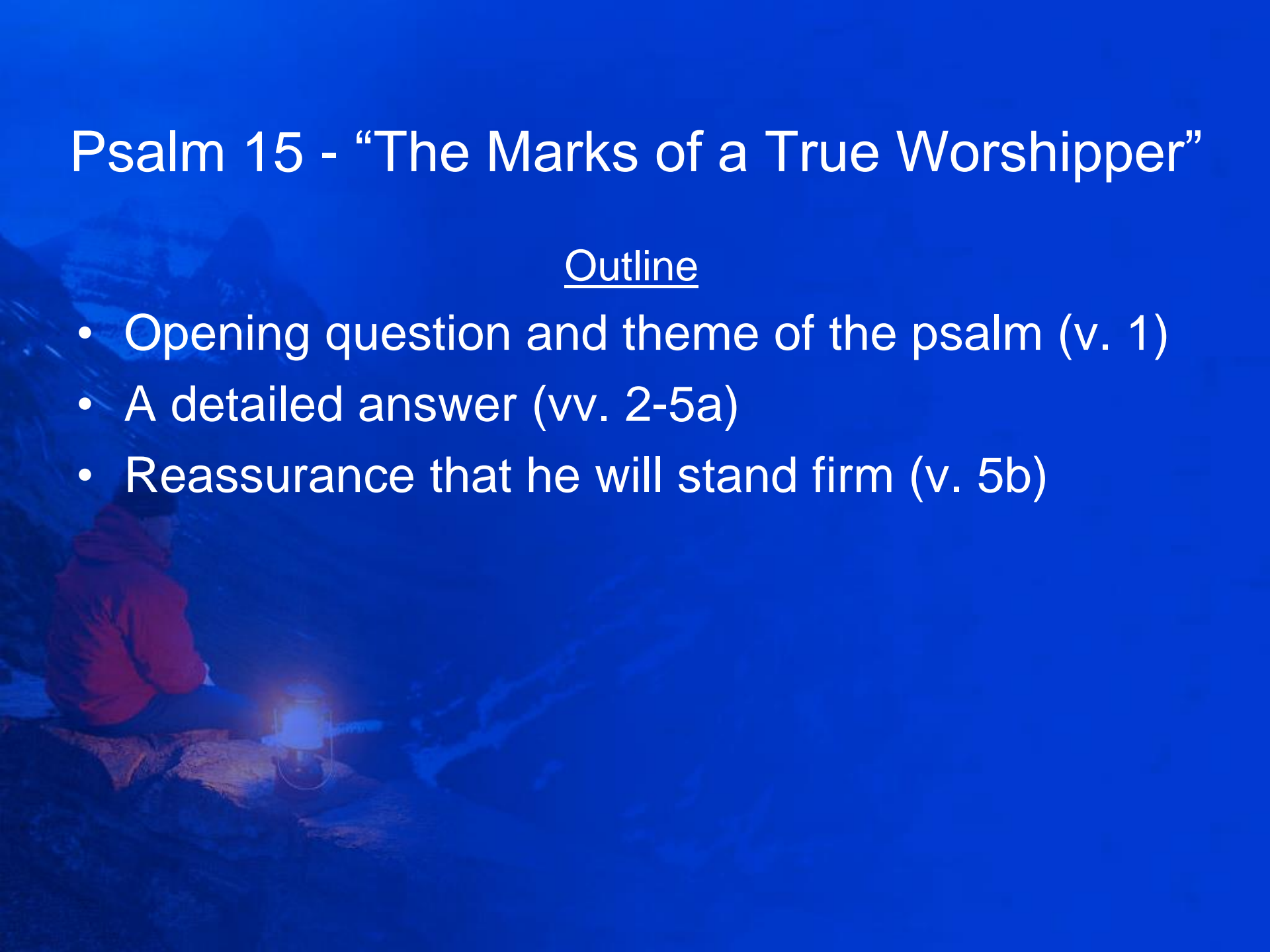
Though God regards the pathway of the pure,

The way of wickedness will not endure.

Psalm 15 - “The Marks of a True Worshipper”

Outline

- Opening question and theme of the psalm (v. 1)
- A detailed answer (vv. 2-5a)
- Reassurance that he will stand firm (v. 5b)



Psalm 15 - “The Marks of a True Worshipper”

- V. 1 – Opening question and theme
 - Of whom, Lord, do You approve?
 - Who can approach God in His holiness?
 - Who will you accept when he comes to Your house?
 - Vv. 2-5a – the detailed answer
- Q4 – Describe the character of the one who dwells with the Lord.
- Walks uprightly; works righteousness; speaks the truth from the heart; does not backbite; does no evil to others; doesn't receive a reproach against a friend; rejects evildoers; honors those who fear God; regards oaths seriously; doesn't require interest of the poor

Psalm 15 - “The Marks of a True Worshipper”

- Vv. 2-5a – the detailed answer
 - V. 2 – positive attributes of the righteous
 - The way he lives and what he says
 - Vv. 3-5a – negative attributes of the righteous
 - The first few have to do with the tongue (see Jms. 3)
 - Judges the character of others wisely
 - “... swears to his own hurt” – what does this mean?
 - Keeps an oath even if harmful consequences
 - “... put out his money at usury” ?
 - See Ex. 22:25; Lev. 25:35-38; Deut. 23:20
- V. 5b – reassurance: “he ... shall never be moved”!

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