

[Psalm 1] Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

We all have choices to make.
Some not so important, Chocolate or Vanilla
Some very important, How do I please God?

What guides our choices? Feelings, emotions, what others are doing, knowledge.
What if we're uninformed? How good will our choices be?
Does it MATTER how we choose? Yes, it matters very much if we please God.

The Lord has given instruction on this, how to avoid making the WRONG choice!

Psalm 1, VERSE 1 - "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful"

Blessed – the result if we choose wisely.
Blessing is from God, the One who counts.

NOTE: This is NOT for doing some GOOD thing, like giving to the poor, it's not from works of righteousness we do, but from **avoiding** bad things.

However, it IS our Faith in God, demonstrated by our CHOOSING Him that creates the blessing.

The Lord describes 3 actions we can take, looking more closely at Verse 1:

Psalm 1, VERSE 1 - "Blessed is the man that **walketh** not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor **standeth** in the way of sinners, nor **sitteth** in the seat of the scornful"

It's our choice where we walk.

We **walk** usually because we WANT to go someplace.

Why do we want to go there?

Based on the counsel or advice we receive from others – good or bad.

The Ungodly are those not of or after God.

Why listen to them? – because WE want it – Eve

Genesis 3: 6 - And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

James 1:14,15 - But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

One obvious way to avoid temptation is DON'T GO THERE!

It's our choice where we stand.

Stand in way of is NOT like a lineman blocking the opposing players.

It's standing – not moving - Where sinners hang out, waiting for them.

Why stand? - Waiting for something, not sure which way to go.

That gives them time to influence us – rolling stone gathers no moss, stationary stones

1 Kings 18:21 – And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD *be* God, follow him: but if Baal, *then* follow him. And the people answered him not a word

It's our choice where we sit.

What happens when we sit with others – we talk.

Talk of what? The scornful talk disparagingly of others, those who don't believe as they do. A Jewish ruler's daughter was ill, he begged Jesus to come hear her:

Luke 8:52-53 - And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead.

Laughed him to scorn. They **KNEW** she was dead – their wisdom – not God's.

Jesus put them out – the scorners in the power of God.

Do we scorn? Or do we believe??

Do we believe God, or ourselves or others. Where is our Faith?

We'll have a blessing if we choose to avoid ungodly, sinful, scornful people because then they won't be able to lead us astray:

When we WALK.

When we STAND

When we SIT,

When else is there? During our idle time, which leads us to Verse 2

VERSE 2 - "But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."

If we don't choose GOD we must choose MEN.

What is it that will take us away from the temptations and enticements of Men? **GOD!**

And if we turn from ungodly, sinful, scornful men and choose to look to God - this is repentance! – turning our mind to God. Not just the physical action – **but in our mind!**

Delight in law of the Lord – we like it, we enjoy it, we thrill in it.

Meditates in that law, day and night.

A choice we make in our spare time. Ask, what do I do?

What delights us about God's law?

It's **RIGHTNESS**. The good it does others.

It's **Mercy** – gives us hope for ourselves and others.

What if we don't care for others?

Then it doesn't mean as much to us, which is why he tells us:

Love they neighbor as thyself.

What delights us? It's **goodness**, the benefit it brings to US.

Peace with God – present blessings, future hope.

Peace with our neighbor.

How do we obtain this? From God, as He also tells us in the NT

2 Tim 2:15 – “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane *and* vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness”

Study – God's word and we WON'T be ashamed. Shun the babblings of men.

2 Tim 3:15-17 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

If we realize we have been BOUGHT by the blood of Christ, we should certainly DELIGHT in God's word that tells us how we might be worthy of that blood.

Interestingly, what scriptures are these? OT, just as this Psalm we are studying. They aren't our LAW now, having been replaced by the NT, but still they can make us wise to salvation by building our faith in God.

Rom 15:4 - For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

VERSE 3 - “And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

Why a tree? A tree is Enduring, Living, growing, slowly but steadily. It's a landmark, it gives much to those around it. It endures hardship yet continues on.

Trees flourish with water, it's what God wants of us.

Trees brings forth fruit – it's duty, it's fulfillment.
In his season – at the appointed time,
Leaf not wither, leaf gives life to tree.
Whatever he does shall prosper – satisfaction of accomplishment.

If we read and study God's word, meditating on it, looking to GROW from it, to flourish, to bring forth fruit for our master – we will be blessed:

Matt 13:23 – But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth *it*; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

But REMEMBER! we have a choice ...

Matt 13:22 – He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful

We have a choice to make and if we have faith in God and choose Him we WILL be blessed in that choice:

2 Peter 1:3-4 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

His DEVINE power gives us this, How good is THAT! Do you see these are promises that will work on us according to the degree of our FAITH!

BUT WAIT! THAT’S NOT ALL!!!

2 Peter 1:5-8 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We can grow and be fruitful – guaranteed! Yes, we are BLEST!! Hallelujah! But ...

VERSE 4 - “The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.”

The ungodly LACK the things of God, they lack any goodness making them valuable – they are chaff, to be thrown away without a thought. He warns us of this in the NT also:

Eph 5:11 - And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*.

They have a choice, they choose to be blind and in the dark.
They choose not to follow God, they don’t obtain these things.
How reprove them? One way is BY OUR EXAMPLE that WE choose rightly.
Remember Darkness hates the light for it shows it what it is.
They may repent, and if not they’ll know it is just on Judgment Day.

VERSE 5 -“Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous”

Not stand in the judgment – Oh, they’ll be there all right, but they’ll be flat on their face! Without a leg to stand on, cut out from under them.

Matt 3:10,12 – And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. ... Whose fan *is* in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

The unfruitful in God's sight, are cut down, cast into fire, burnt up as worthless chaff

How do **WE** stand? **By God's GRACE:**

Rom 5:2 - By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

By our FAITH, our belief which we show God when we CHOOSE!

In HIS WORD!

1 Cor 15:1,2 – Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

Sinners are not in congregation of the righteous.
They may be sitting here, but that doesn't save you.

Men don't add to the church, the Lord does:

Acts 2:41, 47 - Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls. ... Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Don't fool yourself. The Lord knows His people, which is what he says.

VERSE 6 - "For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish. "

Lord knoweth the way of the righteous
He has laid out the path for us to CHOOSE to follow.
And He knows our hearts and whether we are really following, or just acting.

Yes, God knows the ungodly and they shall perish.
We can't hide or get past Him in the end without FAITH
A belief that directs our CHOICES, our ACTIONS, our STEPS.

INVITE

The most important choice we'll ever make is: Where do I want to spend eternity?

It's unavoidable, we all make this choice.

We all have an eternal soul that will either be in paradise – or torments.

There is NO middle ground.

We just can't do nothing because we ALL have sinned and because of that are denied being in God's presence.

However, God is merciful. He made us in his image.

He doesn't want any to perish – but that is what awaits ALL who do not take advantage of His grace.

Not making a choice, IS making a choice – a choice to DIE

Matt 11:28-30 - Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

Ed Kelleher, West Columbia church of Christ 9/11/2016