

The True Christian

How to Live in Holiness in a Godless Culture

For those who don't know me my name is Brandon Bush, I'm from Elk Neck Baptist Church. Where I serve with Pastor Andrew.

I ended up at Elk Neck because of a man who asked me who was my Timothy and who was my Paul.

I want to encourage you to have a Timothy and a Paul

Someone you are teaching, mentoring, and discipling in the faith. But you also need to find someone who is doing the same for you. That is a Challenge before the Challenge. Amen

This Afternoon we are going to be in Psalms 1.

As I started to analyze my life, as I analyzed the Godly men I know, as I analyzed society, we are putting ourselves in some situations that are hindering are walk with the Lord.

Society wants to make us believe we can be a Christian and still mimic the world.

There are a lot of things out there that look attractive. Maybe things we did before coming to the Lord are still lingering in our lives. Maybe there are some people, some places, maybe some influences, as we stumble across social media, old music, and movies.

Things trying to infiltrate our lives.

The True Christian

How to Live in Holiness in a Godless Culture

Turn to Psalms 1 – Psalms 1 is a called a Wisdom psalm because we learn that happiness results from our choices to follow the Lord's direction of Life. In this Psalm the writer sets forth direction of Life. In this Psalm the writer sets forth two ways, two directions, two paths –In Life.

Read Psalms 1:1-6

Look at Vs 1

1st He forbids us to walk in their counsel

2nd To stand in their way

3rd To sit in their seat

To sum this verse up the servant of God must endeavor utterly to detest the life of the Ungodly men.

But as it is in the plans of Satan to slide slowly and smoothly, in a very crafty way, the prophet, shows us how little by little man is persuaded to turn aside from the right path.

They do not at first go so far as to disrespect or disregard God, but having begun to give Ear to Evil counsel, Satan leads them, step by step, farther astray, until they rush head long into open transgression.

Look with back at Verse 1

The Prophet Begins with **Counsel**, saying the wickedness does not show itself openly at first.

Then He speaks of the **Way**; this is the traditional normal accepted way of living. **Not God's way!**

At the top of the peak is the **Seat**, now were stubbornly Persistent in wrongdoing and unrepentant making a habit of a sinful Life.

So, let's look at this again He says when a person willingly **Walks** after the gratifications of his corrupt lusts, the practice of sinning infatuates him, then he grows hardened in wickedness and this the Prophet says is **standing in the way of sinners**

Then he concludes verse 1 with sitting, we see a gradual Increase of Evil

Notice the last word mentioned the **Scornful – The Scorners** are those who have thrown off all fear of God. They commit sin without restraint, no fear of

judgement, as if they will never render up an account for their habitual life of sin.

Just as it was in the time of the psalmist, today it is necessary for the Devout Man of God to withdraw themselves from the company of the ungodly, in order to frame their life a right. How much more in this present day, when the world has become so corrupt, we ought to avoid the way of this world, that we may be kept unstained by its impurities.

Here the prophet not only commands the faithful to keep a distance from the Ungodly, from the dread of being infected by them.

But his rebuke further implies, that everyone should be careful not to corrupt themselves, listen Defilement doesn't half to be contracted from evil examples we can be wicked all on our own.

When men are living in Sin they go from bad to worse. At first, they merely walk in the counsel of the careless and ungodly, who forgot God – Sin isn't continual yet

Once the sin becomes persistent or continual then they stand openly with sinners who willfully violate Gods commandment.

And if left alone, they go one step further to teach others how to live a destructive life. They tempt others and they sit in the seat of the scornful.

They become Doctors of Damnation.

But the blessed man, the man whom all the blessings of God belong, can hold no communion with people like this.

Maybe you are one of those guys that says this is the Old Testament, and this doesn't pertain to me as a Christian in the age of Grace. Then turn to

2 Corinthians 6:17 Separate yourself from moral corruption, defiling practices

Romans 16:17 Avoid people who create division and teach things that go against the true Gospel

2 Thess 3:6 Separate yourselves from fellow Christian who choose to live an idle and undiscipline life contrary to scripture.

1 Corinthians 15:33 The people you spend your time with change your habits

I know we focused a lot of attention on verse one, but there is so much here we could easily spend our entire time right here.

Looking back at our text, the psalm divides naturally into two nearly equal portions.

Vs 1-3 The character and condition of the righteous are described and their reward is promised.

Vs 4-6 The condition of the wicked is considered and their ultimate destruction and is predicted

One more time let's look at verse 1 The righteous man

1st He does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly he doesn't participate in their projects or plans

2nd He does not take part in their actions, does not follow the same moral paths

3rd has no fellowships with them, the scornful those who mock God and teaches others to sin.

What does he do let's look at Verse 2 He **Delights** = **He places Value** in the law of the Lord; He meditates on the law of the Lord Day and Night **Mediate** means **to ponder by talking to oneself**. Constant meditation in God's law has characterized true saints and believers throughout history.

They did research to see the effects of bible reading. They found those who read the bible 1-3 days a week it made next to none effect on their lives. But what they found was those who read the bible 4 or more days a week where

60% less likely to view Pornography

68% less likely to have sex outside of marriage

45% less likely to gamble

57% less likely to get drunk

32% less likely to have anger issues

60% less likely to have spiritual stagnation

407% more likely to memorize scripture

231% more likely to disciple others

288% more likely to share their faith

I remember studying thru this the Lord brought to my remembrance being a new Christian and writing on a piece of paper **Psalms 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee**

Lord, help me not to sin against you.

Back to our text if this is what characterizes your life you will be

Vs 3 says like a Tree by the rivers of water. Those who have gardens know the importance of water to see a plant thrive. God's word says do you want to thrive, do you want to bring forth fruit, do you want to flourish and prosper in whatever you do the rivers of living water require us to be thirsty and seek after it.

Do we want to have an intimate involvement of the Lord in our lives, then we need to place value in his word and seek it day and night.

As we look to **VS 4**, we see an abrupt contrast, it is not so are the ungodly. Notice here the term the Chaff – in ancient times was considered of no value at all and worthy only to be discarded

Vs 5 Here is a strong conclusion that the ungodly will not be able to stand before the Lord in the Judgment and the psalmist goes on to say even in the human judgment, the ungodly will be cast out, not only from heaven but also from the congregation of the righteous.

Vs 6 Gods word says that the Lord knows the righteous Psalm 4:6 The Lord, lifts up the light of his countenance = Countenance means Face.

The Lord not only knows the righteous but appears before them, looks upon and shines his light upon them.

David is saying turn away from worldly material greed and seek true peace in God's PRESENCE. If you want the Lords personal intimacy and involvement in your life. Place value in his word and seek him day and night.

But the wicked, he does not know. And the way of the ungodly shall perish – which means to vanish, be lost, be destroyed, or come to ruin.

Don't forget their ending.

Verse 1 starts with the blessed and Verse 6 ends with those who perish

We see today a gradual fall, one that doesn't start with sitting with those who mock God but

1st Are we putting ourselves in sticky situations

2nd Do we place value in God's word and seek it day and night

3rd Are we thirsty for living water, do want to thrive

4th Are we been influenced by those who are only worthy to be discarded

I challenge you brothers to Consider the things that are influencing your life.

I had to think about this the social media, the music, the movies, family traditions, some of the routines that I have held onto because they don't seem that bad, but that's how it all started.

As we go out into this godless culture don't mimic it, but to stand for truth.