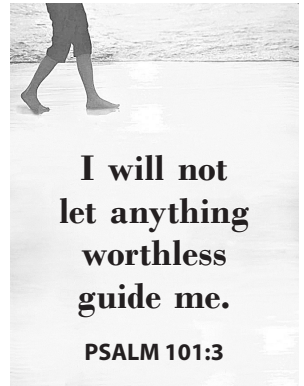


Psalm 101 – Honouring God in our walk. In this Psalm David wants to encourage the followers of the Lord to do four things in their day to day walk with Him.

We see in v1-2 we are to behave wisely. David's focus is on how we need to behave in our homes. I can honestly say that as a parent it is always a challenge because I am so aware that my children respond much more to what I do rather than what I say. I'm not saying parents have to be perfect before their children, but I think we need to be real and authentic in our faith before our children

We need to look wisely v3-4. I like David's determination when he says I will set nothing wicked before my eyes. Then David also says in Psalm 119v37 where he prays to the Lord; *that the Lord would turn away his eyes from looking at wicked things and revive him in his way.* I can say that for men the constant dilemma for us is the choices we have when we look around us. Recently while existing an airport parking lot I was greeted with billboards that were less than complimentary in terms of keeping my mind on spiritual things. Every time we are confronted with this sort of thing we are faced with a choice to either give into the temptation or to say no to it. We are faced with the same sort of choices with the television, videos, DVDs and so on. What we look at is very important as it will determine what we think, and how we act or walk before the Lord. I have had occasions where I have sat down with my children to watch something that certainly could only be described as questionable and I have had to go and apologise for not looking wisely at what was being presented and leading them in the way that was not honouring God.



PRAISE the Lord for:

- Confirmation that papers going into Papua New Guinea have seen 75 first time commitments to Christ
- The required funding needed each month to produce the different editions of the paper
- All those who have committed their life to Christ through the testimonies and stories within the paper

We need to speak wisely v5-6. We need to see that how we speak of others can reveal what we think of ourselves. One of the great struggles I think for every human being is the challenge of not speaking slander or gossip of another person or not allowing pride and the feeling of superiority to cause us to speak in a wrong way of someone else. We need to recognise that words wrongly spoken can really cause enormous hurt. As one writer says we need to recognise that our tongue can be used for words of encouragement or words of hurt. We must not accept words from other people that are gossip or slander but we must help people to be accountable in the way they speak.

**CONTINUED
OVER**

David encourages us to act wisely v7-8. I think it is fair to say that in this day and age we are living in an integrity crisis of major proportions. It is sad to see in the Christian church marriage breakdown is now allegedly mirroring the world in terms of 50% of marriages ending in divorce. Not only this, we have another problem in terms of how we are acting as Christians in that many of our youth groups are being imploded by illicit sexual relationships that do nothing but cause harm and hurt to those who are involved with it. Talking about these things the danger then is further amplified by the fact that we try to hide our sins as it were so we can pretend that nothing has happened. I like the way the writer of Proverbs says *“he who covers his sin will not prosper but whoever confesses and forsakes them will find mercy.”*

I think as Christians we must act wisely and with integrity, and to recognise that this is not only vitally important in our homes and churches but also in our work places and in the community. I think it is very significant indeed as we read of the New Testament church in Acts 2 where the church was marked with a constant attitude of prayer, where they are described in v46-47 *“so continuing daily with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favour with all of the people. The Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”*

PRAYER needed for:

- God's confirmation on a number of new projects. Need translators and funding
- Upcoming trip to USA for Carl. Working in various States to promote the paper plus several speaking opportunities while away
- The Easter edition. Pray for all the churches and individuals using the paper for outreach. Pray for a great harvest
- The addition of a part-time journalist. Jody has had to step down due to ongoing health issues. Pray with us for her complete healing

No one who practises deceit will dwell in my house; no one who speaks falsely will stand in my presence.

PSALM 101:7

Luke describes the fact that this fledging New Testament church had favour with all of the people and that clearly indicates those inside and also outside the church. The result of this sort of relationship in co-operation with other attributes, meant the Lord was willing to add daily to the church those who were being saved.

In summary as we begin to behave, look, speak and act wisely I believe God is pleased to add genuine converts to the church. I think it is very important for us as the Lord's people, the moment we get out of bed our desire is to honour God in thought, word and action.

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