

Copyright © Two Journeys Ministry

Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

[www.twojourneys.org](http://www.twojourneys.org)

Please use in accordance with the copyright policy found at [twojourneys.org](http://twojourneys.org)

## **Guaranteed Fruitfulness Comes from the Word Alone**

### **Psalm 1**

#### **I. The Way of the Righteous: Fruitful Submission to God's Word**

##### **A. A Blessed Way**

1. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are..."
  - a. opening to the teaching of our Lord
  - b. opening to the Book of Psalms
2. Wholehearted happiness under the blessing of God
  - a. right relationship with your Creator
  - b. good outcomes in everything you set your hand to

Our God instructs you on how to be happy!!

3. Deuteronomy's simple choice: blessing or curse

***Deuteronomy 30:19 This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses.***

***Joshua 8:34 Afterward, Joshua read all the words of the law--the blessings and the curses--just as it is written in the Book of the Law.***

4. Blessings comprehensively described
  - a. temporal earthly blessings

***Deuteronomy 28:3-8 "You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out. The Lord will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven. The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land He is giving you."***

- b. eternal spiritual blessings

***Ephesians 1:3-4 “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”***

The source of both temporal and eternal blessedness is faith-filled obedience to the word of God

***Deuteronomy 32: 47 They are not just idle words for you--they are your life.***

#### B. A Way that Hates Evil

##### 1. Cannot be neutral

- a. presence of evil forces a negative side to blessedness
- b. must defend as well as do
- c. must HATE wickedness vigorously... “May it never be!!”

##### 2. Hating Ungodly Lifestyle

- a. note lifestyle words: “walk”, “stand in the way”, “sit in the seat”
- b. Hebraisms for the way you live every moment
- c. lives are made up of days, days made up of hours, hours of moment-by-moment decisions
- d. God intimately concerned with even small decisions... how much more the general flow of your life!!

##### 3. Hating Ungodly Counsel

- a. constant need for wisdom: life is complex
- b. everyone seeks advice, counsel

Illus: “Dear Abby,” talk shows, Oprah Winfrey

***Proverbs 27:9 Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of one's friend springs from his earnest counsel.***

- c. humble seeking of godly counsel required... absolutely essential

***Proverbs 15:22 Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.***

- d. wicked counsel leads to wicked actions
  - i) thought leads to action

ii) righteous man does not take advice from the ungodly

The righteous have a much better source of counsel: the word of the eternal God!

#### 4. Hating Ungodly Companions

- a. "wicked" = word used of the Sodomites God destroyed... anyone in rebellion against God
- b. "sinners" = people who transgress the commands of God
- c. "mockers"
  - i) people who mock God, mock God's word... make jokes about godly living
  - ii) something humorous about righteousness... butt of jokes & mockery

H.L. Mencken: "What is the function that a clergyman performs in the world? Answer: he gets his living by assuring idiots that he can save them from an imaginary hell."

"The liberation of the human mind has never been furthered by dunderheads; it has been furthered by gay fellows who heaved dead cats into sanctuaries and then went roistering down the highways of the world, proving to all men that doubt, after all, was safe--that the god in the sanctuary was finite in his power and hence a fraud. One horse-laugh is worth ten thousand syllogisms. It is not only more effective; it is also vastly more intelligent."

"We must respect the other fellow's religion, but only in the sense and to the extent that we respect his theory that his wife is beautiful and his children smart."

Mark Twain: "The Bible is a mass of fables and traditions, mere mythology."

Thomas Paine: "... the Bible is such a book of lies and contradictions there is no knowing which part to believe or whether any..."

Benjamin Franklin: "In the Affairs of this World Men are saved, not by Faith, but by lack of it."

Thomas Jefferson: "And the day will come when the mystical generation of Jesus, by the Supreme Being as His Father, in the womb of a virgin, will be classed with the fable of the generation of Minerva, in the brain of Jupiter."

--Letter to John Adams (Apr. 11, 1823)

(<http://gramercy.ios.com>)

iii) laugh at a simple Bible-believing faith

Modern liberals think there are only two kinds of people who believe in the inerrancy of the Bible: ignorant simpletons and scheming power-hungry religious leaders

iv) however, God has the final say... and He cannot be mocked

***Galatians 6:7 “Do not be deceived, God cannot be mocked; whatever a man sows, that he shall also reap.”***

d. NO FELLOWSHIP WITH THE UNGODLY!!

