

THE TWO WAYS

Text: Psalm 1

INTRO: Almost all scholars believe this Psalm was written after many of the others to serve as an introduction to the book in general. Some believe it was written by Solomon, other believe it was written later, perhaps after the exile, in the time of Ezra and Nehemiah.

Its opening words are "Blessed is the man..." The word translated "blessed" is actually a plural form of the word, perhaps suggesting that the man about to be described will be a partaker in all of the spiritual blessings that can come to a faithful servant of God.

This Psalm actually describes two men, two life styles, and two destinies.

I. THE CHARACTER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN.

A. Negative, vs. 1. Note that it is the nature of sin to go from bad to worse. .

1. Walks not in the counsel of the ungodly. The good man will not walk among and seek the advice of those who leave God out of their lives & their thinking

2. Stands not in the pathway of sinners. The man who seeks advice of those who leave God out of their thinking will soon find himself taking a stand with those who willfully violate God's instructions.

3. Sits not in the seat of the scornful. The willful sinner will eventually become seated or rooted in scorn & insolence.

B. Positive, vs. 2-3.

1. Delights in the law of God. He does not see God's instructions as burdensome. He accepts them with joy. He values it, not so much for its threats or even its promises, but he recognizes it as holy and just and good.

2. He meditates upon God's will. Thinks about it.
Seeks to understand it better, to apply it more thoroughly, to teach it more effectively. 119:11
3. Fruitful, like a cultivated tree by rivers of water.
MT 15:13. River of pardon, river of grace, free flowing promises of God, river of sweet communion.
4. Prosperous. NASB: "And in whatever he does, he prospers." 1 JN 3:2

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day & night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, & then you will have good success. (Josh. 1:8).

II. THE CHARACTER OF THE UNGODLY MAN, vs. 4-5.

A. Unprofitable, like chaff.

His winnowing fan is in His hand, & He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, & gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. (MT 3:12).

- B. He "shall not stand" when he is judged. He will, of course stand there to be judged, but he cannot stand the judgment that will be rendered. He cannot stand his ground. He must depart with all workers of iniquity.

For the great day of His wrath has come, & who is able to stand? (Rev 6:17)

- C. He is out of fellowship with God & with those who are God's people.

But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner--not even to eat with such a person

(1 Cor 5:11).

READ MATTHEW 13:40-43

III. THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF MEN; TWO LIFE STYLES, &
CONSEQUENTLY, TWO ETERNAL DESTINIES. vs 6

A. The Lord will "know" or acknowledge the righteous, the kind of man described in vs. 1-3. He will confess them before His Father, MT 10:32. He will grant them an entrance into the kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world, MT 25:34.

B. The ungodly, He must reject. "I never knew you," MT 7:23. And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. (MT 25:46).

La Porte, TX, July 18, 1982

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, June 9, 1996

South Loop, Taylor, TX, June 19, 1996