



“Blessed Is The Man” - Psalm 1

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21:15

The Book of Psalms is such a wonderful blessing to us as a church. It is home for many of us. It's home to some of our favorite Bible passages. I often like to describe the book as giving words to the emotions that we feel. Right? When life hits, when life gets difficult, when things get heavy in all kinds of different spaces and all kinds of different ways. The Psalms just, they have words to describe what we're feeling. There's times when I'm happy, and I'm thankful that the Psalms help me reflect that back to God. There's times when life just kind of hurts, and I don't really know what to say.

21:56

And I can read a Psalm and I can, you know, it's going to say exactly what I'm feeling, and it's going to give me words to say and to pray when I don't maybe have the words to say how I'm feeling. I love the fact that the Psalms reflect our emotions even when we struggle to communicate them ourselves. I also love how it serves to kind of guide and inform our emotions. It doesn't just help us express our emotions, but it gives us direction when our emotions just kind of need a little steering, need a little direction. We can come to the Psalms with our emotions, and oftentimes it helps to reshape our emotions into a more appropriate response instead of just the anger or the fear or the...whatever it is that we might be feeling.

22:44

Let me just give you one example of this. We're going to see it all through the series all summer long. But in Psalm 42, if you look at verse 3, what we see is that the writer's heart is just broken, right? He says very poetically in Psalm 42:3, my tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all the day long, where is your God? But just two verses later, he instructs himself. He kind of speaks to his own soul. He's doing a little soul care here, but it instructs us as well. In verse 5, he says, soul, why are you downcast, O my soul, why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise him, my salvation.

23:24

The Psalms are going to do that for us over and over and over again as we study through them. They don't only reflect the realities of life, but they also teach us how to respond in those moments. And the Psalms are, this Israel's worship book. This is their hymn book, right? The Psalms were originally written by many of the worship leaders of ancient Israel. King David wrote several of them. We've also got several other worship leaders who are identified as writing different bits and pieces of the Book of Israel. They give us poetry, they give us lyrics, they give us the ability to express emotion on behalf of God's people, right? Collectively, we can sing many of these as we just did this morning.

24:07

I don't know if you noticed it or not, but every single one of our songs that we've sung so far this morning or are going to sing to close, come directly from the book of Psalms. The Psalms have helped God's people to worship the Lord appropriately in all kinds of various ways. And I want to start by kind of laying the foundation for this series by saying that the Psalms absolutely have God's truth in them. Right? They absolutely are inspired, are breathed out by God in the same way that all the other scriptures are. They have timeless truths that we can find inside of this book.

24:45

But if were to ask, was the book of Psalms written as an intellectual exercise, is this given to us just to teach us

and instruct us on how to think correctly and how to understand some things about God. I would answer that by saying absolutely not, right? The Psalms guide us in truth, not just knowing what is true in our heads, but ultimately in worshiping in spirit and in truth, with our heads and our hearts. We worship a true and a living God. He's not a creature of our own imagination. I don't get to decide what my God is like. Have you ever heard somebody say, well, my God is loving, or my God is kind, or my God...we don't get to do that, right?

25:29

God is not my God in a sense that I get to shape him or form him or make him into the Barbie doll dressed up just the way that I want him to be. God is who he is. The truth of God is what guides our response to Him. That's why Jesus said in John chapter 4 in his conversation with the woman at the well, he said in John 4:23, that the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. For the Father is seeking such people to worship him. It says, God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth. And we've got this balance that is important for us in our worship. And I think the Psalms do a good job of instructing us in that.

26:16

The Psalms rightly guide us to understand God for who he is in all kinds of different ways. But they also, they guide our hearts, they guide our spirit, they guide our emotions and our responses as we come to God through all of the ups, and all of the downs that life brings our way. So, I hope this series is going to be a blessing to you. I just wanted to kind of provide a little introduction. We're not going to take the whole morning this morning and focus on introduction, because I wanted to dive into Psalm 1 this morning that we're going to look at in just a minute. But I hope, my prayer for us for this summer is that this summer, this series, it's going to take us on a brief guided tour through the Book of Psalms.

