

Scripture Points: Being Transformed through the Word
Dr. Art Lindsley

Psalm 1:1-6

“(1) How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! (2) But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. (3) And he will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers. (4) The wicked are not so, but they are like chaff which the wind drives away. (5) Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. (6) For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.”

- Ungodly thoughts, attitudes, and actions are self-destructive.
- By contrast, the godly delight in God’s Word (in this case, the Law) and meditate on it day and night.
- Whatever shapes your mind shapes your soul.
- The word for meditate (in Hebrew) is the same as the word for “plot” in Psalm 2:1. It means to think hard about God’s will to the degree that you murmur about it. We are to meditate according to Wesley, “Not seldom and slightly, but diligently and constantly.” Matthew Henry says, “To meditate in God’s Word is to discourse with ourselves concerning the great things contained in it; with close application of mind and fixedness of thought.”

→ It is only such people who are firmly planted, yielding fruit, in timely fashion, without withering, and truly prospering.

→ The Lord cares for and approves this way of life.

Isaiah 50:4-9 (a)

“(4) The LORD GOD has given Me the tongue of disciples, that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple. (5) The Lord GOD has opened My ear; and I was not disobedient, nor did I turn back. (6) I gave My back to those who strike Me, and My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting. (7) For the Lord GOD helps Me, therefore, I am not disgraced; therefore, I have set My face like flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. (8) He who vindicates Me is near; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand up to each other; Who has a case against Me? Let him draw near to Me. (9) Behold, the Lord GOD helps Me; Who is he who condemns Me?”

→ In this Servant passage of Isaiah (which points forward to Christ) we see the key to wise speech, willing obedience, the ability to face difficulties, and resounding confidence.

→ The key is learning from God “morning by morning” where He opens the Servant’s ear to listen as a disciple. Note it says, “He awakens Me,” “He awakens my ear,” “The Lord God has opened my ear to listen as a disciple” (vs. 4-5). We only learn rightly when God is our teacher.

→ Out of that time “morning by morning” comes the ability to speak the right word to comfort at the right time (vs. 4).

→ The confident proclamations of vs. 7-9 sound like the end of Romans 8. This confidence is gained “morning by morning” (vs. 4).

Joshua 1:8

“This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.”

→ Again we should ponder, study, wrestle with, and memorize God’s Word.

→ We are not only to learn it but (even harder) to do it.

→ The result is true prosperity.

Psalm 63:6

“When I remember Thee on my bed, I meditate on Thee in the night watches.”

→ This accents the night, not just the morning.

Psalm 25:5

“Lead me in Thy truth and teach me, for Thou art the God of my salvation; for Thee I wait all the day.”

→ We are not just to read, but pray for God to teach.”

Psalm 119:15-16

“(15) I will meditate on Thy precepts, and regard Thy ways. (16) I shall delight in Thy statutes; I shall not forget Thy Word.”

→ This longest of the Psalms is an extended meditation on the beauties of God’s Word (176 verses).

Psalm 119:105

“Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.”

→ God’s Word is light in the darkness.

→ God’s Word shows us the way to go, think, and choose.

Ezekiel 3:1-4

“(1) Then He said to me, ‘Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.’ (2) So I opened my mouth, and He fed me this scroll. (3) And He said to me, ‘Son of man, feed your stomach, and fill your body with this scroll which I am giving you.’ Then I ate it, and it was sweet as honey in my mouth. (4) Then He said to me, ‘Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them.’”

→ Ezekiel is to ingest the Word of God so that it becomes part of him.

Matthew 4:4

“Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.”

→ Jesus stresses the importance of feeding on God’s words.

II Timothy 3:16-17

“(16) All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; (17) that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

→ The Greek indicates that all Scripture is “God-breathed.” It is “expired” by God as well as inspired.

→ Note the practical effects of studying Scripture. Without it we are ill-equipped for life.

Romans 12:2

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

→ There is a great danger (more if you have had a secular education) of having your thoughts conformed to that which is acceptable to the world around you.

→ The antidote is to be transformed by the renewing of your mind by being immersed in Scripture.

→ If you allow yourself to be thus transformed, you will know in your heart how true and good God’s truth really is.

II Corinthians 10:5

“We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing, raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to Christ.”

→ Transforming our minds involves the negative task of destroying false beliefs, studying, and being aware of their deficiencies.

→ Renewing your mind also means positively taking every thought captive to Christ. This means – so understanding Biblical truth that our thoughts about every area of our lives are brought into line with what Christ desires.