

# Readings

## Scripture

<sup>1</sup>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; <sup>2</sup>but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

<sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; <sup>6</sup>for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

- Psalm 1 (English Standard Version)

<sup>7</sup>The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

<sup>8</sup>Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, <sup>9</sup>for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.

- Proverbs 1:7-9 (English Standard Version)

<sup>13</sup>The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. <sup>14</sup>For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

- Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (English Standard Version)

## Reflection

We are all of us more mystics than we believe or choose to believe – life is complicated enough as it is, after all. We have seen more than we let on, even to ourselves. Through some moment of beauty or pain, some sudden turning of our lives, we catch glimmers at least of what the saints are blinded by; only then, unlike the saints, we tend to go on as though nothing has happened. To go on as though something has happened, even though we are not sure what it was or just where we are supposed to go with it, is to enter the dimension of life that religion is a word for.

- Frederick Buechner, *A Room Called Remember* (p. 152-153)

One, never take the images literally. Two, when the assertion of the images – what they say to our fear and hope and will and affections – seems to conflict with the theological abstraction, trust the assertion of the images every time.

- C.S. Lewis, *Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer* (p. 52)

# Sermon Outline

## The Artist

Psalm 1; Proverbs 1:7-9; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

*Cover to Cover*

Brad Anderson

*Because God has formed us like a wise, artistic creator, our lives are meant to reflect his design... (Psalm 139:13-16)*

### How does the Bible describe his design reflected in us?

Like a tree planted by streams of water... (Psalm 1)

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Like a child who learns from loving parents... (Proverbs 1:7-9)

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Like a farmer who considers the harvest daily... (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

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### Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- Where are we in the overall story of the Bible?
- How do we see Jesus in this passage or in these books?
- What are the fallen conditions addressed by the passage that highlight our need for grace?
- How do we see this applying to us today?