The Path of Blessing

PSALM 1:1-6
1/15/2012

INTRO: "This psalm, like a sign-post, points the way to blessedness" (F.B. Meyer, p. 11)

ILLUS: perplexed man contemplating which road (path) he should take. As he stands at the fork of two roads, he reads two signs.

1st sign - "Take this path - It is the right way. A prosperous end is guaranteed. But note: you may have to travel alone. (Not many choose this road even though everyone who has, has not failed to reach the desired destination). Also note: This road will not always be easy; you will face opposition and potential hindrances. You must obey the laws, and you are limited as to what you can do along the way. WARNING: Take no detours!"

2nd sign - "Take this path - It is the easy way. Who cares about the outcome (end). The important thing is the fun you have along this way. There are no laws to obey, and no limits to hinder you. What have you got to lose - many have gone this way and still do today! WARNING: (in small print) Pass at your own risk!"

YOU MUST FOLLOW THE ROAD (PATH) THAT GOD DIRECTED FOR YOUR LIFE!

How? By choosing to follow God's directions:

I. YOU MUST ADOPT (FOLLOW) THE PATH OF THE BLESSED MAN (v. 1-3)

"Blessed" = fortunate, happy, joyful

"Blessed" = plural - meaning, "Oh, how very blessed"

The idea is that the man who does right receives as a reward from God many, many spiritual joys!

A. THE BLESSED MAN IS SEPARATED FROM THE WICKED (v. 1)
(He is a man of distinction)

NOTE: The process downward goes from bad to worse in one's choice of acquaintances (company). From ungodly to the outright verbally blasphemous scornful.

NOTE: The progression down in the activities (walk . . . stand . . . sit).

The verbs describe successive steps deeper and deeper into corruption.

1) You first accept the transgressor's principles;

2) Then you persist in the notorious sinner's practices;

3) Then you deliberately associate with those who mock the truth.

ILLUS; Steps of Peter in his denial (John 18:16 - "without" 18:18 - "with them" 18:25 "warmed himself" Luke 22:62 "wept bitterly"

Separation is holiness! (being set apart) "Be ye holy for I am holy."

God is concerned that we not be contaminated with the world (I Jn. 2:15-17)

1. He doesn't follow what they say (v. 1a)
(Their advice is no good)

"Ungodly" = those out of bounds, transgressors. Those guilty of overstepping God's boundaries.

We don't go to the world for spiritual, moral, family-related, etc., advice!

We should seek counsel from:
1) church 2) pastor 3) Bible 4) Christian friends.

It may not always be what you want to hear, but it will always be right!

2. He isn't found where they go (v. 1b)
(Their alley/avenue is no good)

3. He doesn't fellowship in what they do (v. 1c)
(Their assembly is no good)

"Sitteth" = points to a permanence and settled enjoyment.

The scorner like a dog barks at everything. He is sarcastic. He mocks truth. Makes fun of righteousness. He is an agnostic - he questions truth.

Watch out for people with a rotten attitude - it will rub off!

The Bible teaches separation from "unequal yokes"
(READ: II Cor. 6:14-17) -

1) in marriage (I Cor. 7:3a - "in the Lord")
2) in business
3) in church relationships with other churches that don't hold the same doctrine.

NOTE: Separation is always negative and positive.
Separation from evil counsel to God's counsel (v. 2)

B. THE BLESSED MAN IS SATURATED IN THE WORD (v. 2)
(He is a man of direction)

1. He finds pleasure in God's Word - His attitude is "delight" (v. 2a)

NOTE: God's Word should not be a burden, drudgery, or mere duty, but a delight!

Psalm 119:16 - "I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word."

2. He faithfully ponders God's Word - His action is "meditates day and night" (v. 2b)

He memorizes and repeats it in his heart. The word must be digested to benefit us, just as literal food must be digested.

Meditate - Josh. 1:8 - "This book of the law . . ."

Why don't we meditate?

1) preoccupation with other things (too busy; too many burdens, etc.)
2) sin (This book will keep you from sin, and sin will keep you from this Book)
3) laziness (it takes work! Thinking is hard!)

It is better to have one verse welded in your brain than to skim over a whole chapter.

C. THE BLESSED MAN IS STABLE IN ALL HIS WAYS (v. 3)
(He is a man of durability)

"Planted" = passive; lit: That has been planted (by someone)

The picture is of a tree that has been transplanted. This is what the Lord did for us when we were saved - uprooted us from the world and replanted us in His Son!

Don't trust man! (v. 1) Trust God! (v. 2) and the results are the blessings of verse 3.

(SEE idea of tree in Jer. 17:5-9)

1. He is productive (v. 3a) (fruitfulness)

   Why is it fruitful? It is planted by rivers of water. it receives proper nourishment.

   Like a tree which draws its vitalizing moisture from a constant source, so the godly man will derive his strength from the unfailing Word of God.

   Fruit - Gal. 5:22 - "fruit of Spirit."

   NOTE: Jesus plucked up unfruitful tree (cp. Heb. 6:7)

2. He is preserved (v. 3b) (vitality)

   "Leaf" = an outward sign of inner life.

   --Even if the winds of the world blow, this tree will stand!

   --Even if the heat of this world comes, its leaves will stay moist and alive!

3. He is prosperous (v. 3c) (success)

Why does he prosper?

1) He has direction (v. 2) (not "spinning his wheels" aimlessly through life)

2) He has strength (the power of God)

3) He has purpose (no opposition will move him)

"All things work together for good to them that love God, to them . . ." (Rom. 8:28).

II. YOU MUST AVOID (FLEE) THE PATH OF THE UNGODLY MAN (v. 4-6)

A. THE UNGODLY MAN HAS NO STABILITY (in the world) (v. 4)
(He is driven by every wind)

"The ungodly are not so" (as verse 3)
He is not productive, preserved, or prosperous.
Contrast tree with chaff -
Tree - unmoveable and worth something
Chaff - moveable and worthless

B. THE UNGODLY MAN HAS NO ABILITY (to stand in the coming judgment) (v. 5)
(He is defenseless)

1. He will not endure the judgment.

   The wicked will have no defense before God. he shall not stand but will fall like an army that is defenseless, hopeless and isolated.

2. He will not enjoy the blessings of the justified.

C. THE UNGODLY MAN HAS NO SECURITY (v. 6)
(He faces destruction)

CONTRAST:

1. The protected path (the way of protection)

   The Lord "knoweth" = He is knowing in a protective manner, idea of watching over.

2. The unprotected path (the way of perdition)

CONCLU: Paraphrase Mt. 7:24-29 - Wise man and foolish man.
(A hearer and a doer of the Word)
V. 13 - 14: Wide road ----- destruction Narrow Road ------ heaven

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