

What Kind of Man Will You Be?

Psalm 1:1-6 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 to the Psalms:

- **These are the Songs of Jesus...**
 - Jesus quoted from the Psalms A LOT!
 - He prayed the Psalms... He sang the Psalms
- **The Psalms are meant to:**
 - Instruct You
 - Inspire You
 - Indwell Your Prayers and Praise

❖ The Argument of this Psalm...

- **I can not understate the importance of this Psalm to you personally...**
 - **Personally...** I have taken this Psalm to heart many years ago...
 - ◆ And I have seen much fruit from it...
 - **And amazingly...** I do not think I have ever preached an exposition on this Psalm...
 - ◆ I know I have used it a hundred times plus in sermons and Bible Studies...
 - ◆ As I was praying a thinking on what to preach on...
 - ◆ This Psalm came to my mind...
 - ◆ But... I was like... I just preached on it...
 - ◆ Yet when I checked myself... I couldn't find that I had...
 - ◆ Which surprised me...
 - ◆ But... I think it is cause I use it so regularly
 - I use this Psalm so regularly because it is that important...
- **But, as I began to study and prep for this sermon...**
 - I was struck with how much I had not considered concerning this Psalm...
 - ◆ That I have quoted before bed many nights...
 - I was struck at the constant depth of its provision toward me
 - So... I continued to learn more about it...
 - I pray it does this for you today
- **The Psalmist is trying to make a point:**
 - **He is saying that Delighting in the instruction of God is the difference b/w being righteous before God or wicked in the eyes of God.**
 - And there are so many other little things he is saying here.
 - And this is Psalm 1!... This is where He wants you to start...
 - ◆ This Psalm is of utmost importance
- **Why is this such an important Psalm?**
 - Look to verse 6
 - **for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**
 - ◆ Quickly... I'll go deeper on this verse later... but see this...

- ◆ He knows the way of the righteous...
 - Meaning... he watches over and guards
- ◆ BUT: the way of the wicked will perish
 - He will perish

- **Do you see why this Psalm is so important?**
 - Eternity is at stake here.... The soul of man is at stake here...

➤ **So, just so you do not walk away from this sermon today and think:**

- "Oh what a lovely psalm"
- I should read my Bible a little more... and I can use this Psalm in my prayers....

➤ **Do not stop there.....**

- Know that your Eternal Destiny will be shaped by how you **cling** to the truths of this Psalm.

➤ **One Word:**

- There will be one word... in this Psalm... that in my mind... is the key to the entire Psalm...
 - The Key to All the Psalms
 - The Key to Anyone's walk with God...
 - One Word here in this Psalm...
 - ◆ You get to guess it... when I get there... you tell me if your right

❖ **The Outline of the Psalmist Thinking is Pretty Simple**

- **This will be our outline this morning**

- 1) A Way Not to Be
- 2) A Way to Be:
 - Delighting
 - Meditating
 - Day and Night
- 3) The Outcome of Your Way
 - A Tree
 - The Chaff
- 4) Your Way Judged
 - Perished
 - Known

❖ **1) A Way Not to Be**

- **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;**

➤ **Answer me this: What is it that you think on most?**

- Internet? Social Media? Celebrity Gossip? Local News? Money Markets? Fashion Trends? Socializing? Your Phones? Games? Work? Hunting? Fishing? TV and Movies? Secular Music?
 - To what are you giving your minds attention?

➤ **What is shaping your thinking?**

- The World? Or God's Word?
- **I know you may think that all of the things I have listed are harmless...**
 - They may be... But more than likely they are not...
- **We are being shaped by this present world...**
 - We wake to think on worldly matters
 - We fall asleep to worldly matters...
- **All of these things are pulling our Mind's Attention and our Hearts Delight**
 - Away from God... Away From God

