

BLESSED  
IS THE MAN



# Psalm 1

*1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
Nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful;*

*2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.*

*3 He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither;  
and whatever he does shall prosper.*

*4 The ungodly are not so, But are like chaff which the wind drives away.*

*5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.*

*6 For the LORD knows the ways of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.*

## VERSE 1

*1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
Nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful;*

### WALKING IN THE COUNSEL OF THE WICKED – what does this mean?

**Walking** is an active thing that we do...we participate. The good thing is that we can stop walking or change direction whenever we want!

**Counsel** is advice...things that we could do, resources to use, or things to turn to. When you see a counselor you are looking to them for advice and guidance on how to deal with aspects of your life.

**Wicked** describes the intension of Satan...to hinder you and pull you off the right path. Basically it's anything that is not in keeping with God!

#### Example:

Have you ever had someone say to you *"I went and saw a psychic on the weekend...I think she could really help you...you should come and see her with me this weekend!"* I don't know about you, but that sounds like *wicked advice* to me! Now, if you had chosen to go along and see the psychic then you would be *walking* in the *counsel* of the *wicked*. Like I said, walking is active...we participate.

Everyday we are given advice from friends, the media, and product advertising, telling us what we need and how to get it. *Wicked counsel* is everywhere...but it only becomes a snare when we heed that advice and follow it! We are being warned not to listen to, or follow, the advice or persuasion of the ungodly. This would include anything or anyone that offers solutions, advice or behaviors that are contrary to the teachings of God. It's a trap....that will lead to the next stage.

### STANDING IN THE PATH OF SINNERS – please explain!?

**Standing**, like walking, is still active but depicts a more 'stance' approach; you have stopped in that place that you are standing in.

**The Path** is the way in which people live, what they 'stand' for, what they believe and how they conduct themselves

**Sinners** are those that are not following God and do not live in His ways; they may not be active 'counselors' as described earlier but they follow the way of the world...however they don't have to be actively 'swaying' you to be dangerous.

#### Example:

Thinking back to the psychic...Lets assume that you took your friends advice and went to see the psychic...you say, *"Ok, just once...I guess there's no harm in seeing what they do!"* So you go and find that your friend was right...she is good...in fact she was so good that your going to go back and see her next week! Get the picture?

It all started when you 'walked in the counsel of the wicked' – you took your friends ungodly advice...and now you are an avid believer of psychics and have adopted that into your life.

This section of passage is a progression from the previous...you have taken advice and are now doing what the sinners do. You may not even realize that it has happened but you have compromised!

## SIT IN THE SEAT OF THE SCORNFUL – I'm listening!

**Sitting** is a position that you have adopted...you have arrived at your destination and are now happy to sit down and 'just-be'

**The Seat** refers to the company of those people around you...people that you enjoy being with, and usually have the same walk, interests or values in life

**The Scornful** are people with attitudes; they will spit on anything that doesn't conform to their way of thinking

This is the final stage of your spiral downwards into Satan's hands. Once you decide to 'sit down' you have chosen your destination. You have been swayed, then participated, and now you are 'part of' them.

You have the same views, attitudes and morals and you sit with them and hurl insults at those that do not follow in your ways...usually at those who are where you once were. At this stage you become the 'counselor' that was described in the first section... leading people astray.

*Going from walking to standing to sitting is a dangerous progression and verse 2 tells us how to avoid that path.*

## VERSE 2

*2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.*

This part of the passage is the direct opposite to what is described in verse 1. A person whose '*delight*' is in the Lord does not look to either side for guidance or fulfillment.

### Example:

The word *delight* describes the state of the heart...when you delight in your children, your heart is filled with thoughts of them...you love to watch what they do, listen to what they say, and spend time with them...not a day would go by where you didn't greet them in the morning and kiss them goodnight. Sure at times you may be tired, sick or busy...but that quiet time with your child is what makes your heart smile and brings you comfort...it's something in life that you are sure about and look forward to.

