

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Psalms 1:1-6.**
- B. This psalm does not have a superscription, but it describes the differences of the righteous and the wicked and their fates.
- C. The text:
 - How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stand in the path of sinners,
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!
 - 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
And in His law he meditates day and night.
 - 3 He will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water,
Which yields its fruit in its season
And its leaf does not wither;
And in whatever he does, he prospers.
 - 4 The wicked are not so,
But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.
 - 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
 - 6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
But the way of the wicked will perish.

VERSE BY VERSE LOOK AT THE PSALM.

- A. The first three stanzas describe the man who is blessed or happy.
 - 1. Verse 1 is a stanza of three lines that are synonymous, and yet probably also synthetic or progressive. These describe the negative characteristics of a godly man.
 - a. A righteous man does not listen to the advice or "wisdom" of those in the world.
 - b. The righteous man does not put himself in the course of sinners as to not get caught up in their ways (Eph. 2:2).
 - c. The righteous man does not sit as if to be taught or instructed at the place where agnosticism, skepticism, and false doctrine are taught.
 - 2. Verse 2 gives the positive attitudes of the man whom God blesses, and they are also synonymous and progressive.
 - a. The righteous man has great joy in the advice and wisdom of God.
 - b. The righteous man thinks on the things of God to test them and to know how to put them in practice.
 - 3. Verse 3 describes him with an analogy of a tree by a reliable source of water. These three lines are synthetic or progressive in describing how a tree prospers with plenty of water.
 - a. The righteous man knows that he must feed on spiritual things to grow in grace.
 - b. The righteous man is busy bearing fruit, and becomes beautiful and strong by God's blessings.
 - c. The righteous man prospers because he is doing things God's way. His prosperity is first spiritual, then emotional, and physical.
 - 4. Verse 4 briefly describes the ungodly with a two line parallel that uses the analogy of thrashing wheat. John the Baptist used a similar description of the work of Jesus (Mt. 3:12).
 - 5. Verse 5 gives two similar descriptions of how the ungodly will not succeed.
 - a. Only because of the blood of Jesus are we able to stand at the great judgment (Rev. 6:17; 7:14-17).
 - b. The assembly of the righteous is made possible by X. Sinners are not able to enter therein (Rev. 21:23-27).

6. Verse 6 contrasts the fate of the righteous and the ungodly. It does not say that the wicked will not prosper, for some do for a while. But they will ultimately come to complete destruction.
- B. The poetic balance of similar and contrasting descriptions and figurative language is an excellent example of the literary beauty of the Psalms and shows how instructive and encouraging they are.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Some questions for introspection:
 1. Where do you walk, stand, and sit?
 2. What do you spend the most time meditating on?
 3. Can you honestly say you are spiritually growing (prospering)?
 4. Does the idea of judgment scare you (because of sin)?
- B. Righteousness comes from Jesus' death at Calvary. He died so that we might become the righteousness of God (2Cor. 5:21).
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.