

A Blessed Man

Sunday, May 31st, 1992

Psalm 1: 1-6

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

*I'm going to bring you a message today on the subject: **"The Blessed Man;"** (the Happy Man, the Favored Man, the Fortunate Man). Let's just call the sermon; **"The Blessed Man."***

What do you think the average person would reply if you ask them what constitutes blessings, happiness and contentment? What really constitutes happiness, blessedness and contentment? I believe most of them would reply, something like this; "Well, to be blessed or to be happy is to have a good job. You have to earn a good salary and to be materially prosperous. You need to be financially secured. I believe that is what it is to be blessed and to be happy."

That is what the average person would say and that is what the average preacher is preaching today. They are saying you have to have financial security, happiness, and a good job, materially prosperous, so on and so forth.

What is it to be blessed? What is it to be happy and fortunate? Other people might say something like this; "Well, I believe to be blessed you have to have good health. If you have good health; you have everything." They might also say, "I want to have a nice family, and plenty of friends. Yes, I say to be healthy and happy and to have many friends is to be blessed and to be happy."

Of course, someone else would say this; "Well, I think to be blessed is for me to be famous; I would love to have beauty, strength and influence. I would want to have freedom from all care and worry; that is what I call to be blessed or to be happy."

You know something? All of these things have something in common. I'm talking about having a good job, financial security, being materially prosperous, healthy, having

a good family, a nice home, wanting to be famous and influential and to have beauty and strength. Do you know what all these things have in common? They are all temporary.

They are all here today and gone tomorrow. None of them are lasting. The scripture says; *“For the fashion of this world (and all of these things that have to do with this world), fadeth away.”* These things can only provide for us temporary joy or temporary happiness and temporary blessings. Real happiness and real blessings cannot be found in that which may be taken away at any time. That can't be real happiness if it can leave tomorrow. The scripture says, *“Boast not thyself of tomorrow. You don't know what a day will bring forth.”* So, these things could not possibly constitute real blessings and real happiness. It must be in something else.

Turn with me to the Book of Psalms. David, in the Book of Psalms tells us who the man is, and who the woman is that is truly blessed and who is truly happy and who is truly favored of God. That is what the word *“blessed”* means. In Psalm One, it starts this way; *“Blessed is the man.”* What does the word blessed mean? It means to be favored of God. It means to be happy. It means to be forever blessed, not just temporarily but to have an inheritance that is incorruptible and that is undefiled and won't fade away. It's not to be here today and gone tomorrow. It is something that is real, lasting and permanent and given of God. It is something that will not pass away. That is to be truly blessed!

Look at Psalm One. Take your Bible and follow with me. I am going to try to go through this entire Psalm in this message today. I'd like for you to listen carefully to it. David starts this way; *“Blessed is the man.”* He uses that phrase frequently in the Book of Psalms.

I've looked several places where he uses this same word (*“blessed”*). In Psalm Two he says; *“Blessed are the people who put their trust in the Lord.”* He says in Psalm 32; *“Blessed is the man whose sins are forgiven, the man to whom God won't charge iniquity.”* In Psalm 65, he says; *“Blessed is the man whom Thou chooseth and causeth to approach unto Thee.”* And again he says; *“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.”* In Psalm 84, he says; *“Blessed are they who dwell in Thy house O Lord.”* In Psalm 85, *“Blessed, happy, fortunate is the man who strength is in the Lord.”* In Psalm 112, he says this, *“Blessed is the man who fears the Lord.”* In Psalm 118, *“Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.”*

You know, from reading all these scriptures, it seems to me that our world is totally out of touch and out of tune with what God calls blessed. What God calls blessed and what God calls happy is not what the average person calls happiness, blessings and

contentment. None of these things that we talked about a while ago, health, strength, fame, material prosperity, and financial security; none of these things are mentioned here in the scriptures when it talks about the man who is truly blessed and that which constitutes blessing.

