

The Way of the Righteous and the Way of the Wicked

Psalm 1

Blessed - “The joyful spiritual condition of those who are right with God and the pleasure and satisfaction that is derived from that.” – Allen Ross

The blessedness of a life characterized by righteousness (1-3, 6)

1. What it is not
 - a. Walking in the counsel of the ungodly
 - i. Walking – signifies how one lives
 - ii. Counsel – advice and input regarding ethical and moral decisions
 - iii. Ungodly (wicked) – This is a term used for those who are not believers in God. It not just those that do particularly evil deeds, but rather those who have not professed faith in God.
 - iv. Summary: living in such a way that one routinely receives and accepts important advice and input regarding moral and ethical matters from those who do not fear God
 - b. Standing in the way of sinners
 - i. Standing – stopping and considering, being influenced by, buying into
 - ii. Way – lifestyle and choices
 - iii. Sinners – those who miss the mark, miss the goal of obeying God
 - iv. Summary: stopping and being influenced by and buying into the lifestyle and choices of those who disobey God
 - c. Sitting in the seat of scoffers
 - i. Sitting – joining in
 - ii. Seat – taking a place with and identifying with
 - iii. Scoffers – those who mock and ridicule the righteous
 - iv. Summary: joining in and identifying with those that mock and ridicule the righteous
2. What it is
 - a. Delight in the law of the LORD
 - i. Delight – taking pleasure in
 1. We do not delight in that which we do not know.
 - ii. Law – means both the actual law of God but is also representative of all of God’s instruction
 1. Three uses of the law
 - a. A mirror that reflects our sinfulness and God’s righteousness
 - b. The civil use that helps restrain evil
 - c. A guide for the righteous to show us what pleases God
 2. Meditating on it unceasingly (day and night)
 - iii. Like a tree
 1. Planted by streams of water – deeply rooted in the source of life (the Word of God)
 2. Yields fruit in its season – properly bearing fruit in the midst of the scorching sun during the fruit-bearing season (bearing fruit, good works, in the midst of difficulty)
 3. Its leaf does not wither – withstanding the elements, flourishing, enduring (perseverance and life)
 - b. Prospering in all things – “This is not a blanket statement promising unlimited success; the context itself restricts this application. If the righteous meditate in God’s word, they will live in obedience to it – and doing that is what will succeed.” – Allen Ross

The result of a life characterized by ungodliness (4-6)

1. What it is not
 - a. Standing in the judgment and the congregation of the righteous
 - i. Able to take the stand confidently and pass the judgment
 - ii. Able to appear before the congregation (jury) of the righteous and withstand the guilty verdict
 - iii. “Either one lives, stands, and sits with the faithless, the failures, and the mockers; or one stands in the judgment, the assembly or company of the faithful.” – John Goldingay
2. What it is
 - a. The way of the wicked will perish
 - b. Like chaff that the wind drives away.

The hope of our righteousness (6)

1. The LORD knows the way of the righteous.
 - a. LORD – (Yahweh) the personal, covenant name for God
 - b. Knows – a participle (is knowing), demonstrating the continuous and relational nature of this knowledge
 - i. “a knowledge which was in living, intimate relationship to its subject and at the same time was inclined to it and bound to it by love.” – Delitzsch
 - ii. It is a knowledge that saves. It is being known by the Father who has given the elect to the Son to be saved and that salvation has been applied to the elect by the Spirit.
2. The LORD is our righteousness.
 - a. The One who enables us to be considered righteous was righteous on our behalf.
 - b. Jesus Christ perfectly embodied the blessed man who did not walk, stand, or sit with the wicked.
 - c. His delight was to do the will of the Father, to heed His instruction.
 - d. It is because of Jesus Christ being lifted up on the cursed tree, the cross, that we can be confident like a tree planted by streams of water to endure, to flourish, and to have life.
 - e. And because Jesus Christ, the true righteous One, has stood in judgment for us, we can have confidence that by faith in Him, we will stand in the judgment and be counted among the righteous.