

Psalm 1: Tree by the Water or Chaff in the Wind (An Exposition)
Pastor Adam Hall ☞ Dryden First Baptist Church ☞ August 29, 2021

Psalm 1

¹ 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;

² but his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law he meditates day and night.

³ 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.

⁴ The wicked are not so,

but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

⁶ for the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Introduction

- have you ever heard the expression "there are only two types of people?"

- I have adapted a BuzzFeed article to help us understand that there are only two types of people!

1) Do you eat your Chunky Campbell's soup with a fork or a spoon?

2) Do you keep your email up to date or do you let those emails build up?

3) When eating fries with ketchup do you put the ketchup on top or ketchup on the side

4) When you say potato or tomato do you say "potato or potahto and tomato or tomahto"?

5) Do you drink Pepsi or Coke?

6) When you eat pizza do you eat the crust or do you leave the crust?

7) When you eat Nutella do you eat it with a spoon or a knife?

8) Tom Robbins says "There are two kinds of people in this world: those who believe there are two kinds of people in this world and those who are smart enough to know better."

- the funny thing about that last one is he ends up making two types of people
- the great thing about this Psalm is that it tells us clearly that there are two types of people
- there are those who are righteous and those who are wicked
- but this statement is absolutely true
- we have two paths that are before us today
- we have the path of rejecting sin and delighting in God's Word or we have the path of following sinfulness and living out wickedness
- you are either on the pathway of righteousness or the pathway of wickedness
- now before we get into this Psalm we need to realize that the only perfect man that ever walked on the face of the earth, was and is Jesus Christ
- no one but Christ has been _____ and without sin
- no one but Christ is free from walking in the counsel of the _____
- no one but Christ is free from _____ in the way of sinners
- no one but Christ is free from _____ in the seat of _____
- this is the very blessing of the Lord to us that He has given us his Son to deal with our desperate need because we have not walked in the _____ of perfection!
- this Psalm is what we call a _____ Psalm
- much of the same language is found in the book of _____
- we see the blessing of what it means to live a _____ life in contrast to the sorrow of living a life of wickedness
- but here is the question "are you _____"? or "are you on the wrong path going away from the Lord"?
- finally Psalm 1 is really an introduction to all the of _____
- so Psalm 1 sets the stage for how you are to treat the rest of the Psalms are you going to listen to the counsel of the _____ or are you going to cherish and to _____ in the Word of God!

1) (1:1-3) The Righteous

2) (1:4-5) The Wicked

3) (1:6) The Lord

1) (1:1-3) The Righteous

(1:1) 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;

- this "blessed" word we already talked about when we looked at Psalm 32!
- those who are _____ in Psalm 32 have their transgressions forgiven and their sins covered
- this "blessed" word means happy, approved by God, _____
- happy is the person or _____ is the person who does not do these three things that follow!
- Psalm 1 starts out with the _____ or the things that you are not to do if you want to experience _____

- i) walks _____ in the counsel of the wicked
- the word "_____ " in the Hebrew refers to more than just walking
- this does not mean you are going for a walk with someone who is wicked

- this word refers to how you _____ your life
 - for instance if you walk in wickedness this means that you are acting out _____, you are carrying out wickedness, living out wickedness
 - Psalm 26 speaks about walking in integrity and this means that you are living a life of _____
- Psalm 26:1** Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my _____, and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

- you will be _____ if you do not walk in the counsel or the _____ of the wicked
- do you see what the Psalmist _____ us about first?
- he writes first about the _____ or the teachings of the wicked
- the wicked are those who _____ against God and His _____
- are we going to tolerate the teachings of the wicked or are we going to seek the Lord for His wisdom?
- we will be blessed or experience joy if we reject the counsel of the wicked!

- ii) stands not in the way of _____
- there is a second phase to this “blessing” that we do not _____ is the way of sinners
 - sinners here are people who _____ the Lord and live for themselves and their desires
 - we are not to _____ in their way, we are not to settle down in their _____
 - we are to stay clear of sin and the ways of sinners if we want to experience this blessing or joy

- iii) does not sit in the seat of scoffers
- this third phrase is very serious
 - we are not to _____
 - so we have gone from walking, to _____ and now to sitting
 - do you see the progression in sin that the Psalmist is getting at here!
 - it is thought that the Psalmist is trying to teach us the _____ of sin, we hear counsel, we dwell in this counsel and then we just plain sit in sin or _____ against God
 - to sit in the seat of _____ is to plant yourself in sin
- the word “scoffer” here is more than just someone who sins against God it is more of a _____ of godliness and of God’s ways
- as we read in Proverbs this scoffer is someone who cannot be _____
 - you have all met people like this before, you try and convince people of the plain _____ before them and they _____ to see it and then they mock you

- Proverbs helps us understand this _____ very clearly
- a _____ and arrogant person before the Lord is a scoffer!

Proverbs 21:24 "Scoffer" is the name of the arrogant, haughty man who acts with arrogant pride.

