

Thursday, February 9, 2023

Psalms: Worshiping in All of Life

The Way of Wisdom

Psa 1:1-6 (ESV) Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; [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 that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. [4] The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. [5] Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; [6] for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
***I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.***
—***Robert Frost***

There is a pathway to life. The God who created us has set us out on a journey. Ultimately, it is a journey that is only complete in him. We find our beginning, middle and end wrapped up in this relational journey of knowing the Lord.

“The chief aim of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.”
Westminster Shorter Catechism

If we were made for the Lord and not for ourselves, if life is a relational journey intended to move us to deeper relationship with the Lord, if we are to glorify God and enjoy him forever, then it only makes sense that the Lord would give us clear instruction on how to know him and to live for him.

This is where the Psalms come in. They are essentially a bible within the Bible. Songs and praise, laments and thanksgiving, prayers and anguish, all intended to help us learn how to worship the Lord in all of life.

The Lord begins the entire writing of The Psalms by giving us a Psalm of Wisdom. It's as if the reader "is invited to read the entire book of Psalms as a guide to life."

The theme of Psalm 1 is on the way of the righteous in contrast to the way of the wicked.

(1) Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

We all want this journey of life to be blessed. We all want it to be happy and filled to the brim with joy! **(O the happiness of the man!)** Notice that the writer is speaking to "man." This blessedness is for all.

► **Avoid the Road well Traveled.**

- ◆ **Do not walk in the counsel of the wicked. (Believing)**
- ◆ **Do not stand in the way of sinners. (Behaving)**
- ◆ **Do not sit in the seat of scoffers. (Belonging)**

Kidner: "Counsel, way and seat (or 'assembly', or 'dwelling') draw attention to the realms of thinking, behaving and belonging, in which a person's fundamental choice of allegiance is made and carried through; and this is borne out by a hint of decisiveness in the tense of the Hebrew verbs (the perfect)... the three complete phrases show three aspects, indeed three degrees, of departure from God, by portraying conformity to this world at three different levels: accepting its advice, being party to its ways, and adopting the most fatal of its attitudes—for the

scoffers, if not the most scandalous of sinners, are the farthest from repentance (Pr. 3:34).”

Mat 7:13-14 (ESV) “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. [14] For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

(2) but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

- ▶ **Follow the Road less Traveled.**
 - ◆ **Delight in the law of the Lord.**
 - ◆ **Meditate on his law day and night.**

In order to walk in the pathway of righteousness we must long for, crave, delight in the law (teaching, instruction, word) of the Lord. We must think about it and ponder it and apply it to life daily.

Each of the roads have a destination or an end result:

Where do you want your life to end up?

(3) He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

- ▶ **The Result of Righteousness:**
 - ◆ **He is like a tree. (Strong and stable)**
 - ◆ **A tree that is planted. (Cared for and nurtured)**
 - ◆ **By streams of water (constantly nourished and life giving)**
 - ◆ **Yields its fruit in its season (character for every situation of life)**
 - ◆ **In all he does he prospers (a life built on the Lord will not fail)**
 - ◆ **The Lord knows, “watches over” the way (the path) of the righteous.**

(4) The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

(5) Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

▶ **The Result of Wickedness:**

- ◆ **Not like a tree—like chaff. (Nothing, thrown away).**
- ◆ **Not planted—driven away by the wind (done away with)**
- ◆ **No streams—dried chaff blown away (not life giving)**
- ◆ **No fruit—chaff bears nothing (character that is destructive)**
- ◆ **No prospering—a life that is vain and empty (not built on the Lord but self)**
- ◆ **Will not stand in the judgment (will not stand up under the scrutiny of the justice of the Lord)**
- ◆ **Will not be a part of the community of the Lord**
- ◆

(6) for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

- ◆ **The Lord knows (watches over) the way of the righteous.**
- ◆ **The way of the wicked will end (will perish) in the same emptiness in which it has always existed.**