

Psalm 1

Psalm 1 is about a blessed man. "Blessed is the man." Psalm 1 sets before us the life of this blessed man and in setting before us the life of the blessed man shows what is in the blessed man's heart.

What do we see in the life of this blessed man? We see some wonderful, wonderful things. In the life of this blessed man we see that he does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly. The picture is a group of ungodly men who have their heads together, all planning and all making their counsel and their plots for how they can overthrow Jehovah, for what wickedness they can perform. And this blessed man does not walk in their counsel. He doesn't put his head together with them. He does not delight in the plots and the plans that they make.

We see about this blessed man also that he does not stand in the way of sinners. The picture here is of a group of sinners who have a way. They have a path in this world. And the way and the path of these sinners is the way and the path of wickedness. It is the path of disobedience, so that when the law of God says to them, "You may not walk that way, but you must walk this way," those sinners say, "We will not have the way of God; we will walk our own way." And this blessed man does not stand in the way of those sinners.

We see also that this blessed man does not sit in the seat of the scornful. And here the picture is of a courtroom; and there is a seat, a judgment seat, where men sit to judge other men. These wicked in that seat of the scornful scorn and mock at what is right and true and good. They scorn and mock at God's law. They scorn and mock at God's people, and they make all their judgments out of their scorning and out of their hatred of the law of God. But this blessed man does not sit in the seat with the scornful. He will not stay in that wicked seat of judgment.

This is a blessed man, who does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly nor stand in the way of sinners nor sit in the seat of the scornful.

What does this blessed man do then, if he does not gather with the wicked? The delight of this blessed man is in the law of the Lord. He loves God's law. God's law makes him joyful. God's law makes him happy. He loves to consider that law of God. In fact, he meditates in that law all day and all night. The only thing before his mind when he wakes up is the law of God. The only thing in his thoughts as he falls asleep at night is the law of God. On the law of God he meditates day and night, for that law is this blessed man's delight.

And God says about this blessed man that because he obeys God and because he loves God's law, this man is blessed. This man's blessing, all of the good things that God gives to him, are given to him because of his obedience. And God blesses him indeed. Take a look at this blessed man again. He is like a tree planted by the rivers of water. Imagine a river running through a beautiful field that is ripe with its crop, and right by the side of the river there is a tree. That tree is growing tall and strong. That tree has beautiful leaves on it. The leaves on that tree are not withered and ready to fall off, but the tree is healthy. There is no disease in the tree. It bringeth forth its fruit in its season. It never misses a crop. Year after year, season after season, day after day, this tree stands strong and blessed and healthy. That is the blessed man. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water.

And even more, this blessed man has a place to stand. His place to stand is not in the counsel of the ungodly. His place to stand is not in the way of sinners. His place to stand is before the face of God himself. By implication in verse 5, the blessed man stands in the judgment and in the congregation of the righteous. When Jehovah God sits on his throne to judge all men, this blessed man comes right into that judgment seat of Jehovah God. He stands before Jehovah God with all of his life laid bare and open before the eyes of him who sees the heart; and he is not condemned by God, but he stands in that judgment. He also abides in the congregation of the righteous. In that gathering of the people of God, those people whom God loves, this man stands right in the center.

That is the blessed man. That blessed man can only be one. That blessed man is Jesus Christ. He is the blessed man who does not stand in the way of sinners, who does not walk in the way of the ungodly. He is the blessed man whose delight is in the law of the Lord. All his life upon this earth, that blessed man loved the law of God. He meditated on it day and night. That law was in his heart. That law was his meat and his drink. All he wanted to do was what God said to do. And so much was that law of God in his heart that he became obedient even unto the death that that law requires for sinners. Jesus Christ himself did not sin. The law could not say to him personally regarding his life, "You must die for your sin." Jesus Christ took upon himself all of the sin and the curse that is ours. He stood under the law with its accusation against sinners and bore that accusation and that curse for us. The Lord Jesus Christ is the blessed man who loved the law of God and in his love and delight of that law became obedient unto the curse of the death of the cross.

That blessed man flourishes. Do you see him? Do you see him by faith as he makes himself known in his gospel? Do you see him with the eye of faith as he shows himself in his word? He is beautiful. He is lovely. He is a flourishing tree. He never withers. His strength never fades. Season after season he bears the fruit of salvation and joy and peace for his people. Whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. In all that he does from God's right hand, he prospers, and all his works prosper, so that God is glorified and his church is saved.

That is the blessed man. What a contrast with the ungodly. The ungodly are not so. They are not like that blessed man. The ungodly, who have their counsel, who have their way, who have their seat—those ungodly God judges. Those ungodly are like the chaff. Here again you must imagine that field that was ready for harvest, with the beautiful tree by the side of the river that runs through that field; and now that field is harvested. All the grain is taken in, and that grain must be separated from the chaff that sits around the kernel of the grain. As that wheat or grain is threshed, all of the chaff, like a great cloud, gets picked up by the wind and billows out over the field and blows away. You can't find it anymore. It's all gone. That is what the wicked are like: the chaff which the wind driveth away. And when the judgment comes and they stand before the judgment seat of God, they shall not stand. The blessed man stands there. Those wicked men stood in their own counsel and sat in their own seats. They have no place in the congregation of the righteous.

But Jesus is the blessed man.

And what about you, and what about me, as we who, because of our corruption and fall in Adam, sin? We who do not have God's law as our chief delight all the day, meditating on it day and night? We who sometimes find ourselves with the same thoughts and the same plots as the wicked? What about you, and what about me? Listen to the blessedness that the man gives to you. For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish. God says there is a way, a way that God knows, a way of blessing for his people. That way is the blessed man. That way is Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life. The way for God's people to blessing, the way for God's people to happiness and to heaven and salvation, is not all of the folly and the wickedness of man; but that way is Jesus Christ alone. The Lord knoweth that way, which means that the Lord set that way. The Lord determined that way. The Lord gave that way, so that your salvation and blessing is of the Lord.

What a blessed man is Jesus Christ, and what a blessed thing it is that the Lord knoweth our way in him.