

Psalm 1

1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.  
3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. in all that he does, he prospers.  
4 The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.  
5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;  
6 for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Here are the main points from the sermon:

1. What the blessed/happy person does not do - notice the progression of walking, standing, sitting
  - Walk in the counsel of the wicked - many times counsel can be based upon emotions, experience, tradition, by popular opinion or by what is politically correct.
  - stand in the way of sinners - one begins to hang around and chooses to stay around those who are not interested in the things of God
  - sit in the seat of scoffers - sitting down and participating with those who are against God.

What are some practical ways that you can guard your heart and actions from walking, standing, and sitting in places we were never designed.

This is the further study that was referenced related to Psalm 1:1.

- The apostle Paul gave very similar words to the church at Ephesus.

Ephesians 4:17-19

Psalm 1:1

17 This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,	who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;	Nor stand in the path of sinners,
19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.	Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

Can we ever remain passive toward God and His Word? (We can't. Passivity toward God and His Word leads to activity *in* sin and finally to overt activity *against* God.)

2. What the blessed person does - delights in God and His Word and meditates on His word. Meditate is like rolling it over in your mind. (The Song that Never Ends)

Paul reminds us of the things that we are to focus on in our minds.

Ask someone to read *Philippians 4: 8*

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*

3. The one who chooses to live according to God's Word is like a fruitful, strong tree which does not wither and they prosper - they fall more in love with God and become more like Christ. Bearing fruit is not something we do, but what God does through us. As we spend time in His Word, it is like living water that nourishes our souls and leads us to live in a way that brings glory to God.

illustration - The septic tank and the weeping willow. The stinky water caused that tree to "flourish" but it bore no fruit.

4. The wicked get blown away – they do not last. referred to as the chaff (husk, the shell and not the seed). The struggle for many of us is that we watch them "flourish" in a temporary way but God says their end is destruction.
5. The wicked have no standing on their own, in fact none of us do - it is only through Christ that we can stand before God unashamed. Those who reject Christ are destined for destruction.
6. The Lord knows the righteous, the wicked will perish. As we bring glory to God, God knows us and our reward is Him. Too many times we can become consumed with His blessings and miss Him.

As we commit to spending time in God's Word, the blessing alone is not just His Word, but we fall more in love with God Himself.

Read Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Close your time in prayer after taking prayer requests.