26:58

We're not going to go chapter by chapter, verse by verse, like we usually do. We're not starting at 1 and making our way to 150. That would take us longer than we've got this Psalm summer, right?

27:10

So we're going to kind of take a curated tour through the Book of Psalms. But I hope that this will teach you about the Lord, not just your heads, but that it'll teach your heart. That it'll teach you in all of the different ways of how we need to respond in all of the different circumstances of life. It'll help us to walk through the good times and the bad times, the scary times, the anxious times, all of the different moments that life brings. The Psalms have instructions for how we should respond in those things. And so as we dive in this morning, we're going to start in, seemed like a good place to start, we're going to start with Psalm 1. It seemed like the place that we needed to begin.

27:52

And so Psalm 1 really kind of is going to frame our discussion for the rest of the summer. It's going to serve as the foundation for everything else that we do. I believe that Psalm 1 gives us roots, it gives us a foundation, and it kind of serves as the, as the banner that's going to fly over all the other Psalms that we're going to look at. Psalm 1, essentially, if I could kind of boil it down, it's about the fact that the person who loves and follows God's instruction will prosper. Wherever they find themselves in life, whether man or woman, young or old, if we follow God's instructions, if we walk God's path the way that God has told us to, things are going to be better for us. It's going to talk about the blessed man this morning.

28:37

And so I want to get started. And as we get started, some preachers like to ask you a question to kind of pick your interest as they start their sermon. So, I know that some people enjoy doing that, right? Every once in a while you'll find a decent preacher that does that. But I'm going to give you three questions this morning as we work our way through Psalm 1. Now, I'm not gonna say that makes me three times the preacher that people who only ask one question might be, but, I love Dave. So, Psalm 1 talks about this blessed man and what we're gonna see all the way through Psalm 1 that we're gonna look at this morning. This is our outline. These are the three questions that we're gonna try to answer together this morning.

29:18

Talking about this blessed man, we're gonna ask the questions, what does he love, what does he enjoy, and what does he avoid? And so we're going to read through Psalm 1 together as we get started. Hopefully you've got it there in your copy or you can follow along on the screens as I read Psalm 1. Starting in verse 1, it says, Blessed

is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers, but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree that is planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. But the wicked are not so.

30:01

They are like the chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore, the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. This is the word of the Lord. Would you pray with me? God, we want to thank you this morning for your indescribable word. God, for your perfect word that you have given to us, that is breathed out and inspired. And, God, as we dive into the book of Psalms this morning, God, as we start our summer series that is going to hopefully benefit us and instruct us not just on how to think, but, God, on how to feel.

30:39

God, that you would instruct us on how to respond when the emotions of life just become really heavy or become really confusing or, God, we don't know what to do. God, I pray that the Psalms would give us words for our emotions. God, that it would give us instructions that we would, in the same way that David or the other Psalm writers often do, God, that we would be able to speak to and instruct ourselves in these moments, God, that we would be able to settle our soul. God, that we would remind ourselves that our hope is in you. And so this morning as we dive into this series, God, I pray that you would teach us to walk the blessed path. God, that we would follow you all the days of our lives.

31:19

And God, that we would learn to love your word and love how you have instructed us as we go through the moments and days of life. God, we give this time to you, and we pray that you would use it as you see fit. It's in Jesus name we pray. Amen. All right. Well, the first question we've got to answer this morning is, what does the blessed man love? So right at the beginning of this passage, we get this picture of an ideal man. This ideal man is blessed because he lives this perfect, sinless lifestyle, right? Verse 1, it says, Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers. We have this man described here in verse one who avoids sin. That sounds excellent, right?

32:04

Every one of us is perfectly avoiding sin in every moment of every day, right? Well, verse 1, it kind of poetically echoes three different times, three different ways how this blessed man is careful to protect himself from sin and how he loves God's better way. Now, I think it's good for us to acknowledge here, none of us does this perfectly. We don't do that. Right? There is only one man who perfectly has walked not in the counsel of the wicked, who does not follow that path at different moments in life, and that is Jesus. That is the perfect son of God who came and lived among us and showed us ultimately how to fulfill God's perfect plan for our lives. But verse 1 is describing this ideal person who loves God and who is able to avoid the sinful things in this world.

