

Psalm 1: 1-3; “The Blessed Godly Man, A Message delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall for the people gathered at Premier Estates Nursing Home, on the afternoon of August 11th, 2024.

I would like to approach this Psalm from the standpoint of the heart and life of the Lord Jesus, and I want you to compare His life with your own life. I do not hesitate to say it, the Lord Jesus Christ is the most blessed of men because He was the most godly Man while He walked upon this earth. Do you want to be blessed? Do you want to be happy forever? Then listen as I give to you the 3 descriptions of a godly man as they were perfectly fulfilled in the heart and life of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1st of all – A man is godly if he is Separate. 2nd – A man is godly if he Meditates. And 3rd – A man is godly if he is Fruitful. I pray that even now you will behold the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ as He was perfect in every way in His obedience.

1st of all – The Godly Man is Separate.

He is separate from sinners and He is separate from their sins. Verse 1 says – “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinner, nor sits in the seat of the scornful...” The word “Blessed” in the original Hebrew is in the noun plural; (Ashrey) which could be translated – “blessednesses”. So we should conclude that there are many rich blessings which attend the way of the person who will not walk in the counsel of the ungodly.

Persons who do not have God in their life, and Christ in their heart, are unstable souls. However, they like to believe that they are wise and can give advice and instruction to other people when they do not know God. But when you do not know the Lord, you do not know the meaning of life. It is always a blessed thing in God’s sight when you will walk; that is, that you will live your life walking separate from sinners who will lead you astray. Jesus knew this better than anyone else. He knew that there was a counsel that the ungodly will give to the godly and ungodly alike.

The scribes and the Pharisees thought that they were godly but they hated the Lord Jesus. They hated Him because they were self-righteous people. They evaluated themselves and they thought that they were keeping the commandments of God. But they did not love the Lord Jesus when He came to them and told them that they must repent and believe in Him. They did not know that He was the only One who was perfect and without sin. Jesus knew that those who are ungodly people, those without grace in their mind and heart, would always live according to their own ideas of what is right and wrong and good and bad.

Jesus knew the philosophy of fallen human nature. It is – Live to please yourself. And do not worry about pleasing God. Ungodly people are those who will not live to God, and they will not live under the authority and direction of His word the Bible. They refuse and reject the idea that they should submit to His ruling over their lives. For this very reason they will also eventually, sooner or later, reject the counsel of their parents or other godly people. They will come eventually to reject their spiritual admonition and their authority in the most important matters of life. The Lord Jesus knew that there is a progression in being a sinful and ungodly person. He knew that sinners never remain in a static state, but they will move ever downward and away from God unless grace intervenes.

If Jesus was standing here today, He would say to us: This is why you should believe in Me right away, if you never have. For there is a downward progression of sin in this passage. Do you see it? First, you walk in the counsel of the ungodly; then you stand in the path of the sinner, and then finally, you will sit down in the seat of one who scorns. You will be one who will question and criticize the admonitions of God’s Word. You will no longer allow anyone to tell you where you might be wrong or lead you toward what is right.

This is why the Lord Jesus died. It was the counsel of the ungodly people who thought that they were thinking rightly, and who thought that they did know God, who found Jesus guilty. And they put Him to death on the cross. But the Father used it to bring about the highest good; that

is, the salvation of all who would believe in Him. This is the counsel that must be heeded. It is the gospel. Believe that Christ can save you from your sins, and come into your life. Believe that He can give you joy and peace in believing in Him. You will then rejoice in believing in the truth of the Bible because all of the Scriptural principles, precepts, and promises have their ultimate focus on the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Man who fulfilled all of God's holy law. If you will believe in Him, the Most Blessed of Men, you will find His grace and His Spirit helping you to understand the Bible better. And this will help you to live a godly life. Listen to how the wisdom and godliness of the Lord Jesus is described in Isaiah 11: 1-4.

“There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and Branch shall grow out of his roots.” “The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.” “His delight is in the fear of the Lord, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.”

Jesus was the friend of sinners. He would win them to Himself. That is, He would win them to the idea that they needed what He alone could give to them, which was grace and truth. And yet He was also separate from sinners in terms of His personal holiness and godliness. He was not self-righteous in His attitude towards sinners around Him. He loved them with a compassionate love. But He never agreed or went along with one sinful thought or deed that others did. He loved God His Father with all of His heart, and He put God first in terms of all of His obedience.