Psalm 1 is clear: blessedness in life comes from staying away from the mindset and lifestyle of the ungodly... while we cannot avoid daily interaction with non-Christians, and while we are commanded to be the light of the world and witnesses for the love of God in Christ, we are to avoid following the ways and philosophies of the world:

***2 Corinthians 6:14-15 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? <sup>15</sup> What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?***

This is especially true of those who claim to be Christians but live ungodly lifestyles:

***1 Corinthians 5:9-11 I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.”***

Summary: God says a blessed life begins with a commitment to hate evil in all its forms... there is a negative side to blessedness; if we do not guard ourselves, evil will creep in and destroy our harvest of fruitfulness!

BUT... what of the positive side of blessedness? We've seen what the blessed man does NOT do... what does he do?

C. A Way Immersed in God's Word

***vs. 2 “But his delight is in the law of the Lord and on his law he meditates night and day.”***

1. Delight

- a. heart attraction... deep LOVE for God's Word
- b. what do you delight in? What brings you pleasure? What do you anticipate with great expectation?
- c. God's grace overcomes our natural revulsion to His word

***1 Corinthians 2:14 “The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them for they are spiritually discerned.”***

d. we actually come to LOVE the word of God!!

[Ten times in Psalm 119] *Psalm 119:14, 16, 24, 35, 47, 70, 77, 92,143, 174*

vs. 14 *“I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.”*

vs. 35 *“Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight.”*

vs. 47 *“I delight in your commands, for I love them.”*

vs. 174 *“I long for your salvation, O Lord, and your law is my delight.”*

*Jeremiah 15:16 “When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart’s delight, for I bear your name, O Lord God Almighty.”*

## 2. Meditation

a. Hebrew word = murmur or mutter over the words

i) word based... not a matter of mood or visualization

ii) Buddhist meditation: emptying the mind of all meaning for “enlightenment”

Illus: “What’s the sound of one hand clapping.”: goal: self-emptying

iii) this is the opposite: filling your mind with meaning for understanding

b. deep pondering of each word, phrase, sentence, paragraph... each story

c. delight in proportion to understanding... discovering new things in God’s word

*Psalm 119:18 “Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.”*

d. most American Christians never stop to ponder the words... at best, they read quickly & forget

e. three types of meditation

i) for epistles, teaching part of gospels: “What does this mean?” “How will this change my understanding of God or myself?”

ii) for historical passages: “You are there.” [What does this teach me about God or humanity?]

iii) “salvation history”... covering scope of Bible & world history to bring you the gospel

## 3. Practice

vs. 3 *“Whatever he does prospers.”*

**James 1:22** *“Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves; do what it says... The man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom and continues to do this, not forgetting what he’s heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.”*

- a. not a forgetful hearer but an obedient doer
- b. deep meditation leads to a changed heart, then a changed life

#### D. A Way of Fruitfulness

##### 1. Permanent fruitfulness

vs. 3 *“He is like a tree planted by streams of water which yields its fruit...”*

- a. “planted” = unmovable, secure, stable, PERMANENT
- b. constant supply needed for fruitfulness... always available

Illus. Water sucked up by the roots (Time-Life book)

- c. “Leaf never withers”... always constantly producing something

##### 2. Patient fruitfulness

vs. 3 *“...which yields its fruit in season...”*

- a. lit. “in its time”
- b. each fruit has its own season and it takes time for the fruit to be ready
- c. constant intake of God’s word PLUS maturing which comes from life experience makes for ripe fruit when the time comes

Illus. Moses was 80 years old when God harvested him and called him into his service

- d. BUT “in season and out of season”

**2 Timothy 4:2** *“Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season.”*

Have to be constantly ready to bear fruit for Jesus Christ... we actually don’t know when the season is right for eternal spiritual fruit...

Daily time of meditation in God’s Word makes us far less likely to miss opportunities for bearing eternal spiritual fruit

##### 3. Pervasive fruitfulness

**vs. 3 “Whatever he does prospers.”**

- a. pervasive fruitfulness... everything you touch will bring glory to God
- b. you begin to see even the smallest things of life as possibilities for fruit bearing

**1 Corinthians 10:31 “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”**

## II. The Way of the Wicked: Fruitless Rebellion Against God’s Word

### A. A Contrary Way

**vs. 4 “Not so the wicked.”**

1. It all starts with despising God and His Law
2. They delight in worldly things: their conversation is all about the things of this world
3. They know little to nothing of God’s word... they hardly ever read it, still less to they meditate on it... they never delight in it
4. TOTALLY THE OPPOSITE OF THE BLESSED MAN... also opposite result: everything he does is CURSED!!!