32:57

So let's talk about this theoretical person for a minute, this ideal man, for just a few minutes. So, as we look at verse 1, there's three different ways that this same verse echoes the same statements, right? That the path of sin must be avoided. And so it says it three different ways. And the first way it says it is that this person does not walk in the counsel of the wicked. Now, I think there's kind of a progression through these three poetic statements of how the person avoids the path of evil. The first one, it says that he does not walk in the counsel of the wicked. I think this is the beginning of the dangerous path. I think this is where we often see people. And maybe this will resonate with you.

33:41

Maybe you'll even be familiar with this some in your own lives. But I think that first step, where we begin to walk in the counsel of the wicked, it begins by identifying with sin. It's the moment where we start to allow sinful influences to have a voice in our lives. Maybe you laugh at sin in certain movies or certain TV shows. Maybe you listen to music or have friends who celebrate sinful things. And it's not something that repulses you. It doesn't cause you to step back and to have fear or concern. It's just something that we laugh at. It's something that as just a moment, an everyday occurrence in life. Perhaps you even admire or idolize people who celebrate sinful things. The path of sin starts here, but it doesn't end here.

34:32

Because after he says that blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, he says, he

continues that the man also does not stand in the way of sinners. That means that you're not only careful to watch or admire sinful behavior, but as we continue down this path, we not only observe from the outside, but we begin to join in. You stand in the way of sinners. The word way that is used here, the way of sinners, it refers to a lifestyle. This is a regular path that you participate in, that you follow through life. The sinful habits that you started by just watching from the outside become your habits. They become your practices. They become things that you not only sing about, but that you participate in.

35:20

As we continue down this path, finally we come to the last place that verse 1 mentions. It says that the blessed man does not sit in the seat of scoffers. This is full blown rebellion. This is not only a person who watches sinful behavior, not only participates or identifies themselves with sin, but now they are actually at the point of aggression against good that they begin mocking or attacking what is right. That they have so ostracized and alienated themselves from the right thing that obeying God or doing the right thing actually comes under their attack. And we've all seen this at one point or another in life, right?

36:00

Maybe it's 20 or 50 or however long ago it was that you were in Middle School 20 years ago, where you look back and you remember someone who made fun of a person because they were doing the right thing. Oh, you're just a goody goody. Oh, you...of course you do what the teacher tells you to do. You know, we would make fun of that on the playground. Maybe you see it today as you look around in society, right? Maybe it's at the giant parade that celebrates abortion. Maybe it's a protester at a political rally who is celebrating the murder of a father and a husband. When a person continues down this path, not only does evil become a part of who they are, but good becomes something for them to laugh at and joke about.

36:49

The entirety of verse 1 focuses our attention on this ideal man who refuses to walk this path. Who refuses to walk in this sinful path and rather than celebrating, rather than joining in with all the sin that surrounds him in this world, he turns his affections in a different direction in verse 2. Psalm 1, verse 2, it says, Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers. But verse 2 it says, his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. I think there are two ways that we see this little combination of verses kind of playing out practically in the world, right? The first thing that I see here is the clear Gospel correlation that we see.

37:39

We see very clearly that there are wicked people and that there is ultimately a blessed person, a blessed, perfect, righteous man. And it is necessary for any of us, for all of us who would ever hope to have eternal life or to be good ourselves, we need to follow Jesus first, and we have to start there by knowing who Jesus is and having a relationship with him. But as we look at these verses, I think we also see a very clear walking in the flesh versus walking in the spirit connection that Paul talks about in Galatians, chapter 5, right? The comparison that we see here in Psalm 1 between the wicked and the blessed on opposite sides of this equation. I think each and every one of the Christians in the room today, we would disappointedly admit, right?

38:25

None of us are excited about this, hopefully, but we would all admit that it's too easy for us to fall into this counsel of the wicked. That we find ourselves on the wrong path more often than we would like to admit. We get lazy, we get just apathetic in fighting against things in life. And all of a sudden, it's so easy for us to look up and to say, how did I end up here? Right? Why is this somehow funny to me? How did I ever let this happen? Sin is such an enticing path and such a difficult path for us to avoid. But there is a reality that exists that we can avoid that. Walking in the flesh is not our only option.