This is why we rejoice so greatly in Him today. It is because He know that He was faithful in every way where we were not. We have a Savior who is holy, harmless, undefiled and separate from sinners, as it says in Hebrews 7, verse 26. He was not detoured from His obedience by any man. He did not compromise to walk in the counsel of the ungodly at any point. In Hebrews Chapter 7, verse 22, it says that “Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant”. The New Covenant is better than the Old Covenant, because in the New, salvation rests completely upon Jesus and His finished work. It does not rest on our imperfect work in any way.

And so, let us remember this: Jesus rendered a perfect obedience to God and went to the cross for our sakes. He bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. This was the fulfillment of the New Covenant. In His righteousness He endured the mocking and the reviling of men who should have been worshiping Him. He had not walked in their counsel, and now they scorned Him. But He did this for our sakes. This is why you and I can become godly and increase in godliness; because of what Jesus did as the most Blessed of men.

2nd – The Godly Man Meditates.

Verse 2 says – “But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.” To meditate is to think upon or ponder the Scriptures long enough to grasp the greater and deeper meaning that is there. There is always something more for us in the Word of God because it is God's book. Let us remember that, and place it at the top of our reading list; not to read it occasionally, but day and night. It is meditating upon this word that makes and shapes you into a godly man or woman.

You are to meditate upon it day and night. Not just when it is convenient; but you should consciously try to incorporate it into all of your thinking. You think upon it long enough that you take it into yourself; into your soul, so that your soul is nourished and strengthened. The Christian man or woman learns that, in terms of their growth or spiritual strength, it is not enough just to have the spiritual food to eat, but that the food should be enjoyed. The Word of God, which is what it means here by “the law of the Lord”, is something that should be carefully chewed and swallowed and then digested.

“It is not a good thing to wolf your food”, my mother used to tell me when I was young. Truth is not something simply to be hastily brought into the spiritual stomach of the mind and heart. It is to be thought upon in relation to ourselves and then ourselves in relation to God. Meditation is more like the chewing of the cud. You chew it, and then you chew it again to get more out of it. Let me give you a few reasons from Psalm 119 that you should meditate on the law of the Lord. Psalm 119, verse 15 – “I will meditate on your precepts, and contemplate your ways.” You should meditate upon the moral commandments of God’s holy law in order to know more about His righteousness, His holiness, and His way of doing things.

His ways are not your ways, nor His thoughts your thoughts. The more that you meditate on His precepts; His rules for you to live by; the more you come to understand something more of what He would have you to do for Him, as a Christian, and even how to go about doing it. When your mind and your heart are filled with the Scripture and you meditate upon it, it will speak to you. It will be living and active and sharper than a two edged sword; the truth coming to your heart.

This is especially true when you remember that God has given His Holy Spirit to reside in your heart and to reveal more of Christ through this means. It will lead you personally to render to God a more loving and more thoughtful obedience to His commands. Christ must have been the Ultimate Meditator upon the Scripture. He was the One who said, “Behold, I have come – in the volume of the book it is written of Me – I delight to do Your will, O God, and Your law is within my heart.” How often the Lord Jesus must have meditated upon the Scriptures in terms of keeping all the commandments of God on our behalf. “I have food which you know nothing of”, He said to His disciples. His food was to the will of His Father God.

Think about what it says in Psalm 119: 48 – “My hands also I will lift up to Your commandments, which I love and I will meditate on Your statutes.” This is what the Lord Jesus Christ did. He meditated on God’s statutes and He was able to praise God His Father for all of His wonderful commandments. He confessed that He loved them and proved it by His full obedience to them. Christ had to die for you so that you will come to have this mindset; this ability to meditate fully and regularly on God’s word. You once might have thought that this meditating on God’s word was burdensome. But when Christ’s grace and His Spirit entered your heart the service of God became sweet and easy. His yoke is easy and His burden is light. As it says in Psalm 19, meditation upon God’s word is sweet. It is sweeter than the honey and the honey-comb.

3rd – The Godly Man is fruitful.

Verse 3 says – “He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.” Once you become a Christian, you begin to realize that you have planted as a tree of righteousness in your heart. Because you are the planting of the Lord, the Father and the Son both expect good fruit to come from your life, because of their working in you. Jesus said in John 15: 5 – “I am the vine, you are the branches.” “He who abides in Me and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

Verses 7 & 8 then say: “If you abide in me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire and it shall be done for you.” “By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.” To abide in Christ is to see your constant need for the grace of Christ to be able to do anything spiritual. You see your utter dependence upon Him to see changes in your heart, your life and your behavior. You see your constant need of grace from the Savior to be able to show forth the fruit of righteousness in your words and actions and works. But if you will abide, that is, continue walking with the Lord by faith and obedience to His word, you shall spiritually prosper in every way. You will be satisfied with His grace and His Spirit’s giving help to you continually, to do what is right.