- **A quick reading of this verse and you may walk away thinking:**
 - This is not me... I do not walk in the counsel of the wicked
 - I do not stand in the way of sinners
 - And I certainly do not sit in the seat of scoffers
 - But... let's dig into this a little bit...
- **Notice the Progression**
- **1) The Wicked's Counsel**
 - This is the thinking of the world... the thought process of worldly thinking
 - This is where it starts... we listen to the sinful and rebellious ways of the world
 - We entertain their thinking...
- **2) The Way of Sinners**
 - Then the person begins to walk in this way...
 - The person is no longer just listening to the counsel of the world
 - They are walking in it... the way of the world is their way
- **3) The Seat of Scoffers**
 - Finally... the person is sitting in the seat of those who scoff at God's way
 - They laugh at those who trust in God alone and follow His way
 - They sit in their belief system that is not godly...
 - Devotion to Prayer... Delight in God's Word
 - Generosity in their Finances... Serving God in His Church... Holiness in Speech
 - Purity of Thought, Purity in what they look upon and listen to
 - These are things that they sit and kinda laugh at... make light of
- **There must be a break from the World by the Christian...**
 - There must be a departure from former ways...
 - There must be a difference in the life and being of the Christian...

❖ 2) A Way to Be:

- **Blessed is the man ...² but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.**
- **We have seen the Way we are Not to Be... Now... we see how we are to Be...**
 - And notice...
 - The Psalmist is giving you the way to Happiness...
 - The way to be blessed
 - To be Blessed is to be Happy...
 - And there is truly a way to Happiness...
 - **Please take this to heart all of you unhappy souls...**
 - Those of you who struggle with happiness and joy...
 - There is a path to joy and happiness...
 - And the Psalmist who is indeed Inspired by the Holy Spirit of God
 - ◆ Is giving it to you
 - ◆ **Notice these three things He does:**
 - 1) He Delights
 - 2) He Meditates
 - 3) He does this Day and Night
 - More on these three things
- **What is the Object of His Delight**
 - It is **"the law of the Lord"**
 - **The Hebrew word here is "Torah"**

- And it has a broad and general meaning:
 - ◆ It means the instructions of God
 - ◆ **Likely...** the Psalmist is referring to the book of Psalms
 - As this is the gateway Psalm for the rest...
 - And He wants them to know they must delight in this Word
 - We would include all of scripture in this verse...
- **Again: How Does this Blessed and Happy Man Treat God's Word?**
 - **1) He Delights in it**
 - **The Key Word in this Psalm... Delight... This Word makes all the difference...**
 - ◆ It is more than a mechanical memorizing day and night
 - ◆ It is more than a mechanical obedience to God's Words
 - ◆ What the person delights in... will tell you what or who their God is...
 - **What does it mean to Delight?**
 - ◆ The sense of this word is a "feeling of extreme pleasure or satisfaction"
 - It is something that is **precious** to someone
 - **Delight:**
 - ◆ In my life I have found delight in quite a few things outside of God...
 - Some were not good
 - Some were good things that God would want me to delight in
 - ◆ **I Delight in my children...**
 - Oh how I love them... they bring me great joy...
 - When I drive up into the driveway and my daughter runs out to the truck to meet me... it gives me great delight
 - When I knock on the door and my son opens it and almost knocks me to the ground because he is happy to see me
 - This gives me great delight
 - I find great delight when we have Bible Study together at night...
 - And I hear them pray with sincerity and in truth...
 - Using God's Word naturally in their prayers...
 - ◆ **I found Delight in my wife**
 - When we first met... I had never met anyone quite like her...
 - She became the most important thing in my life apart from God...
 - She was special to me... precious... I was willing to change my life
 - My delight in her caused me to ask her to be my wife
 - Everything that was mine was now hers... And I was happy to do this...
 - I found and am still finding delight in my wife...
 - **Delight is something that naturally occurs in the heart of someone...**
 - ◆ Who sees great value in the object of His delight...
 - ◆ I did not have to coldly create delight in my wife
 - It came naturally because I fell in love with her spirit
 - I was captivated by her beauty
 - ◆ **I did not systematically create delight in my children**
 - When I see them, I am delighted
 - Their joy and nuances bring me delight...
 - **I HAVE SEEN AND I AM FILLED WITH DELIGHT!**
 - ◆ This has been created in my heart because I see them....
 - **When a Person Has Seen God... He will Delight in Him...**