39:07

Because while it may be the natural option for us, it is not the only option that is available to us. When we are in Christ, walking in the Spirit, living according to what the Holy Spirit would lead us to do. And walking in obedience to his desires is absolutely available to us. We have the freedom to obey in Christ. We walk in the Spirit like Paul talks about. And when we walk in the Spirit, the way to do that, the way to overcome sinful and wicked influences that so often crowd in around us in life, is so. I love this. It's so simply stated here in verse 2, right? It really is as simple as verse 2 makes it sound. What does it say in Psalm 1, verse 2?

39:50

It says that the blessed man, his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. The description of this blessed man or blessed woman that we see here in verse 2, it gives us a picture of a person whose affections, a person whose heart is firmly focused on God. The abundant life that Jesus talked about in John chapter 10 is found in Psalm 1. It's found in this path that Psalm 1 is instructing us to walk in. That God's blessings come when we walk the path that he has laid out for us.

40:31

That when we walk in obedience to what he has said in His Word, when we find joy in reading what the Bible has to say and doing what the Bible tells us to do, that is a blessed path for any of us to walk in. Now, let me just say this, now this is just my opinion, right? I couldn't back this up with a Bible verse as I was digging around a little bit this week. So, this is just experience that I've got of kind of looking at conversation after conversation that I've had as a pastor over the last couple of decades. I have never met a spiritually mature or a spiritually healthy person. Right? Just opinion, not inspired. I have never met a spiritually mature or a spiritually healthy person who does not read their Bible regularly.

41:19

Let me say that again. I have never met spiritually mature or a spiritually healthy person who does not read their Bible regularly. I can tell you conversation after conversation of people who have come in and said, you know, Drew, I just don't feel like God is present in my life. I just, I don't feel like I can hear from God. I don't know what God wants me to do. I feel like God has abandoned me. I feel like my prayers are just bouncing off the ceiling. I feel like God's just not there. And I'm going to give you a little behind the scenes tip here. If you come to ask for a conversation and you want to come sit in my Office.

42:01

I'm happy to sit and talk with you, but here's the first question I'm going to ask you when you come in and you share that hypothetical statement that I just made. How's your Bible reading going? Because as simple as that sounds, as simple as that seems for us to just kind of summarize and start there, I think Psalm 1:2 is kind of telling us that is exactly where we need to start. That the blessed man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, who does not stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of scoffers, the blessed man delights in the law of the Lord, delights in the word of God, and on his word, on his law, he meditates day and night.

42:49

The blessed man, right, who is mature, who is going to experience the blessings that we're going to see in verse 3 and walk in the path that I think all of us are hopefully striving towards. A person who grows spiritually mature is a person who loves God's word. If you want to grow spiritually, if you want to avoid sin, if you want to love God more, read your Bible, right? As simply as that is stated, I believe it is absolutely true. If you sit here and you say I don't hear from God, but you don't ever go looking for what God has to say, I don't know how to help that. We can spoon feed you every single Sunday and there's something appropriate in that, right?

43:43

When we're little, I think every single one of us at some point heard the words here comes the airplane, right? That the food is being spoon fed to you and there's something appropriate about that. Nobody ever looks at a one year old or a two year old and begrudges the fact that they can't feed themselves. But if you looked at me as an almost 40 year old man and I couldn't feed myself and my wife was saying here comes the airplane. Every time we go out to dinner somewhere, that's going to be a little more concerning. That's going to indicate to you that there is something that is not mature and self-sufficient in me. That there is something that is not fully developed in me and that is not someone who is physically healthy, right? The same thing is true for us spiritually.

44:31

If you only come and pick up your Bible and dust it off so you won't be embarrassed by the dust that was on it collecting all week and you come to church on Sunday morning and you consider what God has to say for 30 minutes in your week, you're going to be spiritually malnourished at best, right? But the path that God invites us to, the blessed path, is the one where the blessed man loves the word of God, delights in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. If you want to love God more, read your Bible. Make it a habit. Be diligent to hear from God every day. Let me just say this. If you want to grow in your faith, start reading your Bible. Not just today, not just tomorrow, right?

