

THE HAPPINESS OF SAINTS AND THE MISERY OF SINNERS: Psalm 1

by Brett Baggett on Sunday, May 30th, 2021

INTRODUCTION

Q. Do you want to be happy? How can I be happy? Psalm 1 answers that for us.

BIG IDEA: The happiness of saints and the misery of sinners.

CONTEXT: The first word in Psalm 1 is *BLESSED* and the last word is *PERISH*. This is a song that contrasts both *the ways* of the righteous and the wicked as well as their eternal state after death.

I. THE HAPPINESS OF SAINTS (vv. 1-3)

THOMAS WATSON: “This Psalm carries blessedness [on the cover]; it begins where we all hope to end: it may well be called A Christian’s Guide, for it discovers the quicksands where the wicked sink down to perdition (v.1) and the firm ground on which saints tread to glory (v.2).”

I) Would you be happy? Then do not walk in the *counsel* of the *wicked* (v. 1a)

Psalm 1:1a “Blessed (*plural*) is the man who walks not in the counsel of the *wicked*,”

- “Happy is the man who does give nor listen the counsel of the wicked.” This has to do with advice or the counsel that is given.
- **BOYS AND GIRLS:** If you want to be happy, do not listen to the advice of people who do not love Jesus!
- **Q.** Who’s counsel do you listen to? Who’s advice has directed your steps?

II) Would you be happy? Then do not stand in the *way* of *sinners* (v. 1b)

Psalm 1:1b “nor *stands* in the way of *sinners*,”

- “Happy is the man who will not stand among those who will not stand in the judgement.”
- **WATSON:** “The godly man shakes off all intimacy with the wicked. He may traffic with them, not associate; he may be civil to them, as neighbors, but not twist into a cord of friendship. Diamonds and stones may lie together, but they will not solder and cement.”
- **Q.** Who’s way do you stand in? Who do you have fellowship with?

III) Would you be happy? Then do not sit in the *seat* of *scoffers* (v. 1c)

Psalm 1:1c “nor sits in the seat of *scoffers*,”

- **Psalm 26:4** “I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites.”
- **Those who mock God by scoffing at His person or His precepts or His providence may feel an instant delight**, but they are like one who drinks wine laced with poison. It ends in sickness and death. And those who surround themselves with scoffers get over-sprayed with their **poisonous vomit!**
- **Q.** Do you sit in the seat of judgement and put God on trial?

IV) Would you be happy? Then get a *delight* in the Scriptures (v. 2a)

Psalm 1:2a “but his delight is in *the law of the LORD*,”

- **Jeremiah 15:16** “Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.”
- **Q.** How can you and I get a delight in the Scriptures? **A.** Only by continually looking to Christ Jesus in faith, whom the whole of the Bible is about!
- **BOYS AND GIRLS:** If you want to be happy, learn to *LOVE* reading and being taught the Bible!

V) Would you be happy? Then *meditate* on the Scriptures day and night (v. 2b)

Psalm 1:2b “and on *his law* he meditates day and night.”

- **Moses writes**, “And Isaac went out to **meditate** in the field toward evening.” (**Genesis 24:63**)
- **So Joshua says to God’s people**, “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall **meditate** on it day and night.” (Josh. 1:8)
- **And Paul exhorts us**, “whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (**Philippians 4:8**)
- **Eight times in Psalm 119 David says He “meditates” on the Word of God!** He says it more in one chapter than many professed Christians have done in their entire life!
- **Psalm 119:97-99** “Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation.”
- Studying the Word of God is the tasting of the food, meditation is like the chewing and swallowing. **Q.** Do you taste only?
- Reading or Hearing the Word of God is the planting of seeds, meditation is watering. **Q.** Do you plant only?

VI) What are the happy saints like? (v. 3)

Psalm 1:3 “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.”

TRANSITION: Now this song not only reveals to us the happiness of God’s saints; it also shows plainly the misery of sinners. Look at verses 4-6!

II. THE MISERY OF SINNERS (vv. 4-6)

I) What are the wicked like? (v. 4)

Psalm 1:4 “The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.”

- **John the Baptist says in Matthew 3:12** “[Christ’s] **winnowing fork** is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

II) Those who stand in the way of sinners will not stand in the judgement (v. 5a)

Psalm 1:5a “Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,”

- **Matthew 7:21-23** “**21** Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. **22** On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ **23** And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

III) Those who walk in the counsel of the wicked will not be in the congregation of the righteous in heaven (v. 5b)

Psalm 1:5b “nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;”

- **WILLIAM PLUMER:** “In this life the holy and the unholy are often found together at the Lord’s table. The tares and wheat grow together until the harvest. The sheep and goats herd together till the Chief Shepherd shall appear. . . Then shall be made an eternal separation between God’s friends and God’s foes.”

IV) The great difference between saints and sinners! (v. 6)

Psalm 1:6 “for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.”

- **1 John 2:16-17** “**16** For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. **17** And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”

CONCLUSION

Q. How can any of us stand in the judgement and not be driven away to the burning like chaff? Have we not all at many times walked in the counsel of the wicked, stood in the way of sinners, and sat in the seat of scoffers? Have we not all many times neglected God’s Word and filled our thoughts with evil?

Q. What do we deserve then?! Oh see that we all are the chaff in and of ourselves!

Q. I ASK AGAIN, How can any of us stand in the judgement and not be driven away to the burning like chaff?

A. Only through the Lord Jesus Christ who is the ONLY MAN TO EVER PERFECTLY OBEY PSALM 1!

- **I) Christ is the true happy man who never once walked in the counsel of the wicked!**
- **II) Jesus did not ever stand in the way of sinners!**
- **III) Though Christ suffered greatly in His life He not once sat in the seat of scoffers!**
- **IV) The Son of God’s delight was in the Law of the LORD and on His Law He meditated day and night!**
- **He is that Tree of trees, planted by by streams of water! And if we trust and submit to Him, we get grafted in and connected to Him!**
- **Christ not only obeyed the Law of God perfectly so that we may be counted righteous; He WILLINGLY BECAME LIKE THE CHAFF AND WAS BLOWN AWAY INTO THE FIRES OF JUDGEMENT!**
- **THINK OF IT!**
- **I) The God-man, the Lord Jesus Christ—the only that has ever deserved to be that tree planted by the streams of water and prosper in all He does—He was willingly chopped down and burned on the cross for our sin!**
- **II) The only One who could ever truly stand in the judgement bowed His head and let the sword of justice cut Him to pieces, in our place!**
- **I) Look at His sinless life and trust in Him, that He lived perfectly righteous so that it would count for you!**
- **II) Look at Jesus’ death on the cross and trust in Him, that He died horribly yet willingly so that you could be forgiven!**
- **III) Look at Jesus’ resurrection from the dead and trust in Him, that He arose to break the power of sin and death!**
- **IV) Look at Jesus’ ascension from the earth back to heaven and trust in Him, that He ascended to be your Advocate with God and is now conquering the nations through the preaching of the gospel!**
- **V) Look at Jesus’ promise to return one day to judge the wicked and glorify His saints—fix your eyes, beloved, on the second coming of Jesus and the grace that will be brought to you then!**