



Sermon, Sunday November 7, 2021 “The Way of the Righteous”

SCRIPTURE: Psalms 1:1-6 ¹Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; ²but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night. ³They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. ⁴The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. ⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; ⁶for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Introduction: We need wisdom and humility to listen to the word of the Lord.

Last week I preached on the benefits of the Bible to us and our attitude toward the Word of the Lord. In conclusion, quoting the words of Psalm chapter 1, the greatest blessing we enjoy is to draw close to the word of the Lord, read and meditate on the word day and night.

Today's text tells us who the blessed are. The blessed people in today's text are those who have enjoyed blessings from the past, those who are enjoying the joys of the present, and those who will experience happiness in the future.

Also, today's text tells us what we must not do and what we must do in order to be in a 'blessed state'. We pay attention to, listen to, and rely on worldly knowledge in our daily lives, but we often fail to pay attention to the wisdom of the Lord's Word. If we want to enjoy true peace and rest, we must have the wisdom and humility to listen to the word of the Lord.

Next, let's look at what we must do and not do to be in a blessed state.

Body: What we must do and not do to be in a blessed state

1. What we must NOT do to be in a blessed state

Today's text, Psalm 1:1 says: “Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;”

This verse shows us the process by which people fall. At first, people listen to the advice of the wicked, and draw close to them and what they say. After all, they are with the evil one and share with the evil one.

But why do people listen to the advice of the wicked? It is because the close relationship with the Lord has been cut off. We can discern and communicate the Lord's will through prayer and the Word. However, when we neglect to pray and read and meditate on the Word, we listen to worldly wisdom.

In other words, when we neglect our relationship with the Lord or our relationship with the Lord is cut off, we become interested in worldly ways to satisfy our selfish greed regardless of the Lord's will. And furthermore, we stand with sinners and sit in the seat of the arrogant.

So what are the consequences of the wicked?

Let's look at verses 4-6 of today's text. “The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. (v.4) Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the



righteous; (v.5) for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. (v.6)"

This verse describes the wicked as being like chaff to be distinguished from the wheat in the harvest. The wicked are not entitled to intimate fellowship with the Lord. Also, no glorious future is given to the wicked.

So, how can we stay in a blessed state? It is a life that delights in the law of the Lord and meditates day and night.

2. What we must do to be in a blessed state

Today's text Psalm 1:1-2 says, "Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night."

As these verses show, when we begin to follow the advice of the wicked, our lives begin to go downhill. But what is best for us begins with our delight in the law of the Lord.

So, who is it that delights in the law of the Lord? It is the one who knows the value of the words of the Bible. **Psalm 19:7-10 says: "The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb."**

Also, the word of the Lord is a gift given to those who are chosen by the grace of the Lord. **So Psalm 147:20 says: "He has done this for no other nation; they do not know his laws. Praise the LORD."**

The words of the Bible are given by God to the people of the Lord, and the words of the Lord are more precious blessings than the material abundance and satisfaction we experience in our lives. Also, the Word of Lord makes us realize what our calling is and enables us to do it.

Today's text says that the blessed ones meditate on the word of the Lord day and night. Do we meditate on the word of the Lord day and night? Or are we living well without any problems even if we do not read and meditate on the word of the Lord? Also, are we experiencing the value of the Lord's word sweeter than a honeycomb?

But what is clear is that the full blessings of the Lord are with those who meditate on the Lord's words day and night. **So, today's text verse 3 speaks; "They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper."**

Like this verse, the word of the Lord always provides for our needs. Also, the word of the Lord makes our lives prosperous.

But, why do we not often experience the power of the Word and its riches? It is because of our pride. Our proud heart prevents the Word from working with power in us. Conversely, if we meditate on the word of the Lord day and night and rely on the Lord, the word of the Lord is with us with the power to defeat the pride within us.

Conclusion: Let's experience the joy and power of the Word.

Now let's summarize today's sermon. The word of the Lord guides us on the path of the righteous. Also, even if our life is in the midst of suffering, we can be restored from suffering through the word of the Lord and live in the light of life. Before the cold winter in Iowa comes, I pray that we may all enjoy the word of the Lord and meditate on it day and night to receive the full blessings the Lord has given us.

