

“Where Is Your Tree Planted?”

Psalm 1:1-6

Introduction: Psalm chapter one is divided into two parts. We have the godly man and we have the godless man. The first half of the psalm gives us picture of the saint, the second half gives us a picture of the sinner. God sees but two persons in this world: the godly, who are in Christ, and the ungodly, who are in Adam. The theme of this psalm is the happiness of the godly and the judgment of the ungodly.

1. The Godly Man Psalm 1:1-3
2. The Godless Man Psalm 1:4-6

- Two Men – The first Adam and the last Adam; Cain and Abel; Ishmael and Isaac; Esau and Jacob; David and Saul; etc.
- Two Ways – The broad way and the narrow way Matthew 7:13-14
- Two Destinies – The rich man and the beggar Luke 16:19-31

Body: In the example of the godly man, we see:

1. A Person who is Separated from the World Psalm 1:1
2. A Person who is Saturated with the Word Psalm 1:2
3. A Person who is Situated by the Waters Psalm 1:3

➤ Notice John 14:6:

1. The Way John 14:6- “...*I am the way*...” Psalm 1:1
2. The Truth John 14:6- “...*the truth*...” Psalm 1:2
3. The Life John 14:6- “...*and the life*...” Psalm 1:3

I. The Godly Man’s Positioning Psalm 1:1- “*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. Walking Psalm 1:1- “*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly...*”

1. The Christian life is compared to a walk. It begins with a step of faith in trusting Christ and it grows as we take further steps of faith in obedience to His Word. Walking involves progress, and Christians are to make progress in applying Bible truths to daily life.
2. It is possible for the believer to walk in darkness, outside the will of God.

B. Standing Psalm 1:1- “...*nor standeth in the way of sinners...*”

1. Abraham stood in the way of sinners when he went down to Egypt and told Pharaoh that Sarah was his sister.
2. Lot stood in the way of sinners when he listened to the king of Sodom instead of the king of Salem.
3. Peter stood in the way of sinners when he warmed himself at the world’s fire and denied the Lord Jesus Christ.

- C. Sitting Psalm 1:1- “...nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”
1. Scornful – “to scoff, to mock, the act of despising, to esteem worthless”
 2. The ungodly man has his counsel; the sinner has his way; and the scornful has his seat. The ungodly, sinful, and scornful with cause you to go from walking to standing to sitting.
 3. The blessed man avoids the seat of the scornful; he avoids the classroom of the atheist and humanist who delight to shred the faith of the Christian.
 4. Modern psychology tells us to emphasize the positive, but God begins by emphasizing the negative.
 - a. God begins this book not the with power of positive thinking, but with the power of negative thinking.
 - b. The blessed man is marked by things he does not do, the places to which he does not go, the books he does not read, the movies he does not watch, and the company he does not keep.
 5. If Christians start listening to the counsel of the ungodly, they will soon be standing in their way of life, and finally will sit right down and agree with them.
 6. If you follow the wrong counsel, then you will stand with the wrong companions, and finally sit with the wrong crowd.
 7. 2 Peter 2:8- “(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)”
 8. When laughing at holy things and disobeying holy laws become entertainment, then people have reached a low level indeed. (Warren Wiersbe)
- D. We are in the world but we should not be of the world.
1. Friendship with the World James 4:4- “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”
 2. Spotted by the World James 1:27- “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”
 3. Loving the World 1 John 2:15- “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”
 4. Conformed to the World Romans 12:2- “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
 5. Condemned with this World 1 Corinthians 11:32- “But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.”
- The Godly Man:
1. Does not Listen to the Ungodly Man Psalm 1:1- “...walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly...”
 2. Does not Linger with the Sinful Man Psalm 1:1- “...nor standeth in the way of sinners...”
 3. Does not Laugh with the Scornful Man Psalm 1:1- “...nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”

