

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE (Psalm 1)

I. The righteous described (vs. 1-3).

- A. A righteous person is one who avoids sin as much as possible.
 - 1. We all sin at some point (Romans 3:23), thus it is impossible to completely avoid sin.
 - 2. One who desires to be righteous does all that he/she can to avoid sin.
- B. The Psalmist begins by describing the things a sinner avoids.
- C. Those who seek to be righteous, thus happy in this life, don't walk in the counsel of the ungodly.
 - 1. True happiness comes from following God.
 - 2. Thus, the one who would be happy follows the counsel of God's word and not the counsel of those against God.
 - a. The ungodly are concerned with nothing but self and not others, certainly not God.
 - b. Their ways lead to ruin and destruction.
 - 3. With the wicked, there is no concern about salvation and the life that is to come.
 - 4. We live now in preparation to live again, but the wicked do not understand this, thus the happy person avoids them.
- D. The righteous don't stand in the way of sinners.
 - 1. Long ago, God through Moses said...(Exodus 23:2).
 - 2. Paul told the Corinthians...(1 Corinthians 15:33).
 - 3. These people classified as sinners have expressly chosen the life they lead.
 - 4. To stand with them shows support of and for their lifestyle and one who is righteous refuses to do such.
- E. The righteous don't sit with scorners or scoffers.
 - 1. This group of people deride anything to do with God.
 - 2. They mock God and those that follow or believe in God.
 - 3. God is also mocked when His word is not followed by those that claim to be His.
- F. Notice also that this verse shows us the progressive nature of sin.
 - 1. One begins in sin by walking by it and taking notice of it.
 - 2. If one's route is not changed, eventually you begin to stand near it, looking at it.
 - 3. Again, if there is no change, the next step is that you will be sitting right in the middle of it, actively engaged in it.
- G. This is how things happened with Lot.
 - 1. He saw it, he moved towards it and then was in the gate of Sodom.
 - 2. He didn't jump into Sodom right away, it was a progressive move towards it, all starting with a selfish choice.
- H. Positively, the happy righteous person joys in God's word.
 - 1. God's word holds a special place in his heart.

2. It brings him delight to study it and a strengthening of his resolve to live by it.
 3. He thinks about it when not reading it because it is important to him, being his guide.
- I. The reason for the joy in God's word is because the word of God causes life to be lived to the fullest.
 1. The world misses out on this.
 2. It believes a full life is one that is lived for self-indulgence.
 3. A full life is one that is lived for God and others.
 4. This life is prosperous in that it brings great spiritual riches to be enjoyed for all eternity, not just in this life.
 5. This life, a righteous life, causes us to bring forth fruit which is imperative to please God (John 15:1-8).
 - J. We miss out on so much in life when we live for self and not for God.
- II. The wicked are depicted (vs. 4-5).**
- A. Things are different with the ungodly or the wicked.
 - B. Instead of being able to take root as the righteous do, the wicked are scattered by the wind.
 1. Chaff is the outside shell of the wheat that is worthless.
 2. In the winnowing process, the chaff has to be separated for the wheat to be of use.
 3. John said Jesus would be the winnower (Matthew 3:11-12).
 4. This shows the vanity, or uselessness of their lives in the sense that they have wasted their lives not living for God.
 - C. Because of the vain lifestyle they chose, they won't stand in the judgment.
 1. A great truth that even those under the Mosaic Law understood is that there will be a judgment one day.
 2. Those that live for self instead of God will find themselves unable to stand before God but cast out from before Him.
 - D. Because they will be cast from the sight of God, they will not be in heaven, the congregation of the righteous.
 1. Revelation 21:27.
 2. In this life, there is a mixing of the wicked and the righteous (parable of the wheat and the tares).
 3. Such will not be the case in the next life.
 4. Heaven is a place of righteousness, thus the wicked would never fit in or enjoy it (2 Peter 3:13).
- III. God is the Determiner (vs. 6).**
- A. God knows who is and who is not righteous.
 - B. The reason for this is that God has established what is righteous and what is wicked through His word.
 1. One does not have to wonder whether he or she is wicked or righteous.
 2. All one has to do is to look into God's word to find out (James 1:23-25).
 - C. We can know whether or not we are with God.

1. 1 John 2:3-5.
 2. There does not have to be any guessing about things.
 3. We know whether or not we are righteous or wicked by whether or not we keep His word.
- D. God approves of the righteous and condemns the wicked.

Idea for this sermon came from a lecture by Perry Cotham, Jr.