

Psalm 1

Two ways to live as a Godly or an Ungodly person.

The Book of Psalms means the **Book of Praises** it is a collection of songs and poetry from various authors. 73 of the chapters were written by David but the book contains writings by: -

- Moses
- Asaph who was David's choir master.
- Heman.
- Sons of Korah the priestly musicians.
- Solomon.
- Ethan.
- Jeduthun.

With various authors it's hard to pinpoint the Book of Psalms was written, so we place the writings between 1000 and 300 B C.

The purpose of the Book of Psalms is to praise and worship God, it covers every type of emotion or situation we have in life from the lows to the highs.

In my life through turmoil's and at times backslidden, the Book of Psalms always brings me out of the darkness of sin into a blubbering wreck repenting and seeking forgiveness of sin.

I always recommend the Book of Psalms to people in the same situation, telling them to read through the Psalms as a type of prayer reading. You either start from the beginning or open at any page. God will bring you to your knees as you plead for forgiveness and be restored and made right before God.

As I was brought up in the Free church of Scotland where they used to worship only with the Psalms, but now a days they do a mix with hymns like the old Church of Scotland. It is amazing to be part of congregational worship singing with the Psalms but also the same at home listening on mp3's, cd's or on YouTube. This is where the Holy Spirit lifts you up in worship and are overwhelmed in love, pouring out of your heart as you sing worshipping God.

So, let's get into the first Psalm and hear what God has to say to us.

Here we have the first book of the Psalms verses **1 to 3** of someone giving a personal testimony of their faithfulness relationship with God. They find happiness in avoiding the company of the wicked. We see verse **4 to 6** showing another part of how the

ungodly live their lives with no God. No authorship is given for this book, but the style is very like Solomon in Proverbs.

These are our two main outline points...

Verses 1 to 3 shows how the godly righteous faithful person lives.

Verses 4 to 6 shows how the ungodly unfaithful person lives.

First read verse 1 of our first point.

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.

- a. Here we have this person who is blessed, they have a joy, happiness and have a confidence and conviction to be faithful to God not listening to the ridicule that people try to discredit them.
- b. It is interesting Blessed here is not the same as in Psalm 32:1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed here in Psalm 1 is a right behaviour while Psalm 32 speaks of blessing from God's forgiveness. So, the forgiveness from transgressions in Psalm 32 makes it possible to live as a practical righteous faithful person.
- c. We read in Deuteronomy 28:1-14 that God will give divine blessings to the people of Israel on obedience to His Word, this person seems to be receiving the blessings and has a joy and a happiness in their nature.

We see in verse 1 there are 3 verbs which are action words which this person doesn't want to join in, with the company of people that are in their community or society where they live. We read **walks not - nor stands - nor sits**. You would think Israel being part of 'God's people' that they would have some holiness, but many were wicked.

Do you find that being a Christian we come under more ridicule from friends and close family that aren't believers, I think it is sad, but we must take a stand like this person without being too pious because people could see it as arrogance. We must remember Jesus and his Disciples were mocked and its part of being a Christian.

- a. **Walks** not in the council of the ungodly... they don't follow... This person doesn't want to walk or take worldly council or advice from the ungodly wicked people around him. They are non-Christian worldly views, it is like a conversation or debate with people who you meet at a club, in the street or online on Facebook/twitter etc.

It seems drastic, the measures this person needs to take, but with us today we can't help who lives beside us or works with us etc. So, in different situations we

need to be alert and be a proper witness for our Lord. In difficult situations use the term "WWJD What Would Jesus Do" in your life.

In the New Testament in Paul letter to Colossians 2:6-7 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. To have Christ in your life and as your Lord, to follow Him as you walk in His guidance, being rooted like a tree and built up like a building with good foundations, through His teaching in the Bible. Being strengthened as you mature in Faith. This will build you up in the barrage of ungodly views.

b. nor **Stands** he doesn't stand in the way of sinners... This person doesn't stand around with or keeps company with sinners, it is like he avoids situations or places where blatant sin is normal and could be tempted to join in. It could be visiting a pub with friends, with the more they drink the looser they get with their mouths and actions.

As we see in Ephesians 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Every morning when we wake up this should be part of our routine to put on the armour of God, this will protect us from evil sinners if we can't help avoiding sinners.

c. nor **Sits** he doesn't sit around with scoffers. This is a person that doesn't really socialise with others who ridicule and make fools of people, it is a nasty gossip. This could even happen even in a church coffee morning/afternoon and if you see or hear this behaviour you need to tell an elder of pastor because this behaviour could damage a church.

In 2 Peter 3:3-4 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. More towards the last days when Christ returns the scoffers will come more and more and mock and ridicule us saying that Christ won't come.

Now let's read verse 2.

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

His delight is his joy and makes him happy, it's not a burden as he meditates on the Law the first 5 books of the Bible written by Moses. As a child this person would have been brought up memorizing, reading and being taught these books.