- if we avoid these _____ things we will be blessed
- so the Psalmist has given a very clear negative example
- but in the next verse he switches to the positive example!

(1:2) but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

- we see that the passion or _____ for this “blessed” person is found in the law of the Lord
- Psalm 1 is a shorter version of Psalm _____ where we see the Psalmist’s sheer excitement for and delight in the _____ of God

- for instance this verse, as well as many others in Psalm 119, teach us what it means to _____ in the Law of the Lord

Psalm 119:48 I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes.

- there are several views of what the Psalmist means when he is referring to "his law"

- Here are a few:

- a) 10 commandments in Exodus 20/Deuteronomy 5
- b) the book of Deuteronomy
- c) the books of Genesis to Deuteronomy (Torah)

- likely he is referring to what we call the Torah which is Genesis to Deuteronomy

- how does he _____ in the law of the Lord?

- he meditates

- this word means to "murmur" or to "mumble silently while you _____"

- it is thought that this was the practice of speaking quietly to yourself about the _____ of God

- basically you are mulling over the Word of God

- you are storing God's Word in your _____ and even repeating certain phrases over and over again to help you _____ them and then apply them to your life

- this is not speed reading and then you cannot remember what you just read

- this is more of a slow _____ approach rather than a microwave approach

(1:3) 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.

- we are given an illustration to describe this person and the _____ of his life

- this blessed person who _____ sin and delights in God's Word is like a tree by the water

- you all know that trees grow better with _____?

- when I worked in the peach orchard there was a massive drought and we had to dig around the trees and give water right to the _____

- but a tree by the water does not need to worry about a drought as it has a constant _____ supply and it grows great

- trees by the _____ grow better than trees in the desert

- if you stay in the Word and avoid sin you will not be a dried up tree but will _____ like a strong tree

- there will be no withering leaves just prosperity for those who store the Word of God in their _____

- Jesus says something very similar about _____ blessedness in the gospel of _____

Luke 11:28 But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the Word of God and _____ it!"

2) (1:4-5) The Wicked

- now the Psalmist switches to describe the _____ and we get a front row view in what the wicked are all about!

(1:4) The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

- do you see the contrast here between a tree, planted by the water that has deep roots, and _____ that the wind blows away?

- here the author is using a farming illustration
- when they harvested the wheat, they would throw the wheat into the air and the wind would separate the valuable product which was the wheat kernel from the chaff which was _____
- the chaff, the husks, dust and stubble, would be blown away by the wind; it had no substance (or weight) or _____
- _____ in the Bible is often used to speak about uselessness

- when Hosea speaks about the _____ of God upon Israel he uses chaff to illustrate their condition

Hosea 13:3 Therefore they shall be like the morning mist or like the dew that goes early away, like the chaff that swirls from the threshing floor or like smoke from a window.

(1:5) Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

- because they are wicked they will not _____ in the judgment, meaning that they _____ experience the judgment of God
- they will not dwell with the congregation of the _____ because they will be alienated from God for _____ and they will be away from the presence of the Lord
- not only are the wicked like the _____, they will also experience the sure and scary _____ of God
- may this not be true of anyone listening to Psalm 1 today
- just like the book of Hebrews says:

Hebrews 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

- here we see the fate of the _____ and it is not a joyful sight for those who have rejected the Lord and _____ in wickedness and sin

3) (1:6) The Lord

(1:6) for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

- there are two ways here: the way of the _____ and the way of the _____
- we see the glory of God in this passage because He knows who the righteous are and that He shows grace to the _____
- also, we see the _____ of God in the fact that the wicked perish

The Lord knows the _____ types of people:

i) the righteous – “for the LORD knows the way of the righteous”

- the Lord _____ – this means that the Lord is gracious
- for the Lord to know you means that the Lord has shown you favor or _____

- Paul speaks about this being “known by God” as referring to those who have been justified by _____ in Jesus Christ in the book of Galatians

Galatians 4:9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be _____ by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?

- the righteous have a _____ relationship with God

ii) the wicked – “but the way of the wicked will perish”

- although many see the _____ of the wicked as the “way to go” and a “pathway of joy” in our society
- the pathway for the wicked is a _____ to destruction
- this destruction is a word that refers to the _____ of God
- today is the day to get serious about the Lord and to no longer treat _____ as irrelevant

- if someone remains in _____ they will be destroyed! They will be _____ by God.

- when you hear Psalm 1:6 you cannot help but think of John 3:16 noting God's gracious gift in Jesus and its reference to "perish"

John 3:16 "For God so _____ the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not _____ but have eternal _____.

