

Psalms for the Soul Blessing

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Class work

***Name some things that
you consider blessings?***

Our approach.

1. ***Psalms that tell us of MERCY. (Psalm 123)***
2. ***Psalms that tell of God's PROTECTION. (Psalm 121)***
3. ***Psalms that tell us of PRAYER. (Psalm 3)***
4. ***Psalms that tell of God's BLESSING. (Psalm 1)***
5. ***Psalms that tell us about LOVE. (Psalm 36)***
6. ***Psalms that tell us God's MAJESTY. (Psalm 97)***
7. ***Psalms that tell us of PEACE. (Psalm 120)***
8. ***Psalms that tell of God's WORD. (Psalm 119)***
9. ***Psalms that tell of the MESSIAH. (Psalm 110)***
10. ***Psalms that tell of WORSHIP. (Psalm 89)***
11. ***Psalms that tell of PRAISE. (Psalm 145)***

Psalm 1

1 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither.

Whatever he does prospers.

4 Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

6 For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

NIV

Two Ways

- ***Psalm 1 is a study of two approaches to living life.***
- ***There is God's way (long term view) and man's way (short term view).***
- ***Each way has its appeal, but one is a far wiser choice than the other.***



Two Ways

- ***Each person will make their own choice with regard to how they will approach life.***
- ***The way that they choose will have both immediate and eternal rewards and consequences.***
- ***God allows us to chose one way or the other, but he does not allow us to choose both.***



Two Ways

- ***Some might ask, “what about worldly Christians, have they not chosen both?”.***
- ***There may be some Christians who are living with a mixture of both ways, but they are not blessed on either path.***
- ***Those who try to live in both worlds are not content in either.***



Ps 1:1

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. NIV

- ***Nearly all of the translations use 'blessed', but the Hebrew word 'esher' means 'happy'.***
- ***The psalmist is going to tell us that this thing called 'happiness', that everyone seems to chase, is easy to find.***
- ***It is found when we reject the world's approach to life and embrace God's approach.***



Ps 1:1

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. NIV

- ***Notice also the verb tense; the verb 'is' means now, presently, and at this time.***
- ***The promise of happiness is a current reality to all who choose God's way over the world's way.***
- ***This is probably why the translators elected to use 'blessed' over 'happy' because 'happy' does not seem to apply to those who followed God's way and met persecution.***



Ps 1:1

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. NIV

- ***There is a progression to the instruction if you want to be blessed.***
 - ***Don't live (walk) your life by ungodly advice.***
 - ***Don't stop (stand) and give the world's advice equal weight with God's word.***
 - ***Don't sit down and join in with the ways and advices of those who think they have a better way than God.***

Ps 1:1

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. NIV

- ***The progression is also a warning to us.***
- ***If we begin to live by the world's advice we may soon find ourselves stopping to consider their message fully.***
- ***If we stop to consider the world's message fully (giving it equal weight with the Word) then we just might find ourselves sitting down with them in their rebellion.***

Ps 1:1

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- ***Remember, there is war in progress for your affections and for your soul.***
- ***The enemy, the world, and the flesh are all aligned against your well being.***
- ***When we allow ourselves to be enticed and drawn in, we run the risk of becoming a casualty in the war for our soul.***

Ps 1:1

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. NIV

- ***If you want to be happy, don't listen to the world's advice on how to live a godly life.***
- ***The world may be able to provide good legal, medical, mechanical, and technical advice.*** (this in itself is evidence of how awesome God fashioned us)
- ***However, the world has nothing to say about how to live a godly life; it's a foreign concept to them.***



Ps 1:2


2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. NIV

- ***The child of God finds the Word of God a preferable path.***
- ***The law of the Lord in Psalm 1 is the Torah; the first five books of the Bible, but certainly applies to the completed scriptures as well.***
- ***At our new birth, we were given a desire for the Word of God, but as we develop as Christians our desire for the Word is not necessarily equal amongst all believers.***



Ps 1:2

2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. NIV

- *I believe it is fair to say that a deep desire for the scriptures is an acquired taste.* 
- *Too often we consume the Word as though it were a medicine for our ailments as opposed to a vitamin to prevent the onset of disease.*
- *It is sweet to the taste, but can be hard to digest fully unless we consume it with regularity.*

Ps 1:2

2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. NIV

- ***Day and night in the word? How does that happen?***
- ***Memorize it so that wherever you are you can recall it, consider it, and have it speak to you.***
- ***Hebrew word (hagah) is also used to describe a cow chewing it's cud.***



Ps 1:3

He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. NIV

- ***Well watered trees are healthy and fruitful.***
- ***Trees that are planted by streams of water have a constant source of water and are almost certain to bear fruit.***
- ***The application for us is to drink in the water of the Word consistently and we will be fruitful.***