45:20

Anybody can do something and have it not make a difference in the first time that you do it, but do it for a year. Do it for 365 days, and then come back to me and tell me how your relationship with God has changed over the last year. I guarantee you the word of God is going to accomplish things in your life that you never saw coming. That you will absolutely grow in your faith in ways that you never thought were possible before. Our goal is not just to read the Bible, to master the content, to master what the Bible has to say. The reason that we read the Bible is so that the Bible can master us.

45:59

That the Bible would shape us and create the person that would walk in the path that God has for us to walk. When we read it, when we apply it, when we. When we let the Bible change us and make a difference in our lives. It's the foundation for everything else that we're going to talk about. If you flee from sin, Verse 1, if you flee from sin, and verse 2, if you love God's word, there are benefits that Psalm 1 lays out for us that we're going to see here in verse 3. So the blessed man, what does he enjoy? Right? We first looked at what does he love? But now let's answer the question. What does he enjoy?

46:36

What do these blessings look like practically in the life of a man or in the life of a woman who loves God and flees from sin? Verse 3. That blessed man is like a tree who is planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season. Its leaf does not wither in all that he does, he prospers. Now, let me just. I'm going to pause here for just a minute or two and talk about the benefits that are clearly mentioned here. So the first benefit that we see here mentioned in verse 3, is that this blessed man who avoids sin, runs from sin and loves God's word. He's described as a man who is planted like a tree by streams of water. This is not a person who just dances haphazardly through life with no direction, with no purpose.

47:24

This is a person who is intentionally planted where they are supposed to be. Not only are they intentionally planted where they're supposed to be, but they can rest in knowing that God has determined their steps. Like the Book of Proverbs talks about that in a man's heart he charts his course, but God is the one who actually sets his steps. We can rest in the fact that God puts us in the proper place to accomplish his purposes in our lives. Not only that, but when we are planted by streams of water, we're planted in a place where we can be fed and nourished and cared for. That we have everything that we need to not only survive in life, but to thrive, to flourish where we're planted.

48:07

You know, it feels so easy in life to get overwhelmed and to wonder if God has forgotten about us when life gets hard. Anybody ever felt that before? Why is life so hard? It feels like God has just taken his hands off the wheel and just let me wander off the road into wherever it is that the car was going to take me. It feels so easy to get overwhelmed and to wonder if God has forgotten about us. But when we are planted by streams of water, when we are rooted in the word of God, when our affections are stirred up for him, like verse 2 talks about when it says that he delights in the law of the Lord. What happens in those moments is that we realize that God is what Psalm 73. Sorry, that's skipping ahead a little bit.

48:54

But that we realize that God is what Psalm 73 describes him as. Psalm 73, verse 26. One of my favorite verses, that we find in the Book of Psalms. It says, my flesh and my heart may fail. Anybody ever felt that before? Feels like there's just nothing left in you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. He's enough even when you're not enough, God is enough. Even when you're not strong enough, God is strong enough. Even when your heart and your flesh fail, God is the portion that carries us through. He is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. The way that happens is when we are planted firmly by the stream of water that is able to safely and healthily water us and feed us day after day.

49:53

The blessed man not only is like a tree that is planted by streams of water, but that he also continues in verse 3, he yields fruit in its season and his leaf does not wither. I think that's a beautiful promise that God is going to make us fruitful and productive. Yeah, I was talking to someone this past week and I was talking about and kind of celebrating and bragging on God and just I thought it was cool. So I was talking with them and now I'm going to share it with you. It is so freeing when we realize that it is not our job to manufacture spiritual results.

50:26

When you realize that it's not your job to try hard enough and to have just the right words to be able to manipulate or steer or create something in your circumstances, to create some sort of response in your spouse or your kids or someone that you're sharing Jesus with or whatever it is. When we realize that it is not our job to manufacture results. The Bible describes our job, our responsibility is simply to follow the commands that God has given us and to be faithful to do what he has told us to do. When we realize that it is God who brings the results, it is so freeing. When you stop trying to do God's job and you just try to do yours. What a blessing that is, right? It's what Paul was talking about in 1 Corinthians, chapter 3.