Application

1) Look to Christ

- when I think about this Psalm I am prone to think about all the horrible things I have done and that is just in the last 30 days

- but if all we do is think about all the horrible things we have done, this is NOT _____ living

- as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ we most look past ourselves to our wonderful _____ the Lord Jesus Christ

- Jesus was without sin and was the _____ man who lived out this blessed life for the _____ of His Father

- in the prophecy about the Lord Jesus Christ, Isaiah describes Him as a _____ who is blameless in His behavior

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his _____; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

- the book of Hebrews describes Him as without _____

Hebrews 4:15-16 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet _____ sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with _____ draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- because of Christ we can come with _____ to this throne of _____

- we can confess our sins boldly knowing the assurance of salvation and _____ in Jesus Christ

- we can receive _____ and grace

- grace means there is nothing we can do to attain this mercy

- we cannot _____ for salvation because we all have sat and walked with sinners

- we can _____ lean upon the Lord Jesus Christ, who is gracious and merciful for _____

- so when you are _____ to indulge in sin – look to the Lord Jesus Christ

- when you are overwhelmed by _____ – look to the Lord Jesus Christ

- when you have _____ in the counsel of the wicked – lean upon Jesus Christ

- when you have _____ in the way of sinners – pour out your confession to Jesus Christ

- when you have sat in the seats of _____ – trust in this blessed man, Jesus, who lived perfectly so that we could have freedom from sin and wickedness

- if you do not _____ the Lord and are not trusting in the Lord Jesus, know for certain that your life is like chaff and you will _____

- for certain, know that you cannot live up to the standards of the _____ of God

- look to Jesus and _____ away from your sin and even the thought that you can live good enough for God

- be set _____ from sin and death by _____ in the Lord Jesus Christ

2) Delight in the Lord's Word

- there are many wonderful things that we as Christians can have _____ in but I hope that at the top of the list, for all of you, is a delight in God and His _____
- in a survey done by the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada they found that only _____ of professing Christians in Canada read their Bible at least 4 times per _____
- this same survey said that only 11% of professing Christians talk about the _____ outside of a Sunday service
- these are shocking and scary results – if one _____ in the Law of God you would think they would spend more time in the Word of God
- so what I have gathered from this _____ by the Evangelical Fellowship is that many professing Christians in Canada do not see _____ as the same as the Bible sees blessing
- a blessed person is one who rejects sin and delights in the law of the Lord
- the _____ of the author for the Word of God is evident in Psalm 119
- in fact there is much that we can glean from Psalm ____ as it teaches us what it means to delight in the _____ of God

Psalms 119:14 In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all _____.

Psalms 119:16 I will delight in your statutes; I will not _____ your word.

Psalms 119:35 Lead me in the _____ of your commandments, for I delight in it.

Psalms 119:47 for I find my delight in your commandments, which I _____.

Psalms 119:70 their heart is unfeeling like fat, but I delight in your _____.

Psalms 119:162 I rejoice at your _____ like one who finds great spoil.

- ____ you delight in the Word of God, as in all riches, you at least _____ spend more than just a few times a week in His Word
- Christians let us be _____ about the Word of God, God has graciously given it to us
- let us be diligent in _____ God's Word, even if we are tired or whatever excuse we can think of
- let us spend _____ delighting in God's Word by reading God's Word
- let us spend time _____ in God's Word by meditating upon God's Word
- let us spend time delighting in God's Word by _____ God's Word
- let us spend time delighting in God's Word by _____ God's Word to our lives!

3) Avoid Sin and Sinful Influences

- we can see how these _____ types of people spend their _____ and whom they spend their time with
- the righteous spend their time in the congregation of the _____ (Psalm 1:5)
- this means that they are spending time with the _____ of God
- the righteous are in _____ with God's people
- the righteous are with God's people to _____ the Word of God preached and to pray with one _____
- the wicked as we see in Psalm 1:1 are _____ three things
 - 1) _____ in the counsel of the wicked
 - 2) _____ of the way of sinners
 - 3) _____ in the seat of scoffers

- this leads us to the conclusion that we as Christians _____ to be with Christians
- I have been engaging "TV church goers" it seems my whole Christian life
- I have tried to persuade them to _____ to a _____ group of believers
- for some reason they have always gotten mad at my exhortations to live their Christian life with a local group of _____

- and now as we have returned to in person gatherings, in Canada 50% of church attenders have not returned
 - there are many reasons for why people are staying home and not attending
 - but we all need to answer the question, "are we going to _____ with the righteous -- the people of God?" or "are we going to walk, stand and sit with the wicked?"
 - let us always be a group of believers who cry out Psalm 122
- Psalm 122:1** I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the _____ of the LORD!"

- today there are two paths before us the path of grace and the path of destruction
- 1) the path of _____ – we recognize we cannot make ourselves right with God and thus we need the grace of Christ and we desire or _____ in the Word of God and desire to be with God's people
- 2) path of destruction – we _____ our sin against God's law as no big deal, we see the Word of God as no big deal and we see fellowship with believers as no big deal
- yes there are only two types of people 1) the righteous _____ by the grace of Christ who by grace live for the Lord Jesus Christ and 2) the wicked who reject Christ and His Word and they will _____!