- God is a delight... He is precious... Jesus is mesmerizing....
- When a person looks upon and beholds God for who He is...
 - ◆ The person will naturally respond by delighting in Him...
- **The Man of God will Delight in the Words of God Almighty**
 - **Psalm 112:1 Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commandments!**
- **What if we find no delight in God?**
 - 2 things could have happened...
 - ◆ 1) That person has never come to know God
 - therefore they have never seen Him... they are still in darkness
 - They can not delight in what they have not seen
 - ◆ 2) That person has taken his eyes off of God...
 - Either way... it is a serious issue...
 - **Notice what happened to Eve:**
 - ◆ She had taken her eyes off of God and onto that which He had forbid
 - Genesis 3:6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate,
- **Ok.... So what do we do? We want to delight in God... but we are not right now**
 - **First... examine yourself to see if you are in the faith...**
 - ◆ Only the Spirit of God can awaken the eyes of your soul to the beauty of God...
 - **But if you have delighted in God... and You know you know Him...**
 - ◆ But you also know that He is not your greatest delight right now...
 - And that happens often to Christians...
 - How do you find your delight in God?
- **Remember my examples of delight?**
 - **My wife and children...**
 - ◆ What if I decided I would not come home to see my children?
 - ◆ What if I decided to not spend time with them in prayer
 - ◆ What if I decided I would not look upon my wife's beauty
 - ◆ That I would not hear her voice
 - ◆ Or my children's voice...
 - **Well... I think I would grow rather cold toward them over time...**
 - ◆ I would miss them terribly I believe
 - ◆ But... without them around... I think my delight in them would weaken
 - ◆ It would be just a memory...
- **Is it not the same with God? With God and His Word...**
 - Therefore the Psalmist explains how He delights in God's Word...
- **2) He Meditates**
 - He memorizes and thinks upon it...
 - He ponders God's word in his heart and in his mind and in his life
 - And... he does this consistently...
- **3) He Does this Day and Night**
 - This is how we know that He memorizes God's Word...
 - It is upon the person's mind day and night...
 - He isn't walking around with the Bible in his face all the time
 - He doesn't need to... because he has hidden it in his heart...

- He has found wonderful things in the Word of God

➤ **Illustration:** Let me illustrate this to you in a rather common example...

- Let's consider depression...
 - A person may suffer from a mental depression in their life...
 - And they find little to no joy in anything...
 - And they walk around under a dark cloud...
 - **Something has caused them to have a depression...**
 - ◆ And they are stuck in it...
 - ◆ Maybe something happened in their life
 - ◆ Or maybe there is a chemical issue going on in their body
 - ◆ Whatever reason... they are depressed and find no joy in life...
- **Now... From research and study we know there are some things that help**
 - Exercise helps with depression
 - Medicine helps with
 - Proper nutrition helps with depression
 - Getting out of bed and cleaning your home or fulfilling your purpose helps...
- **The Problem is: You do not feel like doing all of those things...**
 - But... when the person does them... it almost always helps...
 - It makes them feel better...

➤ **Run to God... and Keep going back to Him...**

- And you will find delight... if you are struggling with delighting in God...
- Look to His Word... Look to His character... look to what He has done for You...
- Don't run to the World... Don't try to find your delight in the things this world has to offer...
 - It's cheap entertainment and fading glories...
 - Love for the world will push out delight in God...

➤ **Be Faithful...**

- God will reward your faithfulness
- Now... We have considered the Way not to be
- And the Way to be
 - Let's consider the Outcome of your Way

❖ 3) The Outcome of Your Way

➤ **There are two Outcomes:**

- **You can be like a Tree with deep roots... or like chaff that the wind can blow away...**
 - (I can not spend the time I want to here... but... I think it is clear which you want to be)

➤ **1) A Tree**

- 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.**
- **He is like a Tree...** Who is? The Blessed man who delights and meditates in God's Instructions
- **Look at this Tree**
 - It has a source of sustenance... It has a water supply... a supply of life...
 - And it bears fruit...
 - **This is fruit for God...**
 - ◆ The man that delights in God's Word will bear fruit...
 - ◆ They will bring people to God
 - ◆ They will help people grow in God
 - **This person is a giver... not a taker...**

- ◆ He does not suck the life out of the people around him, rather he gives life...

- **In all that he does he prospers...**

- Now... there is much to say here, but little time...

