

SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS

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INTRODUCTION

- Every true Christian desires passionately to have the blessedness of a life affirmed by God. Who amongst us wants to walk under the curse of God's disapproval? Not one. Too often we fail to notice positives because we're overwhelmed by the negatives. Perhaps the reason why we tend to see the troubles more than the blessings is because we're not really blessed! Instead of standing in the showers we're sitting in the fog. But God has given us instruction on how to tap into His exhaustless reservoir of blessing. Would you like to know how? Good. Then turn with me to the first chapter of Psalms.

This Psalm not only forms the basis to the collection but also summarizes the two ways open to mankind, the way of the righteous verses 1-3 and the way of the wicked verses 4-6. With this being said we now draw our attention to verses 1 and 2 where we find the righteous and their "Source of Blessedness"

I. THE WAY OF THE RIGHTEOUS (Vs. 1-3)

"Blessed /s 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.
But his delight /s in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate
day and night." (Psalm 1:1-2, KJV)

1. THEIR SOURCE OF BLESSEDNESS (Vs. 1-2)

- A. What is Blessedness?** – Verse 1 begins with the phrase "blessed is the man"; a phrase used 13 times in the Bible. A person who is blessed has a joyful confidence and security in God. He or she doesn't worry fear or despair, but lives in a state of happiness. Circumstances, like tumbling walls can be crashing down on every side but they flinch not because they trust in God, "who has blessed [them] with every spiritual blessing..." (Eph. 1:3)

This is what God desires each of us to have. But there are conditions to this blessedness. And compliance to these conditions will most certainly bring the showers of blessings into your life! Verse 1 gives detail to the first condition.

- B. The Duty of Omission** - Reading from verse 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." The first condition is quite plain. Select your company with caution. Because evil

associations can wield a powerful change in our characters. For this reason the blessed man does not...

♥ **Walketh Not** - **"Walk in the counsel of the ungodly"**. In other words the blessed person does not walk in the state of mind which the ungodly cherish. In the Bible ungodliness can refer to both pagans and Christians. The people of Sodom were said to be ungodly. The enemies of King David are termed ungodly. Even the leaders in Israel became ungodly. **Jeremiah 23:11 says, "Both prophet and priest are godless; even in my temple I find their wickedness," declares the LORD.** If this verse doesn't alarm you then you better turn the volume up. Because the Scriptures teach that no matter how spiritually charged you are now, if you're not walking with the right people, you might just get unplugged. **(Working with a friend)** The path of the ungodly is a rocky one; filled with obstructions and dead ends. **"But blessed is the man who walks not in their counsel."** Amen?!

📖 The blessed of God don't walk in the counsel of the ungodly, neither do they...

♥ **Standeth Not** - **"Stand in the way of sinners."** What is the human conscience? The human conscience, to me, is like the "urim and thummim" of the high priest. It mysteriously impresses our hearts with direction. Whether we're living in sin or enticed to sin, our consciences help us make the right choices. Unfortunately many people have lost the purity of conscience. **In Titus 1:15, Paul says, "To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled."** This is "the way of a sinner". And the blessed of God do not stand with those who persist in sinning deliberately. A true Christian will reject the companionship of men who are determined for the practice of sin. They shrink from the thought of deafening their moral perceptions from the still small voice of their loving Lord.

📖 But this is not the only reason why they don't stand in the way of sinners. The blessed of God are wise enough to know that standing with sinners will eventually result in...

♥ **Sitteth Not** - **"[Sitting] in the seat of the scornful."** There is no greater state of hopelessness than to sit in the seat of the scornful. Anyone who sits in that seat is sitting at the very center of Satan's activity. They have taken their stand against the God of heaven and openly ridicule all that is called Christian. For sure, the blessed of God are not found joking and jesting with scoffers. For God's people love and honor His name. They sing with David, **"I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name forever and ever."**

♥ **The Denial of Peter** - So far, how many of you have been able to perceive, in this verse, a threefold regression of piety? If not, an illustration might help clarify. A fitting example of this miserable trilogy is seen in Peter's denial of Christ. In John 18:8 when the mob came

to take Jesus, He indirectly tells the disciples to go away. But a few verses later we find Peter following Him. *He chose to walk in direct opposition to the command of Christ.* John 18:15 says, "**Simon Peter followed Jesus**". Friend's, disobedience is ungodliness. But the story continues. Soon after Peter walks in his own accord, we find him standing with the wrong crowd. John 18:18 says, "**And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself.**" But we're not through yet. For we read in Luke 22:55, "**And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them.**" First he walked, then he stood, then he sat.

- ♥ **The Summary** – What we see here is a weakening of the moral powers. When a person is tired of walking, what do they do? They stand. And when a person is tired of standing, what do they do? They sit. As it is with the physical so it is with the spiritual. Our moral energies begin to weaken the very moment, like Peter, *we walk in direct opposition to the word of God.* So then, if we want to live a life full of blessings we must be diligent to guard ourselves from the devices of the ungodly. Proverbs 22:5 says, "**In the paths of the [ungodly] lie thorns and snares, but he who guards his soul stays [away] from them.**"


📖 At this point, we've studied what the blessed of God should not do. Now we will find out what things they should do. Verses 1 and 2...

- C. **The Duty of Commission** - "**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. ²But (his is what he does) his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.**" (Psalm 1:1-2, KJV) The blessed of God will find themselves patiently and uninterruptedly striving to become more and more like Jesus. And they find the power of development in the prayerful and thoughtful meditation of God's law. For them they don't view the law as a burden but as a pleasure.

