

TITLE: COMMITMENT & BLESSINGS IN THE NEW YEAR

TEXT: PSALM 1

INTRO: If I were to reorder the Psalms, I would probably keep Psalm 1 as the first psalm. This is because of its basic, fundamental message that has applied to every human that has ever lived, regardless of which dispensation of time. It's a message of love, obedience, & reward, vs. disobedience and its consequences.

I. THE GODLY MAN (v. 1-3):

- A. (v. 1) Turns away from sinners** – “*Blessed (happy) is the man....*” When someone begins a statement like this, we may or may not pay attention, depending on who says it. When *God* says it, we ought to listen! He says, *Blessed is the man that* does these three things. He uses progressive parallelism – says the same thing each time, using progressive imagery (walks, stands, sits):
1. *...that walketh not in the counsel (advice) of the ungodly.* Don't listen to the advice of the ungodly. Everyone wants to give advice, and this includes non-Christians. Many of them are good-hearted, well-meaning people with good intentions, but give bad advice. Coworkers suggest calling in sick; neighbors suggest lying regarding taxes, etc. When someone has harmed you in some way, people who believe they are seeking your best interest may suggest things that God wouldn't exactly call forbearance, forgiveness, or “turning the other cheek.”
...nor standeth in the way (path, road) of sinners. Don't stand where sinners live. Don't keep one foot in the world.
...nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful (scoff, boast, mock, be arrogant). More specific now– don't sit (may include the idea of relaxing & being comfortable) with these type of people. “*Bad company corrupts good morals*” (**1 Cor 15:33-NAS**)!
 2. Notice the progressive nature of sin (walks, stands, then sits). Those who are sinking deep in sin usually waded in first!
 3. **2 Cor 6:17** – “*Come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing...*”
 4. **Eph 5:11** – “*Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.*”
 5. God calls Christians to a new life. We aren't given the option of a *partial* change. God is serious. God is exclusive. God is a jealous God (**Deut 4:24**–“*For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.*” Quoted in **Heb 12:29**).
 6. **Gen 14:23** – Abraham wouldn't take any spoil from Sodom; **Dan 1:8** – Daniel purposed in his heart not to defile himself with the Babylonian king's food.
- B. (v. 2) Turns to God** – “*But (in contrast to what this blessed, happy, godly man does not do), his delight (pleasure, desire, purpose, longing) is in the law of Jehovah....*” Does this describe you? Do you want to be blessed? When you think about all the things you desire, does the Bible top the list? Does it even make the list? Do your conversations ever include biblical discussions? Do you long to know what God desires & expects of you?
Jam 1:25 – “*Whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*” “*He meditates in his law day & night.*” There are only day & night, and both are consumed w/God's law! This shows a very high priority.
- C. (v. 3) Receives God's blessings**
1. “*He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water*” – a constant supply of water (life). Aerial photos of creeks & rivers always show trees and growth alongside the water.
 2. “*...that bringeth forth his fruit in his season*” – this is the expectation we have of this tree...fruit in its season! We don't expect fruit in the winter. God doesn't expect miraculous things of us; only what we are capable of.
“*Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down & cast into the fire*” (**Mt 7:19**).
 3. “*his leaf also shall not wither*” –because of the water supply. This is said of the godly man...because he stays close to God!
 4. “*whatsoever he doeth shall prosper*” –This isn't saying that he is guaranteed success in business, riches and wealth, etc. It should be understood in the context of a godly man who focuses night & day on God's word. This man's success is in his godly works (personal spiritual growth, edification of brethren, evangelizing the lost, etc.). He will prosper in *God's* eyes.

II. THE UNGODLY MAN (v. 4-5):

- A. (v. 4)** In contrast, “*the ungodly are not so....*” They aren't like the godly – they are not interested in God's word, or in separating themselves from unrighteous people and situations. And they will not receive God's blessings!
- They're “*like the chaff which the wind driveth away.*” The chaff is useless to the farmer. He doesn't concern himself with whether the chaff is good or bad, he just gets rid of it!
- B. (v. 5)** “*The ungodly shall not stand (arise, maintain oneself, endure) in the judgment....*” **John 5:28-29** – “*all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment/condemnation.*” The ungodly will not stand; will not endure!
“*...nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.*” This is synonymous parallelism (saying the same things in two ways). Sinners have no place in the congregation of the righteous:
1. In the church, there is no place for sinners. This doesn't mean Christians are perfect; but obedient & forgiven. The sinner in this context is the ungodly person who refuses to acknowledge & follow God. The church is not to tolerate this attitude.
 2. In the life to come (Heaven), there is no place for sinners (no more opportunity to repent & obey).

III. THE CONCLUSION (v. 6):

- A.** “*The Lord knoweth the way of the righteous*” – God knows & sees all things (**Psa 139; Heb 4:13**). He approves of the godly.
- B.** “*But the way of the ungodly shall perish.*” This is antithetic parallelism (saying the same thing, but presenting the opposite results). A final and deafening statement – this person will die! But this is *not* what God wants!

CONCLUSION: As we begin another new year, many of us have made new years resolutions. Have we included learning the Bible? Have we included a deeper pursuit of righteousness, godliness, etc.? If we want to be happy (blessed), we should!