51:21

He's talking about how he has gone out and shared the Gospel. And he says, you know, I planted, but Apollos came on and he watered. But ultimately it was God who gave the growth. It was God who brought the increase. We don't create results for God. We simply live where he tells us to live. We simply do what he tells us to do. We are simply to be faithful in the things that he has told us to do and to be. And he is the one who brings healthy leaves on our tree. He is the one who brings fruit and produces fruit in our lives. Like verse 3 mentions, that we can be a tree that is planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season and its leaves do not wither.

52:04

Lastly, it says in verse 3, the last benefit mentioned here is that in all that he does, he prospers. Now, I wrote a little note here in my own just for me, but I'm going to share it with you anyways. It said, be careful here, right? If I let a little bit of that Southern accent sneak in here, this can sound an awful lot like a Joel Osteen message. In all that you do, you prosper. Let me just, let me clarify this for a second. That is not saying that everything is going to go perfectly your way. This is not saying that you are going to be happy and healthy and wealthy. This is not saying that you need more money, like the old Hillsong pastor would argue and say in his book titled, you need more money, right? Here's what it does mean.

52:53

Here's what it does mean, that when the blessed man is planted by streams of water, that in all that he does, he prospers. The Hebrew word that is translated as prospers here means to succeed, to accomplish the work that you set out to do. So that maybe that does mean wealth, maybe that does mean success in some earthly venture. But I think, more importantly, I think what it means is that we are going to succeed in doing the work that God has given us to do. Right? It's the same principle as when Jesus instructed his followers to whatever you ask in My name, it will be given unto you. That was not a magical tack on phrase that we always just pray in Jesus name, Amen at the end. And then God has to give us whatever we ask for.

53:40

Anybody ever prayed for a Ferrari in Jesus name, Amen? The parking lot still has Hondas and Toyotas in it. You forgot the magic phrase. When we pray in Jesus' name, what he's saying is, no. When you align your will with mine, when you ask for something in the way that I would ask for it, when you set your heart and your mind and your desires on my heart and my mind and my desires, when we are in lockstep, when you are asking in the way that I would ask, you are going to accomplish whatever it is that you set your mind and your heart to.

54:17

I think what we see here is that when we are planted in the Word of God, when we delight in the Lord and we delight in His Word, when we are shaped by who God has instructed us and commanded us and invited us to be, that we will succeed in what we set out to do because what we set out to do is going to be what God has for us to do. Oftentimes, like we just saw over the last year in the Book of Acts, God is going to work in our lives in all kinds of interesting ways. All kinds of ways that maybe aren't comfortable on the surface, God is going to use us to prosper us through difficulty sometimes, through suffering sometimes, even through maybe humiliation sometimes. That doesn't mean that God has not prospered us.

55:09

That means that God is doing exactly what he wants to do and that we are here to serve him, not the other way around.

55:17

God is not here to serve our needs like some genie that we found the magic lamp and rubbed just the right way. God is telling us that our desires will align with his and that our success in our work that he gives us is going to be granted because he is the One who's calling us to it, and he is the One who's going to empower us to do it. These blessings are ours in Christ. When we love God, when we love His Word, when we obey his ways, these

blessings are readily available to us that verse 3 mentions. But what else does this psalm say? What about the dangers? What about the pitfalls? What about the potholes that exist in this road when we're on this path?

55:58

Well, I'm glad you asked, because the last question for us this morning is, what does the blessed man avoid? In verses 4, 5 and 6, we see the psalmist contrast the blessings of godliness with the futility of the wicked. Look at verse 4. It says that the wicked are not so, are not like the blessings that were just mentioned in verse 3. The wicked are not so, but they are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore, the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. Now, I don't want to spend a ton of time here this morning because I know that there are no wicked people that are here today. Right? All of you are perfect, righteous, godly people.

