Psalm 1

Intro: Our study will be centered on Psalm 1. We have introduced for us two ways of life. The line drawn between them is not blurred. There are two ways, walked by two classes, toward two destinies; Mat. 12:30 “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.” Even as we have a broad and narrow way; Mat. 7:13-14 “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

I. THE WAY OF THE GODLY AND BLESSED

A. Psa. 1:1-3 “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. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 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.”

1. How is the godly man happy?
2. What path does the godly man take.

B. Separation; Verse 1

1. He shuns some things. There is a negative side to happiness and it does not make him unhappy to say away from these.
2. Evil advice.
   a. Listening to Satan leads to sorrow.
      (1) Eve learned this.
      (a) Gen. 3:1-6 “Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? 2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. 6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”
      (b) They were cast out of the Garden of Eden.
      (2) Eph. 5:6 “Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.”
   b. Today there are many which try to tell us how to live.
      (1) Do what brings the most pleasure.
      (2) Do your own thing.
      (3) Col. 2:8 “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceipt, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”
3. Evil associates.
   a. 1 Cor. 15:33 “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.” the ASV: “Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals.”
   b. We must be careful about our choice of companions. Evil one’s lead to lawless living.
c. That is why we are to have a fellowship one with another.

(1) John 17:21 “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”

(2) 1 John 1:3 “That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

4. Evil advocates.

a. We must never allow ourselves to become a scoffer of sacred things.

(1) Mat. 12:36-37 “But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. 37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”

(2) Eph. 4:29 “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”

b. Careless speaking comes from godless thinking; Thus:

(1) 1 Cor. 2:11 “For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.”

(2) Phi. 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

C. Satisfaction; Verse 2

1. This can be seen in:


a. He delights in the law.

b. Psa. 37:4 “Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”

c. Psa. 119:47 “And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved.”

d. He can rejoice in God’s Word when he turns down the counsel of the ungodly.

3. Appropriation of it to himself.

a. He meditates in it.

b. The things of this life would not satisfy his soul.

c. Jos. 1:8 “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

d. He knows the Word.

D. Stability; Verse 3

1. This is what the conduct of verses 1-2 produce. His life is:

2. Fruitful.

a. There is fruit when the season for such comes around. You can depend on him.

(1) Mat. 13:8 “But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.”

(2) Rom. 7:4 “Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.”

(3) 2 Pet. 1:5-8 “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance
patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

(4) Gal. 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

b. Instability would never allow this.

3. Flourishing.
a. The freshness and vitality of life are there.
   (1) John 1:4 “In him was life; and the life was the light of men.”
   (2) John 10:10 “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

b. There is consistency there; 1 Cor. 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

c. The reason is that his roots go deep.

II. THE WAY OF THE UNGODLY AND HOPELESSNESS.

A. Psa. 1:4-6 “The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.” This way leads to:

B. Sure Rejection; Verse 4

1. There will be a separation between the godly and ungodly. The separation is seen as the chaff, which is worthless and is:

2. Divided from the wheat.
   a. Since the chaff is worthless, it must not be allowed to remain with the wheat.
   b. Evil will not continue with the good for it has no part with it.
   c. The Bible clearly teaches a coming separation.
      (1) Mat. 25:31-46 (especially vs. 32-33 “And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: 37 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.”)
      (2) 2 Cor. 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”
      (3) Gal. 6:7-8 “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

3. Driven by the wind.
   a. He is an illustration of the instability of the ungodly.
   b. What a contrast between the stability of the godly who is as a tree planted by the water.
      (1) Psa. 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.”
(2) Eph. 4:14 “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;”

c. The ungodly becomes the victim of almost every changing circumstances.

C. Shameful Reproach; Verse 5
1. There is a time coming when he must face up to his way of life and when it comes he will have nothing.
2. No foundation for his conduct.
   a. Mat. 7:24-27 “Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”
   b. 1 Cor. 3:11 “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”
   c. 1 Pet. 2:4-8 “To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, 5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, and a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.”
   d. There will be no way for him to maintain or justify his cause.
   e. He will be eternally condemned.
      (1) Mat. 25:41,46 “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:... 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”
      (2) Rom. 2:8 “But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,”
      (3) Phi. 3:19 “Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.”
      (4) 2 The. 1:6-9 “Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; 7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”

3. No fellowship in the congregation.
   a. His place will not be among the righteous for he will have shown himself to be ungodly.
   b. The godly has separated himself from the evil.

D. Sorrowful Ruin; Verse 6
1. The way he has walked will leave him without:
2. Approval.
   a. The Lord knows and approves the righteous.
      (1) John 10:14 “I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.”
(2) 2 Tim. 2:19 “Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

(3) 2 Tim. 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

b. But this is not so of the wicked; 1 Pet. 3:12 “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”

3. Assistance.
   a. Whereas God will assist and give aid to those who serve him.
   b. The godless will follow his path alone.

Conclusion: We begin with a happy note and end on a sad one. The difference is between the two ways described.