

How Blessed Is the Man

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, June 14, 2020; Steve Thiel

Sermon Theme: Jesus Christ perfectly delighted Himself in the law of the Lord by being obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. By faith in Him, we are made righteous and empowered to walk in righteousness.

I. The Way of the Righteous – Read Psalm 1:1-3

- A. What observations do you make about the way of the righteous (vv.1-3)? How many ways (or paths) do you observe according to Psalm 1 (see also Matthew 7:13-14)? Do you practically live as though there are more paths – perhaps a 3rd middle-ground path?
- B. What is the progression and escalation towards worldliness in verse 1? Read 1 John 2:15-17 and James 4:4. How do these verses, along with Psalm 1, help you think more about the love of the world in contrast to the love of God and the consequences of those affections?
- C. Read Joshua 1:7-8. What is the connection between your thinking and your actions? Based on what we learned in Philippians (specifically 4:8-9), how would you like to grow in meditating on God’s Word? What are some concrete steps that you’d like to take to grow in right thinking?
- D. In what ways would you like to be more fruitful (Galatians 5:22-23) and durable? What things need to change in your life in order to be an aroma of life to those around you (2 Cor. 2:15-16)?

II. The Way of the Wicked – Read Psalm 1:4-6

- A. What observations do you make about the way of the wicked (verses 4-6)? Compare and contrast the way of the wicked with the way of the righteous. How is the illustration of chaff helpful in contrast to the tree planted by streams of water that is fruitful, durable, and prosperous?
- B. In what ways do you find yourself envying the temporary success of the wicked? Why do you think we are so tempted to listen to the counsel of the wicked? What practical things can you do to maintain an eternal perspective on life? How is Asaph helpful in Psalm 73:16-28?
- C. How does the outcome of the righteous and the wicked (verse 6) help you to see God’s character (holiness, justice, etc.)? How does the judgment of God motivate you to walk in righteousness?

III. The Way of Jesus – Read Matthew 5:17-20 and Philippians 2:5-11

- A. What do these verses teach us about Jesus Christ? How is Jesus the ultimate fulfillment of the “blessed man” in Psalm 1? Knowing that “without holiness, no one will see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14), how does the reality of Jesus’ perfect righteousness comfort and encourage your soul?
- B. Read Matthew 4:1-11. If even the Son of Man depended on Scripture to fight the temptations of worldliness, what does this tell you about your need to meditate and delight in the Word of God?