- II. The Godly Man's Pondering Psalm 1:2- *"But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."*
- A. His Delight in the Word Psalm 1:2- *"But his delight is in the law of the LORD..."*
1. He was Directed by the Word Psalm 1:1
 2. He was Delighted in the Word Psalm 1:2
 - a. His delight is not in the world, but the Word.
 - b. What we enjoy is what we pursue.
 - c. The way we treat the Bible is the way that we treat Jesus Christ.
 - d. He has a different counselor than the ungodly man, a different company than the sinful man, and a different cause than the scornful man.
 - e. He does not listen to the words of the scornful, but to the words of the Scriptures.
- B. His Devotion to the Word Psalm 1:2- *"...and in his law doth he meditate day and night."*
1. The people God blesses not only read the Word daily, but they study it, memorize it, and meditate on it during the day and night.
 2. Meditation is not disengaging the mind from thoughts. It is activating our mind to muse upon the Word of God.
 3. Our attitude ought to be:
 - a. 1 Samuel 3:9- *"...Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth..."*
 - b. 1 Samuel 3:10- *"...Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth."*
 4. When we read our Bible we ought think: Is there any sin here for me to avoid; Is there a promise for me to claim; Is there a victory to gain; Is there a blessing to enjoy; Is there a new truth to see; Is there something new to learn?
- III. The Godly Man's Planting Psalm 1:3- *"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."*
- A. His Personification Psalm 1:3- *"And he shall be like a tree..."*
1. The most important part of a tree is the hidden root system that draws up water and nourishment, and the most important part of the believer's life is the spiritual root system that draws on the hidden resources we have in Christ.
 2. Mark 11:12-13- *"And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry: And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet."*
 3. Mark 11:20- *"And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots."*
- B. His Placement Psalm 1:3- *"...planted by the rivers of water..."*
1. His Desire for the Word Psalm 1:2- *"But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."*
 2. His Desire for the Water Psalm 1:3- *"...planted by the rivers of water..."*
 - a. In Scripture, water for drinking is a picture of the Spirit of God, while water for washing pictures the Word of God.
 - b. Thirst for water is a picture of a thirst for God. Where does the tree desire to be and be rooted at?

- c. Alexander Maclaren- “Religion lacks depth and volume because it is not fed by hidden springs.”
- 3. Notice the placement of trees beside the water in the Scriptures.
 - a. Ezekiel 47:7- “*Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other.*”
 - b. Revelation 22:2- “*In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*”
- 4. The tree sends its roots down deep into the soil. It has a deep, hidden life.
- 5. This tree is planted by the rivers of water. The droughts which bring bleakness and barrenness to others do not affect him.
- C. His Production Psalm 1:3- “*...that bringeth forth his fruit in his season...*”
 - 1. If there is no root there will be no fruit.
 - a. Too many people are more concerned about the leaves and the fruit than they are the roots, but the roots are the most important part.
 - b. The tree does not eat the fruit, others eat it.
 - c. God blesses us that we might be a blessing to others.
 - d. Genesis 12:2- “*And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:*”
 - e. 1 Chronicles 4:10- “*And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.*”
 - f. Keep in mind that the fruit has seed for more fruit.
 - g. Fruit comes from life.
 - 2. There is the fruit of soul-winning, giving, service, and praise.
 - 3. The tree will bring forth his fruit *in his season*. There are times for fruit-bearing and there are times for rest. So long as we are abiding in the Spirit we need not worry about the fruit. It will come in its season.
- D. His Perpetuity Psalm 1:3- “*...his leaf also shall not wither...*”
 - 1. There are evergreen trees and deciduous trees.
 - 2. The evergreen trees are not affected by the winter or the weather, they are always the same.
- E. His Prosperity Psalm 1:3- “*...and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*”
 - 1. Everything in his life will prosper.
 - 2. His family life, business life, church life, personal life, everything.

Conclusion: Our question now is where is your tree planted? Do you have your tree by the waters or do you have your tree by the world?