56:44

But let's just talk for a minute or two about the contrast that we see here in Psalm 1, right? And the difference between the blessed path and the wicked's path. What does Psalm 1 say about the wicked, about those who practice evil? Well, it describes them as being like chaff that the wind blows away. The psalmist writes this picture out. He kind of uses this illustration that would have been a common picture, a familiar explanation to the ancient reader. But I don't think there's a lot of farmers in the room here with us today. So let me just give you the 10 second version of what he's talking about. After they would go out and harvest a field, after they would gather up all of the grain, they would take it in and they would crush the wheat.

57:29

And they would do that to separate the kernel from the rest of the husk, right? The heavier kernels were used for food. They were what you could actually eat and benefit from. Meanwhile, the lighter husk, once it was stripped away, it was just trash, right? It was just a byproduct that wasn't used once they got the true wheat that they needed in order to make bread and grains and different things. So what they would do, they would crush the wheat and then they would take it and they would toss it up in the air. And the heavier, useful kernels would fall back to the ground. Meanwhile, the wind would come along and would blow the chaff away. It would blow all of the extra junk and it would just carry it away in the winds.

58:12

The wind would carry off the lighter husk or chaff while the kernels were going to remain there on the ground, be useful to be collected and used for food. In comparison to this blessed man that Psalm 1 is talking about, this solid, firmly planted tree who was planted by streams of water, that blessed man who loves the word of God. In contrast, the wicked are described as chaff that is going to blow away in the wind. He has no root to hold him steady, that he is tossed to and fro by the winds of life. The wicked are compared to chaff, right? The useless byproduct of the process, weightless. Without roots, the wicked will be blown away like chaff. Verse 4 also tells us that the wicked will not stand in the judgment or in the congregation of the righteous.

59:10

When the wheat grew in the field, the chaff and the kernel, they grew together, right? It's one plant as it grows. And when harvest time comes, the kernel was separated from the chaff. And the exact same thing is true in this life. The end result of evil, the end result of the wicked may not be apparent in this life. If you've ever sat back and watched evil people prosper. People who were manipulative get the promotion. People who seem to do everything wrong and stand for all the wrong things seem to succeed and to prosper in life. The reality is that this life is not the separating ground. The end result, though of evil, of wickedness. It may not be apparent in this life, but one day it will be.

01:00:03

When judgment day comes, God is going to separate the righteous from the unrighteous, the sheep from the goats, the wheat from the chaff. Even though it seems like evil is allowed to exist or maybe even prosper often in this life, that's not always going to be the case. A day of judgment is coming when every deed will be revealed, when every wrong thing will be made right, every action will be given its proper payment right, its proper reward. Good for the good and bad for the bad. God is being patient today. But a day is coming when all accounts are going to be settled. So what hope do we hold onto as we finish all of this up today. In a room full of people sitting here, there are plenty of us who have done evil and wicked things.

01:00:51

Anybody in the room ever done the wrong thing, responded in anger before? That was me yesterday, right? Over...and I was just. There were moments yesterday that I was just at the end of my rope and I didn't respond

right sometimes. That happens for all of us. Right? I'm not going to ask you to raise your hands because we don't need to. If you've ever walked in the way of the wicked, I think there's... I think there's encouragement here for us today. Maybe you're sitting here thinking, well, I'm a good person, right? I don't do that. I'm not a wicked person. I'm not an evil person. No, no, no, no. Okay, time out, right? Jesus' sermon on the Mount kind of sets the bar at a place that I think is really challenging for all of us. He sets the standard pretty high.

01:01:41

Anybody in the room ever looked with desire at a man or a woman who was not your husband or wife? Jesus says that you've been unfaithful to your spouse in that moment. The Bible calls you an adulterer. If you've ever harbored bitterness or hatred towards someone. Jesus in Matthew, in his Sermon on the Mount, he says that is the same root sin that leads to murder. That that is the same thing. And so the Bible would call you a murderer. If you've ever stretched the truth or maybe just not told the whole truth before. Well, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, James says to him, it is sin. You're a liar. Right? We don't have to go far down this path. All of us belong on the wicked path. All of us deserve the evil end results.

