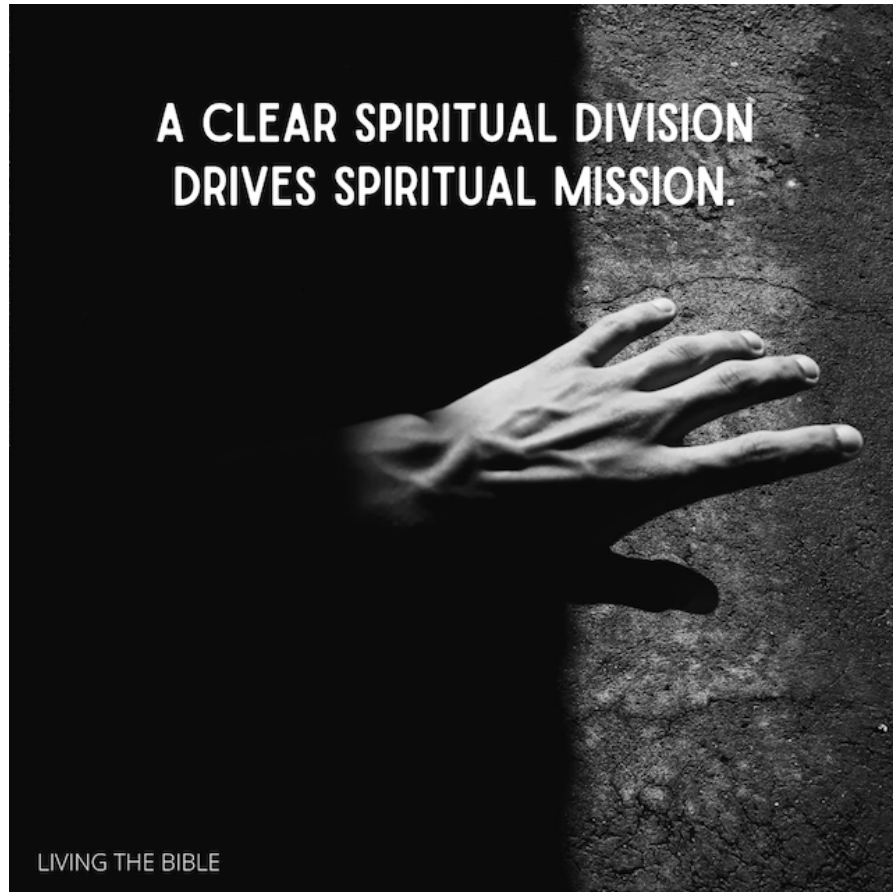


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# THE GREAT DIVIDE

PSALM 1



The world is very good at dividing people. The media, advertisers, politicians, sports, and big-tech companies are experts at splitting people into different groups and then turning each against the other. This drives attention, anger, engagement, and ultimately dollars. As a result we've never been so divided in multiple areas: black v white, rich v poor, coastal elites v middle America, FOX v CNN, maskers v anti-maskers, and so on. These divisions are devastating national unity and social cohesion. The devil loves this kind of division.

Whatever divisions exist or are manufactured in our world, the Bible speaks of only one division. The only biblical division is between the wise and the foolish, the godly and the ungodly, the righteous and the wicked, the blessed and the cursed, the saved or the unsaved, the heaven-bound or the hell-bound. Sadly, this is a division that is rarely spoken about, often ignored, and frequently blurred. I say, sadly, because clarifying this spiritual division is vital for us personally and eternally. The devil loves this kind of confusion.

## LEARNING

### THE GREAT DIVISION IS CLARIFIED (1-5)

Psalm 1 clarifies this division by highlighting the different descriptions and destinations of the wise and the wicked. It starts with the wise. **Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers** (1-3). The wise have three main characteristics: they live separated lives (1), they love the Word of God (2), and they are like fruitful evergreen trees (3).

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On the other side of the great divide are the wicked. **The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous** (4-5). The wicked are described as wind-blown chaff (4), legless in judgment (5a), and left out of God's family (5b).

CLEAR SPIRITUAL DIVISION  
DRIVES SPIRITUAL MISSION.

But how do I know that there will be no mistakes?

### THE GREAT DIVIDER IS GOD (6)

It's God that makes this division, not ourselves, not anyone else, not the church, not the devil. God defines the wise and the wicked and will secure the destination of the wise and the wicked. **The Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish** (6). He knows who the wise are and will keep them all the way to heaven (6a). He also knows who the foolish are and will eternally destroy them in hell (6b).

WE CAN FOOL OTHERS SOME OF THE TIME,  
WE CAN FOOL GOD NONE OF THE TIME.

LOVING

Let's use this Psalm to worship Jesus. As Wisdom incarnate, as THE wise man, Jesus lived a separated life, loved the Word of God, and is a fruitful evergreen tree. He is also the great judge who will eventually make the present spiritual division clear and permanent. He is the all-knowing God who will keep his people all the way to heaven.

LIVING

Pray that God will put us on the right side of this division so that we follow wisdom, flee folly, produce fruit, and enjoy eternal wisdom.

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