Ps 1:3

He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. NIV

- ***Trees planted by streams of water have deep roots.***
- ***Deep enough to survive seasons of drought.***
- ***Deep roots also serve to anchor us when the winds of adversity blow.***

Ps 1:3

He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. NIV

- ***There is perhaps nothing else in the Christian life that is so essential for bearing fruit as being in the Word.***
- ***There is something so powerful about the Word of God that just passing it through our mind changes us.***
- ***If you read God's Word for thirty days it will revolutionize your thinking as much as not reading it for thirty days will weaken your thinking.***



Ps 1:3

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- ***There is a promise for us that if we will spend time in God's Word that we will be fruitful Christians.***
- ***It is one of several simple strategies that helps us to fulfill our mission.***
- ***Reading the Word of God will change your thinking and priorities in ways we never imagined.***



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- ***I have never met a Christian who did not want to be fruitful; it's one of the things we were saved to do.***
- ***The fruit that God expects is godly character that leads to godly service that leads others to Him.***
- ***Spending time in the Word will help to make us fruitful Christians.***

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- ***A warning; reading and studying the word without a desire to see the lost come to Christ makes us educated believers who are in danger of judgment.***
- ***The more we know the more is required of us.***
- ***It is possible to know all of the people and stories of the bible and still not know the author.***

Ps 1:3

He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. NIV

- ***Do not grow frustrated if you read the Word and fruit does not immediately appear in the volume that you expect.***
- ***The tree planted by the waters bears its fruit in its season.***
- ***Fruit bearing takes time, stay in the Word and fruit will come in its season.***



Ps 1:3

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- ***Part of the blessing upon us as we follow Jesus is a prosperous life.***
- ***Health and wealth? Maybe.***
- ***Peace, love, and joy? Definitely!***
- ***How we define prosperity matters.***




Ps 1:3

He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. NIV

- ***Shame on the radio and TV preachers who tell us that God wants all his children to be rich and in perfect health.***
- ***Evidently the Apostle Paul missed that class on how to do that.***
- ***And Jesus must have skipped class that day too because he told us that it can be a blessing to be poor.***

Ps 1:3

He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. NIV

- ***How silly for us to sing “this world is not my home, I’m only passing through” and then measure our success by the world’s standards.***
- ***The prosperous life is the godly life.*** 
- ***That’s the life that reaps eternal rewards and treasures that won’t rust, fade, or be stolen away.***

Ps 1:4

***Not so the wicked! They are like chaff
that the wind blows away. NIV***

- ***Chaff is that husk around a kernel of wheat that needs to be discarded.***
- ***Not even east and west, or black and white, are as different as the righteous and the ungodly.***
- ***When the truth is known about these two ways there is barely a contest as to which way is better for us.***



Ps 1:4

***Not so the wicked! They are like chaff
that the wind blows away. NIV***

- ***Who are the ungodly?***
 - *The nice person who is kind to animals.*
 - *The little ole lady who is kind to children.*
 - *The man who volunteers at the fire station.*
 - *The woman who cleans her elderly neighbor's house.*
 - *The teenager who gives their time to the local food bank.*

Ps 1:4

***Not so the wicked! They are like chaff
that the wind blows away. NIV***

- ***Sometimes the ungodly are easy to spot; the drug dealer, the child molester, and drunkard.***
- ***But, the ungodly are in all parts of society and life. They are literally everywhere, even in church sometimes.***
- ***They are all those who never give God a second thought and therefore never come to know Him.***



Ps 1:4

***Not so the wicked! They are like chaff
that the wind blows away. NIV***

- ***Now the tough part; we were once a part of the vast group known as the ungodly.***
- ***Reading of their fate ought to motivate us to reach them somehow, some way.***
- ***If we, the blessed people of God do not want to bring the ungodly to Jesus, then we really don't know him as well as we might think we do.***

Ps 1:5-6

5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. 6 For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. NIV

- ***The agony of these verses is that those who reject Jesus are doomed to a judgment under which they will not be able to stand.***
- ***They are on that path that leads to destruction and it's all we can do to begin to fathom what it will be like for them at death.***

Ps 1:5-6

5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. 6 For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. NIV

- ***And so it comes full circle; those who trust Jesus are in a position to be blessed.***
- ***Part of our potential for blessing is tied to our desire to see the ungodly, who are as worthless as the chaff on wheat, come into a blessed position.***

The Blessed Life

Of all we might desire and wish for ourselves from our Father, I think perhaps the greatest and surest blessing is this; the confidence that comes from knowing that anything God does not spare us from he will lead us through.

The Blessed Life

- ***Ps 32:2 Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. KJV***
- ***Ps 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD: and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance. KJV***

The Blessed Life

- ***Ps 34:8 O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusts in him. KJV***
- ***Ps 41:1-2 Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. KJV***

What do you think?