- **Notice that there is an eternal view in this psalm...**

- ◆ Be careful to see this... if not... you will walk away confused...

- ◆ You will wonder why everything had not worked out in a prosperous way for the Christian...

- ◆ **Be Careful in how you judge success...**

- There is an eternal view in sight here...

- **In all that he does he prospers...**

- ◆ His prosperity may not be seen until judgment, but God is recording his faithfulness

- ◆ This is not fantasy land people...

- ◆ Jesus says this:

- **Matthew 6:19-21 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

- **Application:**

- Don't You want to be a Strong and Mighty Tree

- ◆ Get off your tail and get into God's Word... Quit being lazy... God will not bless your laziness.... Trust me... I know...

- Pray... and Read.... And Serve... And Give...

- The alternative...

- **2) The Chaff**

- **⁴The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away**

- **Please hear me today...**

- There are only two options of people listed here...

- ◆ Do you see it?

- ◆ Does he mention a third group of people?

- ◆ I am not trying to be hard lined and black and white...

- ◆ But... there are two types of people listed here

- **To which do you identify most with?**

- **What is chaff?**

- It is the husk around wheat or corn...

- It grows up with the seed... and it looks to be a part of things...

- May even look to be prospering and growing...

- But at the time of harvest it is nothing but the trash, the refuse

- The grain is thrown into the air... and the chaff floats and is driven away by the wind

- ◆ Chaff is worthless and thrown away or burned...

- **Finally... let's look at the climax and conclusion of this Psalm**

- ❖ **4) Your Way Judged**

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

- Do you see that there are two options here...

- ◆ The way in which God knows... and the way that perishes

- **1) Those that Perish**

- ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;... but the way of the wicked will perish.
- **For all their standing and walking in their own ways...**
 - They will be unable to stand in the judgment
 - They will not be counted with the righteous people...
 - Rather... their way will perish...
- **Hey... I know it is popular today to swim with the current...**
 - It goes against popular culture to stand for the ways of God...
- **But, look at the outcome:**
 - The way of the wicked will perish...
 - This is really sad...
- **To Perish means to die or to be ruined...**
 - Food perishes... and it is thrown into the trash
- **Those that find themselves in this group will be a sad lot...**
 - Maybe in this life they were successful and powerful...
 - But they had disdain for God' Word...
 - Or maybe they had 4 copies at home that they neglected...
- **The Wicked are not just those downright mean and terrible people**
 - That murder and steal and cheat...
 - The wicked are contrasted with the Righteous...
- **To be honest...**
 - **Every single person in this room was at least at one time:**
 - ◆ Considered to be WICKED in the eyes of God...
 - ◆ To be ungodly and unrighteous... to be sinners...
 - ◆ That is unless they have been made righteous...
 - [Let's finish by looking at the righteous](#)

➤ 2) Known by God

- ⁶ for the Lord knows the way of the righteous
 - The Lord Knows...
 - ◆ This is more than just knowing what we are going to do...
 - ◆ This is an intimate knowledge of the person...
 - ◆ This is a guarding knowledge... this is a leading knowledge
 - Yahweh Knows the ways of those who are His... the righteous...
- **But... Who are the righteous?**
 - Is there any righteous person?
 - ◆ Well... we already know that it is impossible to righteous...
 - ◆ Well... in and of ourselves it is impossible right?
 - ◆ Aren't we all sinners...
- **Well, let's look at an example of the Righteous from Psalms 32**
 - Psalm 32:1-11 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ² Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. ³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah* ⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah* ⁶ Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. ⁷ You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of

deliverance. *Selah* ⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. ⁹ Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you. ¹⁰ Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord. ¹¹ Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

- **Notice a few things here...** at the end of the Psalm this person is considered Righteous
 - ◆ But at the beginning of the Psalm he is hiding his sins...
 - ◆ Then he confessed them to God....
 - ◆ And God forgives them.
 - ◆ He is taught and instructed by the Lord... He is counseled by God...
 - ◆ The steadfast love of the Lord surrounds him
 - ◆ This person TRUST IN THE LORD...
 - ◆ He is then called righteous and upright in heart...

❖ Invitation

- Where are you?
 - Do you delight in the instructions of God? Have you trusted in Him? Have you made a break with the World?

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