

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Psalm 1 Ted Rastatter 1/1/23

Psalm 1 gives us a way of imagining a path to true human flourishing, happiness, *Blessedness* (Heb. *Asre* – happy or blessed comes from the word *Ashar* – to advance or go straight on a path). The writer helps us imagine by giving us a picture of a blessed man who is contrasted with the lives of wicked people

- Vs. 1 tells us what the blessed man does not do: walk in the counsel of wicked people, stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of scoffers.
- Vs. 2 tells us what he does: He delights in God's word.
- Vs. 3-4 tells us the outcomes of these opposing lives. One prospers, the other does not – "*but are like chaff that the wind drives away*".
- Vs. 5-6 speaks of the eternal outcome of the righteous and the wicked. The righteous are congregated and are intimately known by the Lord. The wicked are not permitted to enter the congregation and will not *stand* (think raised up) in the judgment

The Bible tells us no human being, apart from Jesus, fits the bill of being truly faithful. "*They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one*" (Ps. 14:3).

Jesus is the fulfillment of what the Psalmist imagined in the Blessed Man. He alone was pure and sinless, fully delighting in God's law, which means he loved God with all his heart and loved his neighbor as himself. Yet, in the plan of God, Jesus was handed over to be crucified by the wicked, on behalf of the wicked, so that the wicked could be made righteous. "*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God*" (2 Cor. 5:21).

By God's grace in Christ, we who have received him by faith, have been given a righteous status, new and righteous desires which allow us to delight in God and his word. In short, we are made blessed men and women who will stand through God's judgment because we bear the fruit of Christ's work.

Discussion

1. The above is pretty hefty! Is there something that has been said that seemed new to you, or reminded you, or stuck out to you in a significant way?
2. What does it look like for someone to *walk in the counsel of the wicked, stand in the way of sinners, and sit in the seat of scoffers*?

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3. Laws are not something we typically delight in. When was the last time you were delighted to obey all the stop signs in Forest Ridge? How is God's law/instruction able to be delighted in.
 4. What keeps us from being *holier than thou* people who delight in God without looking down on those wicked people around us?
 5. How does the answer from number 4 and the reality of judgment in Vs. 5-6 motivate us for telling people about Jesus?
 6. If you have thought about resolutions for 2023, do you plan on *doing* something different to grow in faith and obedience to Jesus?