

Psalm 1: Where are you planted?

June 8, 2008—Jerry Cisar

Text: Psalm 1

Intro: This Psalm is about two kinds of men...

The righteous are those who live by faith... while the wicked are those whose hope is in this life.

I. The righteous live with the end in mind.

A. What do you want the end of your life to be?

- i. vs. 3 This is a picture of *fruitfulness*.

- ii. vs. 4 This is the picture of *weightlessness*.

B. The Psalmist is not naïve to the reality of suffering, or injustice, but rather is speaking of *ultimate* or *final outcomes*.

II. The righteous have a different life-source than the wicked.

A. The righteous are like a tree planted by streams of water...

- Psalm 46:4

Living by faith directs us away from the stream of the wicked.

B. *Blessed is the man who does not walk in **the counsel** of the wicked or stand in **the way** of sinners or sit in **the seat of mockers**.*

- i. Each of these speaks of a progression of departure from faith to faithlessness.
 - a) Counsel:

 - b) Way:

 - c) Seat of mockers:

- ii. It is a slippery slope that begins with an adjustment in what we think about.

C. Vs. 2 *But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.*

Old proverb: *Sow a thought, reap an action; Sow an action reap a habit; Sow a habit, reap a character.*

Since faith informs what we think about... then faith determines our character... ultimately our character reveals our faith.

i. **What is *the law*?**

a) Life giving nature...

- John 6:63

b) The law is a shadow...

- Hebrews 10:1
- Colossians 2:17

ii. These truths of Psalm 1 apply to us in the NT:

- Colossians 3:16
- John 15

iii. *“on His law he meditates”*

Scripture has to be what we all mark from... so that we don't veer from truth.

iv. What does it mean to mediate?

Meditation is not only a devotional activity; though it no doubt grows out of it...

This is the believer, because of his faith, actively taking the reigns of his inward talk... that inner voice... and directing it.

Paul Tripp: *"No one is more influential in your life than you are because no one talks to you more than you do. You're in an unending conversation with yourself. You're thanking to yourself all the time, interpreting, organizing, and analyzing what's going on inside you and around you."*

Martyn Lloyd Jones: *"Have you realized that most of your unhappiness in life is due to the fact that you are listening to yourself instead of talking to yourself?"*

D. Meditation is living from a different life-source than the world.

- Proverbs 4:20-23

Conclusion: This psalm is about two kinds of men.

- A. The man who, being righteous by faith, is now living by faith...
- B. It draws us to the life of faith by holding up two outcomes:

Drawing Lines

Making the connection between what we "know" about the Gospel and how we think and live.

- Which parts of this psalm reveal that the blessed man is motivated by how he will end up, rather than what he will get?
- What is the progression from faith to faithlessness implied in verse 1? What does this slippery slope begin with?
- Why is what you think about vitally important?
- What does it mean to meditate in the law?
- Why is this more than a mere devotional exercise? What areas of your lifestyle came under conviction as you heard this message? How can you respond to God's call to live by faith through the message of this psalm?
- Proverbs 4:20-23 speaks of guarding our hearts. Why is this vital? How should you be guarding your heart specifically?
- What does "canon" mean, and why is this important to this particular study?
- Read John 15:1-14. What parallels can you see between these words of Jesus and Psalm 1?