Delight doesn't just mean knowing the Law and perhaps doing it...it refers to a connection and an understanding of the Lord and his instruction...it involves recognizing the necessity and the impact of His law in your life and what fruit it brings. The Word should be fact to you, encourage you, inspire you and excite you to move forward. The passage clearly points out that to do this, His Word needs to *consume* you...and to get to that point you need to fill yourself with His Word through 'meditating' on it 'all' the time. Let it be your guide as to what is good and what is not...that way you are not easily swayed by wicked counsel. When you spend all your time in His Word there is no time or opportunity to be swayed by others. But in contrast to verse 1...be prepared to be mocked and ridiculed by those that have already been swayed or have never known the delight that you have. They *will* try to bring you down!

## VERSE 3

*3 He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth fruit in its season; whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.*

This verse illustrates the life of the Godly, those that are not swayed, and those that truly delight in His Word. Let's have a look at the analogy...

**The Tree** is us – we are living, and require sustenance for life...real life to be what we were created to be

**Rivers of Water** is the Holy Spirit – note it's not a 'lake'... it's not stagnant...it's flowing, fresh and cool. Anyone knows that to drink from a fresh flowing stream is refreshing...but how many people would drink from a stagnant lake?

**Fruit in its Season** is the result from being sustained by the fresh water of the stream. If we are an apple tree we should be producing apples...luscious juicy apples...not small, unripe and sour fruit.

**Leaf shall not wither** describes our testimony...our lush, green leaves show how healthy the tree is and where its roots are...with such sustenance from the stream how could the leaves wither?

**Prosper** – the tree will grow big and strong, with its roots grounded strongly in the soil.

So if this tree was a Christian they would look a little like this...

1. They would be actively drinking from the Word of God and meditating on it all the time. His Word would be their source of strength, guidance, joy and fulfillment.
2. As a result this person will bear the fruit of the Spirit...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal 5:22-23).
3. Their testimony will be consistent and true to the Word of God. As long as they are planted in the Word of God they will bear good fruit and this will be their testimony.
4. Whatever they do in Christ will prosper. God loves a seeking and loyal heart...he wants to reward His children. Sure you may have earthly rewards...but your ultimate reward is in Him.

## VERSE 4-5

*4 The ungodly are not so, but are like chaff which the wind drives away.*

*5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.*

These 2 verses describe the consequences of the wicked.

**Chaff** is quite a descriptive word – it refers to the inedible, dry, scaly casing that has been separated from the seed. It is a byproduct of grain production often used as livestock fodder, ploughed into the soil or burnt. It is unsubstantial, without value and worthy only to be blown away by the wind or discarded.

That sounds a bit rough hey? But that's what God thinks of the ungodly! God has already decided that the ungodly will not be approved by His judgment...they will not see God.

## VERSE 6

*6 For the LORD knows the ways of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.*

### **For the Lord knows!**

This goes beyond the simple recognition that we are righteous before God...He says that He knows us! The righteous have an intimate relationship with Him and He is involved in their life. There is quite a stark contrast to what God says about the ungodly in Matthew 7:23

*And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness!'*

The way of the ungodly...that is, the course of one's life; their lifestyle...will lead to their destruction. Everything that is not of God will perish!

## Ask yourself these questions...

1. Have I taken advice from someone this week that is not in keeping with God's opinion? Or maybe you weren't sure about what God's opinion is...did you check it out first?
2. Can you think of something in your life now, which you might be battling with, that began because you once took advice or followed on a path that did not agree with God?
3. Think of someone or something in your life that you know you are easily swayed by. It doesn't have to be something that leads to the sin of *commission* but maybe the sin of *omission*?

Commission is the act of doing something against God's will.

Omission is the when you don't do something that God says you should do.

Both are sin!

*A good example here might be the TV...are you convinced that you need to watch your favourite show when you haven't yet had time to meditate on God? (Verse 2)*

4. Where are you getting your sustenance from...the flowing river or the stagnant lake? Maybe take a quick look at your branches...any luscious leaves? And remember, you may be able to kid yourself, and you could even kid others for a while, but you can't kid God...He *knows*, remember!