

16 August 2020

To all members of the St James Traditional Services

### **A Weekly Word of Encouragement: Flourishing in hard times**

Psalm 1 – the introduction to the Psalter, that sets out the fundamental truth for all the psalms. Read it reflectively.

There are two ways to live, leading to two ultimate destinies. We are all faced with a choice.

We could choose to conduct our lives on the standards of the society around us; or to adopt the values of those who are indifferent to God; or to find our minds are often centred on thoughts that mock the reality of God. (This psalm speaks of walking, standing, sitting with the wicked, sinners and mockers – v.1.) That way in life has no eternal value – like chaff that will dissipate and perish in the presence of the living God before whom we will one day stand.

By contrast, there is life that will last for eternity: an inner strength, growing and maturing in character and integrity, able to withstand difficulty and challenge.

The secret is a life lived with God in focus, nourished by God and the Word He has spoken. Like a tree whose roots run deep into life-giving water, enabling it not only to survive but to flourish in times of drought, so is the godly person refreshed and replenished in soul by meditating on God and His Word. Daily read, meditate and delight in that Word – the written Word, the Bible, and the living Word who is Jesus and all He did for us at the cross. Here is living water that will sustain and never dry up.

#### **Prayer**

Lord, don't let me be seduced by the world – either naively going with the crowd or becoming a hardened cynic. Help me to meditate on Your Word to the point of delight, especially as I contemplate all You have given me in Jesus. Make me stable and content regardless of my circumstances. Amen.

#### **Remember**

- keep praying daily
- keep reading God's Word
- keep in touch with one another, and know that I am only a phone call away: 0438 455 493.

With Christian love,

Robert