Read Matthew Chapter Five, it is what we call the “Beatitudes.” *“Blessed are the poor in Spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn; (they shall be happy and fortunate who mourn over sin) for they shall be comforted.” “Blessed are the meek; they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are the peacemakers; they are called the children of God. Blessed are you when men shall persecute you and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice, great is your reward in heaven. Blessed are they that hunger and thirst for righteousness; they shall be filled.”*

We must be out of tune and out of touch entirely with what God calls blessings and happiness. Look at Psalm 1: verse 1; *“Blessed is the man.”* The first thing that I notice here is that David did not say; “Blessed is the king; blessed is the scholar, blessed is the rich man; blessed is the strong man; and blessed is the famous man.” He just says; *“Blessed is the man.”*

He’s an ordinary man. He is a man like you, and a man like me. This is that ordinary person who is subject to infirmities of the flesh. He’s not without fault. He’s not without trial and he’s not without sorrow. He’s not without trouble; he’s just a man. *“Blessed is the man.”* He’s just an ordinary man. Listen to what it says; *“Blessed is the man who walks not in the council of the ungodly.”*

What is the council of the ungodly? Council is wisdom. It is what everyone thinks or agrees upon. It is the wisdom of the ungodly or the philosophy of the ungodly. It is the wisdom of this world. *“Blessed is the man”* who is not taken in by and does not walk in the philosophy and wisdom of this world which is contrary to the wisdom of God and contrary to the Word of God.

In fact, our Lord through the apostle Paul called the wisdom of this world, the council of the ungodly, foolishness. He said, *“The wisdom of this world is foolishness.”* Happy is the man (this is what David is saying here). He’s saying; “Blessed, fortunate, happy, is the man who sees the folly of the worlds (so-called wisdom and the worlds so-called philosophy) and walks in the wisdom of God and in the Word of God.” Happy is that man and blessed is that man who does not walk in the council of this world. Happy is that man who is not taken in by the council and the philosophy of this world. He is the one who does not compromise with the council and wisdom of this world. He does not fill obligated to be agreeable with that which he knows is wrong.

All right, read on. *“Blessed is the man who does not stand in the way of sinners or the way of unbelievers.”* Now, the unbeliever has a way. It is called the way of the ungodly. It is the way of the unbeliever and the sinner. The sinner has a way and it is a way of self. Everything revolves around himself. It is the way of pride. It is the way of greed.

We know something about this in our nation today. There is greed and covetousness. It is the way of materialism. It is the way of religion in form and ceremony. That is the way of the unbeliever and this man does not walk in this way. *“There is a way that seems right to men.”* The Bible says that over and over again. That is the way of death. Blessed is the man who walks in the way of the Lord (it is the tenor of his life or the bent of his will, it is the general direction that he is headed). I know people stumble and they fall and they take tangents. The walk is the man’s general direction; it is the bent of his will and the tenor of his life.

This blessed man is the man who does not walk in the way of pride, self, arrogance and materialism. He walks in the way of holiness. He walks in the way of God and in the way of truth. He rejects the “popular way.” He is not vowed and conformed to do what people generally do and say. He loves the way of God. He loves the way of the Word and the way of truth. He doesn’t walk in that way of the world.

Notice in the next thing that he says; *“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the council of the ungodly nor in the way of sinners. Blessed is the man who does not sit in the seat of the scornful.”* That is a happy man.

You meet with a scornful person every day. They are the so-called wise and intellectual. They are very cynical. They are critical of spiritual matters. They make fun of the things of God and of the things of the Word and of the things of Christ. They are cynical and critical. They are not teachable. They seem to know everything. They are hardened in their cynical ways and in their critical ways. They are hardened in their intellectual ways and they cannot be taught or instructed. They are not open to learn the things of God. Happy is the man who rejects that seat and can be taught in the things of God and has an open ear and an open heart to the Word of God. Blessed is that man.

Watch the next line; *“His delight, and his joy is in the law of the Lord.”* Now, that word “law” is the Word of the Lord. *“Blessed is that man whose delight is in the Word of God.”* The Word of God to him is the children’s bread. The Word of God to him is the green pasture. That is what David talked about in Psalm 23. *“He leadeth us by still waters; He makes us to lie down in green pastures.”* That is His Word. What do the sheep feed on? It is the green pasture, the green grass. What do the people of God feed

on? They feed on the Word of God. His Word is the green pastures and the children's bread.