Meditating day and night the Word of God is his life, to meditate he isn't emptying his mind like the false religions of Buddhism/Hinduism, this opens your mind to demons 1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. but he is filling his mind by reading and thinking on God's Word.

To illustrate this, it is like a cow chewing cud where the cow eats its grass and digests and then regurgitated from the stomach which is softened cud to re-chew and swallow again. This can happen for 8 hours a day chewing the cud and you might have heard the term "Chewing one's cud" meaning to meditate or ponder.

Isn't this such amazing devotion to the Word of God! The Bible should be part of our day and night, it is our only communication from God see Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. as we hear and listen to Him as we read from it. Try not to read the Bible for the sake of it, pray before you read that the Holy Spirit will help and teach you the things that God wants to tell you as it says in John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

It is a bad habit to go by feeling in that in your heart and mind you feel God is speaking to you, this is dangerous as it says in Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? So, when we pray or talk with God go to the Bible for the answer, if you feel deeply, He's speaking to you through your heart and mind, go to the Bible and see if this is Him speaking. Remember 2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Have the Bible as part of your life, just like your mobile phone where your connected to your social media. To read the Bible it takes around 70 to 80 hours to go right through. This is easily achievable over 3 months if you read for an hour. I at times have Books of the Bible on my mp3 to listen to while I go out running or long walks, it is an amazing experience when you have God speak to you out on the mountains. Also, you can listen in your car as you drive, it can be great for your family who are with you to discuss sections that God speaking to you or teaching on long journeys.

Lets read verse 3.

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.

In verse 3 we read *And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither;* in Jerimiah 17: 7, 8 it illustrates this verse well...

⁷ "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, And whose hope is the Lord.

⁸ For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.

It shows us that those who avoiding the company of the wicked and spend their time in God's Word, they will flourish like trees whose roots are deep and not worried about droughts on hot humid days. It is like here in Scotland where we have Evergreen trees the leaves or needles on them never wither all year round through different seasons.

We see the tree has been planted it is like us we are planted, were born into the world as sinners but now Born Again Christians and growing like a tree by the river learning, growing and producing fruit by being in God's Word.

The end of this verse reads *and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

This word prosper here doesn't mean that as Christians we are protected from problems in our lives nor is it part of the false teaching from a sect of false teachers who teach the prosperity gospel or word of faith movement.

It means when we apply by faith verses 1 and 2 avoiding worldly advice, mocking attitudes and sinful behaviour in our lives we will be blessed and prosper.

Point 2

As we go in to the 2nd point of this message it shows how the ungodly unfaithful person lives, as the author mentions back in verse 1.

In verse 4 we read.

The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

We see the opposite of the blessed godly person it is the type of people he scorns and doesn't want to be in their company. *The illustration he gives about the chaff which the wind drives away, it seems that author has had some knowledge of arable farming with dealing with the harvesting of crops. The chaff are the useless bits of broken straw and seed shells of the crop that are winnowed or blown away.*

Verse 5 goes further and to finish of this Psalm and presses the fact that, *Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.* This verse could be confused with the judgment day in the end of time, but the author is speaking about his own congregation or assembly where the leaders or elders were involved in dealing with conflict issues in its community.

Just like in any church there are people who infiltrate and sometimes a nominal Christian who is a non-believer and hasn't been born again. It is sometimes these people who can do damage to a church with worldly views and living. A good church needs a good discipline ethos to deal with various issues.

These nominals or even confused Christians are like the chaff, they are weightless and are swept away, If the elders stand firm, these people won't be acquitted of their ungodly behaviour at the time of judgment or decision.

So, the ungodly sinners won't have company among the congregation or the godly people.

In **verse 6** we conclude *For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.* For the Lord knows the way, in that God is INVOLVED in the persons walk through good and bad times, guiding and caring and shepherding them.

And he warns at the end that the ungodly shall perish. They will perish for all eternity in Hell, and God doesn't want this to happen to anyone today, living ungodly lives. You see God is holy and righteous and He hates sin. He can't bear sin or a sinful person in His presence. We are all sinners, spiritually dead and deserve the judgment of God.

That's why He sent His son to live a sinless life here on earth, that we have hope of eternity in Heaven. If Jesus wasn't sinless there would not have been any need for the sacrifice of sin upon Jesus on the Cross.

From the sin of Adam and Eve, death came into Gods perfect world that he created for mankind. Through the sin of Adam and Eve the whole of mankind was born into sin and that is why God sent his only son Jesus into this world who was sinless. He lived here a perfect and sinless life, so that He was put on the cross and took the punishment for our sins.

After He took the punishment and died on the Cross, three days and three nights he was in the heart of the earth and He rose from the dead. This giving proof in which was foretold in scripture and which Jesus himself prophesised that he was the Son of God.

So, you have a choice today either to become the Godly or an Ungodly person, I hope you will take time to ponder this chapter and ask God for repentance and put our faith in Jesus because He died for our sins. As you receive the supernatural new birth and have a personal relationship with Him. You like the writer of this Psalm can live a godly life pleasing to God.