- ♥ **Delights in the Law** - Vs. 2 says, that God's children find "**delight in the law of the Lord.**" Taking delight in God's word is like applying WD40 to a squeaky hinge. When we find delight in the Law, it really heightens the joy and accentuates the colors of Christianity. They say that if you love your employment, you'll never work another day in your life. Amen?! If we fall in love with God we will love the law and if we love the law we'll find pleasure in it.

- ♥ **How to Delight in the Law** - But why do we lose the desire to study the Bible? Well, there could be a lot of reasons. It could be that we lack the necessary tools. (Assembling something) Our needs. (Bible, Concordance, a Bible dictionary. Download a free Bible software program. Etc); but take note, the main reason why people don't delight in studying the Scriptures is because their minds are filled with worldly pleasure. Mammon

has become their god and the bread of life has lost its flavor. It's time for change and there's no better time than now. We can still confess our pride and repent from the world. Take heart; be determined. You can succeed. Yes, you may feel weak but claim the promise, **"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."** Ask God to help you find pleasure in His word. His ear is not heavy that it cannot hear! **For the Bible says in Psalm 145:18, "The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth."**

 **And as you grow in an appreciation of God's word, you will find reflection to be sweet, for you will meditate on the Law day and night.**

- ♥ **Meditates on the Law** - The Sad thing is that, in these days and in this country meditation has become a lost art. Due to all the secular duties clamoring for our attention, "We have become incapable of sustained thought, of prolonged consideration of Divine truth. This poses a great threat lest our Christian character suffer from want of earnest and devout meditation. Why is it so important? Well, meditation is how the principle of what you believe becomes a part of who you are. The bible says, in **Proverbs 23:7, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."** By beholding we are changed. In layman terms, "you become whatever dominates your thoughts." That's why we must, **"keep the heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life." (Prov. 4:23)** We must fill our minds with the precious truths of God's word.
- ♥ Have you complied with these two conditions of blessedness? Have you shunned all evil associations and are you striving to be more and more like Jesus, through the thoughtful and prayerful meditation and application of God's word? Because Psalm 1:3 says the person who is complying with these conditions...

2. THEIR CHARACTER (Vs. 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. (Psalm 1:3, KJV)

A. Like a Fruitful Tree - **"...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."** To conclude the explication of the righteous the Psalmist uses a powerful metaphor. **"He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water."**

- ♥ **Planted Near the Rivers** - The most majestic and dignified fruit trees were once planted by someone's hand. Never any good tree grew of itself. And this is true for the righteous; they are planted by hand of God. He's the one who transplants us from the dry wastelands of sin to the fertile planes of salvation. These rivers of water symbolize the flood of grace that flows from the cross of Calvary. When God plants us He plants us in

the fertility of His presence. Amen! Psalm 92:12-14 says, "The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree; he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. ¹³Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. ¹⁴They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be [full of sap] and [luxuriant]." Friends, the One who planted you, will take care of you!

- ♥ **Bears Fruit In Season** – Vs. 3 goes on to say that this tree "shall bring forth fruit in [its] season." Most fruit trees are seasonal. I remember when I lived with my grandma. We had the most amazing plumb tree. That tree yielded more plumbs than you can imagine. And I can remember how sad I was when the season was over. I wouldn't see any more plumbs for a very long time. You know sometimes we get discouraged because we go through long periods of time without seeing much growth in our lives. But according to Psalm 1, the evidence of fruit comes "in its season". I can remember looking at that tree out of season. The whole thing looked dried up and dead. What I didn't realize was that even in its apparent deadness, that old faithful plumb tree was quietly yet busily priming itself for the next spectacular season. I encourage you to be patient; remember that Christian development is abstruse; it begins under the surface; quietly and consistently. Stay true to your calling. Be faithful in everything you do and God will prime you for another spectacular season of fruitfulness. In the parable of the sower, Jesus says in Luke 8:15, "the [seeds] that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience."

📖 Another detail of this enduring tree is that...

- B. **Leaf does not Wither** – "Its leaf also shall not wither." This healthy leaf is a similitude of a healthy person. Just as the leaf absorbs the rays of the sun to nourish the tree so the righteous absorb the rays of truth to nourish the soul. The blessed of God frequently take in the carbon of ridicule and shame but are always disbursing the oxygen of love and grace. For they are a savor of life, unto life. Everything they think; Every word they speak, and everything they do carries the stamp of excellence
- C. **Prosperous Hands** – They "...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." The word "prosper" in Hebrew is פָּרַח, and it means, to divide, press forward, or press through. The efforts of the blessed always find success. Even in the face of the most death defying obstacles God sees them through. In whatever enterprise they prosper. Regardless of the success or failure of the undertaking, their trust in God empowers them to draw life from the eternal source and ultimately to reach their goal.

📖 This is the picture of the blessed of God. This is the picture of the righteous.

CONCLUSION

- Is it your desire to be a thriving tree; planted by the hand of God? Would you like to bear the fruits of a righteous life and prosper in everything you do??? If so, then comply with the conditions! For the Bible says in Romans 2:13, "Not the hearers of the law *are* just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified." Reject everything that would cause you to walk in direct opposition to the word of God! And strive daily to become more and more like Jesus, through the thoughtful and prayerful study of Scripture.
- ▶ Hymn 92. "There Shall be Showers of Blessings".