His Word is the foundation of faith. *"Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."* His Word is our comfort and our assurance. *"Comfort one another with these Words."* His Word is our strength in time of trial and difficulty. *"His Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our paths"* that we might not sin against Him. His precious promises in Christ give us strength for the day and hope for tomorrow. Happy is the man who knows God, who loves His Word, who delights in His Word, who has been given an understanding of His Word and an understanding of the mysteries of His grace in Christ Jesus through that Word. *"He delights in the law of the Lord and the Word of God."*

More than that; listen; *"And in that Word doth he meditate day and night."* The Word of God is just not a doctrine to him. Doctrine can be so rich and precious and yet it can be so dry and dead, if it is only in the letter. It's not just doctrine and creeds; it is the living Word. I had someone say to me just recently; "Preacher, have you ever been to Jerusalem?" I said, "No, I haven't been there." He said, "You need to go to Jerusalem." I said; "Why should I go to Jerusalem?" He said, "If you go to Jerusalem and walk where Jesus walked; the Bible will come alive for you." I said, "The Bible is alive. The Bible is alive for me now. The Bible is the Word of God. It is the living Word of God. I don't have to go to a place for the Bible to come alive. The Bible comes alive in Christ; the Holy Spirit reveals it to our hearts. It is called the Word of life. If it's not the Word of life to me now, then I don't have the life of Christ, because this is the Word of Christ."

You can't separate the living Word from the Incarnate Word and the written Word. They are all one in the same. So, this man delights in the Word of God, and meditates in the Word of God. He delights in God day and night and not just on Sunday. The Word of God is not something for him to take off the shelf, dust off and take to church on Sunday, during special holidays and special occasions. That Word is in his memory and his heart and soul. It is in his mind and he thinks upon it and feeds upon it, and dwells upon it. The scripture says; *"Day and night."* This is God's Word. It is His precious promises. It is our comfort; it is our assurance; it convicts us; and it reveals Christ.

One of the hymn writers wrote this:

His Word is everlasting truth
How pure it is on every page.
His Word shall guide my every step
His Word will support me in old age.

It is God's Word! So, "*Blessed is the man.*" How happy, and how fortunate is the man. He does not walk in the council of the ungodly or stand in the way of unbelievers. He doesn't sit in the seat of the scornful but His delight is in the Word of God. In that Word he does meditate day and night. He is a happy man.

All right, read on, "*That man, (that happy, fortunate, favored of God) shall be planted like a tree.*" He's not a weak weed that has sprung up only to be cut down because it cumbers the ground. He's not a wild shrub that will vanish in a cold wind. It says here; "*He is a tree,*" (a solid tree, an oak tree, planted). Someone planted this tree. Someone on purpose, deliberately, for a cause, planted this tree, (this man). Do you know who did it? The Lord did it! He's the planting of the Lord.

What did our Lord Jesus say in Matthew 15? He said; "*Every plant which my Heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up.*" So, this happy man is not a weed that sprang up. He's not a tumbleweed that is blown by the wind, here and there. He's not a wild bush or shrub that happens to be grown in a place. This man is a permanent, strong tree that has been planted by God to endure through the ages, (the plant in God's garden). "*Happy is the man who is like a tree planted.*"

Where do you plant that tree? I was out in Texas one time, many years ago in a meeting near Waco, Texas. It was up in Comanche in Northwest Texas. They had a drought for months and months. The dust seemed like it was two or three inches deep. There was nothing green. There were no pastures, no flowers, and no grass in the yards. We were riding down a country road one day and I saw a whole line of green trees. They were bright green flourishing trees. I said, "Look over there; why are those trees so green?" The man said; "There is a river over there; those trees are planted by the river and they are always green." That is what it says here; God, plants this blessed man by the rivers of living water.

You see; a tree has to have water. A believer has to have water and that living water is Christ. He said, "*I am the bread of life; I am the water of life.*" He said to the woman at the well; "*If you knew who it was speaking to you; you would ask of Me and I would give you living water and you would never thirst again. Ho, everyone that thirsteth; come to the water.*" Christ is the water. That man planted by God has his roots deep in Christ Jesus who is the water of life.