01:02:29

Makes me a little nervous when I read Psalm 1. How will we stand in the judgment that is coming for all of us that verse 5 just talked about? We're all in trouble if we have to stand before God on our own merits. But the good news and why we're sitting in church this morning is that Psalm 1:6 gives us the final answer that is going to help us in the coming test. Psalm 1:6, it says, for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. You ask the question, what separates the righteous from the wicked? It tells us in verse 6 that God knows the way of the righteous. The reason that the righteous flourish is not simply because of what they do, it's because of who they know, or rather, who knows them.

01:03:15

When we know God, when we have a relationship with God, there is only one righteous man who has ever perfectly fulfilled what Psalm 1 is talking about. That's Jesus. That's Jesus himself. God made flesh, who came and put on human flesh and lived among us. It is God incarnate Jesus Christ. The only way that we are made acceptable in God's sight, the only way that we will be able to stand on Judgment Day, is when we align ourselves with Him. That we don't stand before God and say, well, I did... you're already in trouble. The only answer that we have on Judgment Day is, I'm with him, right? I'm with him. When we align ourselves with Jesus, when we know and follow Jesus, the Bible describes us as knowing God and that God knows us. Jesus said it in John, chapter 10, verse 14.

01:04:08

He said, I am the good shepherd, I know my own, and my own know me. We know God, but that God also knows us. We have to start there. This isn't a psalm about just being a good person. This starts with being a righteous person. And that righteousness is only available to us in Jesus Christ. So we have to start there, right? Are you in Christ? Now, if you are, if you're sitting here this morning and that is you, right? I know Jesus so what does this morning have for me? Let me just encourage you. Let God plant you by streams of water that you would be rooted and established in Him. Delight in the Word of God, like verse 2 mentioned. Fix your mind.

01:04:54

Let your affections be stirred towards God by His Word, by music that is written that turns our eyes towards God instead of away from God, right? Find ways that you would be filled with the knowledge of God and filled with what God has to say and not just turned away from it in all the different directions that are so readily available to us. Delight in the Word of God. Psalm 1, verse 2. This blessed man, his delight is in the law of the Lord. And on his law he meditates day and night. Fruitful, blessed, prosperous life is available to us if we are anchored and rooted in Christ. The only way that we do that is by chasing after him in the Word of God. By knowing what God has for us. And so my hope, my prayer, my desire for this summer, right?

01:05:49

One of the key reasons why we're doing this whole series and we're going to wrap up with this. My hope for this psalm series is that it would teach you that it would show you the beauty of God's Word. That it would show you what a privilege it is. That in all the moments of life, that in the good, the bad and the ugly, that in every bit of it, that God's Word has something for us, that God's word is enough. That God's word is sufficient. There is a fruitful, blessed and prosperous spiritual life that is available to us if we are rooted and built up in Jesus and his Word. My hope for us is that, like Psalm 1 says, that this summer we would be rooted like a tree that is planted by a stream of water. So let me pray for us.

01:06:46

We're going to close out. Our prayer team is going to be down here after the service is over. They'd love to pray with you, with whatever it is that you've got going on in life. We've got our prayer wall out in the back hallway. You can write those prayer requests down and leave them there as well. But let me. Let me pray for us now as we close. Let's pray. God, we thank you for the privilege of being able to open your Word and to be able to hear the words of life that are made known to us, that you have breathed out and inspired and given to us that the man of God might be complete, that we might be sufficiently equipped for every good work.

01:07:20

God, we pray that as we talk about these two paths, God, these are our two ultimate paths, right? That those who are in Christ and those who are outside of Christ are ultimately walking on. But God, even in the life of a Christian, God, every single day we wake up and we have the choice to either deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow you today, or to lay our Bible on our nightstand, to get up and to think, what do I want to do today? What do I think is best in this situation? What do I want? God, teach us to be people who are planted by streams of water, who are planted and have deep roots in your word.

01:08:03

So that when the storms of life come, that when things go sideways, that we wouldn't be uprooted and thrown into the fire. God, that we wouldn't be just tossed around by the storms that are going to come. God, we pray that you would teach us to. God, to be stable, to be steadfast, to be deeply rooted in your word. That we would be prepared to stand firm. God, we need you. Do your work in us. Teach us to love you and to love your word. It's in Jesus name we pray. Amen