### B. A Way of Fruitless Impermanence

**vs. 4 “They are like chaff that the wind blows away.”**

1. Lightweight... impermanent

Illus. Chaff in Pakistan... blown away while the heavier wheat settles down

What brings WEIGHTINESS to life... the glory of God (Glory = weight)

2. Nothing of eternal significance
3. All their actions make no eternal difference... NO FRUIT!!!

Illus. Cyrus’s tomb

### C. A Way of Eternal Condemnation

**vs. 5 “Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.”**

1. “Therefore...” = Fruitless life is a sure sign of eternal condemnation
2. Psalmist brings in JUDGMENT DAY
  - People stand before the Judge: righteous survive, wicked fall

- Mockers will stop their mocking
- Wicked will account for their sins
- Righteous will see their fruit

3. The nation of unbelievers will be blown away like chaff

***Daniel 2:35*** [All nations and all their glory reduced to chaff that the wind blows away... Kingdom of Christ is eternal; Kingdom of men is temporary]

***Isaiah 40:6-7*** “All men are like grass and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever.”

If you stand on the word, you will stand eternally... you will survive Judgment Day

If you scoff and mock the word of God, you will be blown away like chaff

4. No fellowship for the wicked

***vs. 5*** “... nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.”

- a. wicked in total isolation

***Matthew 25:30*** “Throw that worthless servant outside into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

- b. righteous in an assembly... fellowship one with another

### III. The Way of the Lord: Active Over Both

***vs. 6*** “For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.”

#### A. God Actively Involved

1. God knows the way of the righteous intimately
2. God knows the way of the wicked to protect His own

***“The Lord knows the wicked from afar.”***

#### B. God Knows the Way of the Righteous

1. Careful shepherding
2. Constant guidance
3. Companionship



### C. God Perishes the Way of the Wicked

vs. 6 ***“The way of the wicked will perish...”***

1. Judgment comes
2. No remaining trace
3. The way and the wicked both perish
  - a. perish = eternal condemnation

***John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not PERISH but have eternal life.”***

- b. the ways of wickedness will perish with the wicked themselves
- c. the new heaven and earth will have neither wicked people nor wicked ways

### IV. Application: Storing Up Treasure

***Matthew 12:33-35 “Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. <sup>34</sup> You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. <sup>35</sup> The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.***

***Matthew 13:51-52 “Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked. “Yes,” they replied. <sup>52</sup> He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”***

- Choose a book of the Bible for September
- Buy a notebook
- Commit to spend 15 minutes every day on this project
- Begin every session with prayer to the Holy Spirit that He will open your mind
- Read a chapter in the book ... read with a pen in your hand; write down questions, observations, key words
- Spend two minutes just thinking about one of those questions, issues, key words or observations
- Close with prayer

**This is meditation!!**

Some of the most amazing things that God ever created are completely hidden from the eye. As a matter of fact, as we walk through a majestic forest of oaks, maples, elm, loblolly pine trees, we may never stop to contemplate the wonder which lies beneath our feet: the elaborate root systems of those majestic trees.

A tree is made up solely of living cells, the basic units of life. Each of these cells has physical needs: needs for nutrients, water, chemicals, oxygen... these needs are supplied by a most remarkable pump system... the roots which suck water and nutrients from the soil at an amazing rate.

An elm tree in England was found to have a root system which burrowed to a depth of 360 feet... a 36-storey building below the surface of the earth! The root system of such a tree is incredibly complex, for there may be as much as 14 million separate roots which may have a total of 14 billion tiny roots hairs. The roots grow every day, pushing soil and splitting boulders in the constant search for water. A single birch may give off through its 200,000 leaves as much as 900 gallons of water on a hot summer day. Each drop of water lost through evaporation must be replenished from the roots... the water passed from cell to cell like a bucket in a fireman's bucket brigade; water originating in the subterranean water table and pumped up naturally to a leaf 100 feet above the ground.

The tiny root hairs are ingeniously designed by God to filter out nutrients in a perfect balance, never too much of one thing or too little of something else... all of this guarantees the life and fruitfulness of the tree.

You may not think much of a trees root system... that is until one of them fails in a hurricane and crashes into your living room. In the day of testing, the root system is everything.

Jesus said some people who listen to the word and immediately respond with joy are like seeds sown in rocky soil; no possibility of a good root system, and when the sun comes up the plants get scorched because they have no root... when trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

My question for you this morning: how is your root system?