

January 1st – The Person God Blesses

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.” (Psalm 1:1-2)

Everybody wants to be blessed, don't they? In our materialistic culture, we tend to say that a person is “blessed” when he has a nice house, nice cars, a good job, a big salary, etc. Some look beyond the material and say that a person is really blessed when he has a caring spouse, lovely children, and a loving home. Blessing really goes further than any of these because a man can have all those things and still not be completely blessed of the Lord.

True blessing is the peace that comes with knowing your sins have been forgiven. It's the assurance that comes with knowing if you don't wake up in the morning, you've got nothing to fear because you'll awaken in the presence of Jesus. It's the wonderful blessing of knowing that God works all things together for good to those who love Him (Rom. 8:28). The man who is truly blessed does not desire to walk in the paths of sin. Rather, he desires to be in the world but not of the world.

In today's verses, the psalmist tells us how a truly blessed man overcomes the wiles of the devil. “His delight is in the law of the Lord.” In other words, a righteous man cherishes the Word of God. He reads it and studies it to determine the will of God. He uses the Word as ammunition against the devil. Not only that, but he meditates on what he has studied so that the truth can continue to rise within him. As a result, “he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water” (Psalm 1:3) – blessed of the Lord!