Now, watch this; "*Happy is the man.*" This man is blessed. "*He bringeth forth his fruit in his season.*" Now, that can mean two things: His fruit is the fruit of the Spirit. He bringeth forth His fruit. In Galatians 5:22 Paul tells about that fruit. God's trees are

never without fruit. Some bring forth 40-fold, some 60-fold and some 100-fold. They are never without fruit.

When our Lord found the fig tree without fruit, He said, *“Cut it down; it cumbereth the ground.”* Do you remember? Well, it is His fruit. *“He bringeth forth His fruit in His season.”* What is this fruit? Well, He brings forth love where love is needed. *“God is love”* and those who know God, love. *“He that loveth not, knoweth not God for God is love.”* That is the fruit of this tree. This happy, blessed man is a man who loves. He loves his God; he loves people; and he loves others.

There is joy. That fruit is joy and it brings forth joy in times of sorrow. He rejoices in the Lord and he causes others to rejoice. There is peace. This man’s fruit is peace. When trouble is brewing; he is a peacemaker. He is a patient man. He is patient in time of trial. He is a gentle man. He’s gentle when cruelty abounds. He’s a man of faith. There is faith for every doubt. He’s a man of meekness, even in success. Even in great accomplishments, he knows who made him what he is and who gave him what he has and taught him what he knows. He’s a meek and humble man.

He’s temperate in all things. *“Blessed is the man who is a tree planted by the rivers of living water and he shall bring forth his fruit in his season and his leaf shall never wither.”* God’s trees are always planted by the living water (in Christ), God’s trees always bring forth fruit and God’s trees never die. They are ever green.

You see, the source of water and life is Christ within and no outward circumstances can affect this tree. The life is from within and the tree cannot be affected by storms, cold, hot or whatever. The storms and trials of life will not cause that tree to fall or to lose its fruit. The cold winds of winter, age and death has no affect on that tree. The hot summer and days and times of famine will not affect that root; it will stand; its leaf will never wither. *“My sheep hear my voice; I give them eternal life; they will never perish. Neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”* Outward circumstances will not destroy that tree because its life is within and its life is with Christ. These outward things cannot affect it.

Watch this next line: *“Whatsoever He does shall prosper.”* The blessed man knows that whatever He does will work together for his good. *“We know that all things work together for good to them who love God, to them who are called according to His purpose.”* From the time of His birth, to the time of His planting, to the day of His death; everything that occurs in His life; (this blessed man) is designed and purposed by the will of God, His Father, for his eternal good. He’ll never, never fail.

A hymn writer wrote: (Rippon's Selection of Hymns, 1787)

In ev'ry condition— in sickness, in health,
In poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth;
At home or abroad, on the land, on the sea,
As days may demand, shall thy strength ever be.

When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow,
For I will be with thee, thy trials to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!

“Whatsoever He doeth shall prosper.” *It doesn't mean that he will prosper materially. It doesn't mean that he will prosper physically. It doesn't mean that he will prosper in the things of this world because they are going to be fading away soon. He will prosper in eternal grace and eternal good and eternal glory. Whatever he does he will prosper.*

“*Blessed is the man.*” Who is the happy man? Who is the blessed man? Who is the favorite of God? Who is the man who has the joy and the happiness? He's the man who delights in the Word of God. He's the man planted like a tree by the river of living water that brings forth his fruit in his season. “*His leaf shall not wither. And in whatsoever he doeth; it shall prosper.*”

In closing; there are three more verses in this Psalm. These verses don't talk about the blessed man; they talk about the man who is not favored of God, the ungodly, the unbelieving. It says; “*The unbeliever, the ungodly are not so.*” They are not like a tree planted; they are not ever green. What they do does not prosper. “*They are like the chaff, which the wind driveth away.*” A strong wind comes and blows through your yard and it blows the leaves and twigs. There is no root and there is no foundation. There is no water of life. They are dead leaves with no substance. They have no hope. They have no strength and they just blow around. They shall not stand in the judgment or will be able to stand. “*The ungodly shall not stand in the congregation of the righteous.*” The Lord knoweth the way of the righteous and that is the way of Christ. The way of the ungodly vanishes.

Who is the blessed man? Blessed is the man who knows the Lord.