

Are You in the Way?

Psalm 1: 1-3

The world in which we live makes me more aware of the spiritual climate of our day. Things have changed dramatically in the past twenty five to thirty years. We live in a day where there is little interest or concern for the ways of God. Society seems to have adapted the philosophy of the Epicureans: Eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow you may die. Most are only concerned with financial prosperity and physical fulfillment. The world is determined to satisfy itself, regardless of the consequences or cost to others.

We have seen this attitude developed on a large scale even in our area. It troubles me to see communities that used to live for the Lord and strive to uphold His standard of holiness, simply abandon the ways of God for what they regard as “progress and prosperity.” [Psalm 33:12 – Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord: and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.](#) America could once claim this promise, but we have been on a course that is leading farther from the Lord for years now. Those who desire the ways of the world will only become more determined and deceitful in achieving their goals.

The church has dwelt in a state of complacency too long. It is time for us to rise up and take a stand for the Lord and His way! This beginning psalm gives us practical insight into the lives we are to live. It reveals [characteristics](#) of the course believers are to travel. As we look at these [characteristics](#), I want to preach on this thought: [Are You in the Way?](#) We find it is:

I. A Separated Way (1) – [Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.](#) The Lord promises blessing to those who are committed to remaining in His way. The way of the Lord is in contrast to the ways of the world. There must be a difference! What kind of difference should there be?

A. A Different Stride – [Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly.](#) Those who desire the blessing and approval of the Lord must not walk as this world walks. We are not to walk in the counsel of the ungodly. Society has developed a new standard for what is acceptable in this life. The standards of God have been lowered to accommodate the lusts of the flesh. There is little regard for what the Word of God has to say.

- We are to rise above the lowered standards of this world. Our walk is to be different than that of the world. We are to set our own course, not to be lured in by the influence of the world. We are not to walk to the beat of the world’s drum, but in obedience to God! [Psalm 37:23 – The](#)

steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. How is your walk? Is it different?

B. A Different Stand – Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners. Believers are not to stand in the way of sinners. We are not to embrace the ideals of this world. We are not to compromise our stand and conform to the pressures of this life. We have been born again, brought out of the life of sin, resurrected a new creature in Christ. Rom.12:2 – And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

- Far too many have compromised their stand for the Lord and have given in to the way of the world. This usually happens gradually. There is a little compromise here and a little more there until they have lost their stand all together. It is time for the church to stand boldly for the cause of Christ. 2 Thes.2:15 – Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. We need those who will simply stand! If we don't who will?

C. A Different Seat – Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly...nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. Also we find we are not to sit in the seat of the scornful. We are not to live among the world. This is the final stages of one who is no longer living a separated life. They chose to walk in the way of the world. This led to compromise and conformity in their stand. Now they are found seated among the world.

- Believers do not belong among the world! Life lived for the Lord must be a life of separation. My desires changed when I got saved. I no longer fit in with the world. I am no longer comfortable in the places it offers.

- The way of sin and compromise is always a downward progression. Think of Lot and Peter. Has your walk begun to stray? Do you find yourself standing among the world, tempted to partake of what it offers? Be careful, the next step will be sitting among the world. Stay close to God and in His way. It is the best way; it is the only way! Psalm 84:10 – For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

II. A Satisfying Way (2) – But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. I know the world thinks Christians live a life void of joy and fulfillment, but nothing could be farther from the truth. I have something within, something that is ever near and eternal. Let's consider this satisfying way.

A. A Way of Desire (2a) – [But his delight is in the law of the Lord](#). Those who walk in the ways of God delight in His Word. The direction of God is not hard to be received or resented. There is delight in seeking the ways of God. We don't view the Bible as a book of myths or fairy tales. We don't demand scientific proof or historic documentation. It is accepted by faith.

- It is the Book that reveals the sacrifice of our Lord. It gives us the story of His compassion and redemption of man. There are passages that bring comfort to the soul in times of distress, words of direction in times of confusion, words of rebuke when we are tempted to stray, and words of nourishment as we grow. Serving the Lord and living according to His Word may be challenging at times, but it is never burdensome. As we live for God according to His will, we are blessed. [Psalm 37:4 – Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.](#)

B. A Way of Discernment (2b) – [and in his law doth he meditate day and night](#). The satisfying way is achieved through a hunger for the Word of God. It is found when we meditate and dwell upon its precepts. This isn't just a casual reading of the Word, but a desire to learn the great truths of the Bible and apply them to our lives. It is reading the Word and allowing it to change our lives.

- Those who desire the ways of God desire to know more of Him. There is a hunger to search the Scriptures and develop a closer walk with the Lord. Many never find the fullness the Lord gives because they never take the time to learn of Him through His Word. The Scriptures must be read and reread, and allowed to settle within our hearts. If you want to know the Lord in a more intimate way, seek Him in the pages of His Word. [Psalm 119:11 – Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.](#) [Psalm 86:11 – Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.](#) We must allow the Word to dictate our direction in life!

C. A Way of Diligence – [and in his law doth he meditate day and night](#). Those who desire the way of God must live a life of commitment. We are to seek His way [day and night](#). We should desire to live for Him wherever we are, in whatever circumstance. Those who will have the blessing of God do not live a double standard. They seek to honor the Lord at all times. We have met those who do pretty well on Sunday, but Monday morning is a different story all together. Let us seek to live for God and seek His ways at all times. Let us live for God among the world just as we do among the church. Determine to be an everyday Christian!

III. A Situated Way (3) – [And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper](#). Believers are not left to a life of wandering. Our lives may have to endure difficulty and change, but they are not tossed by the winds of uncertainty or unbelief. We have an Anchor that is sure. Consider:

A. Our Position (3) – [And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water](#). This literally means we have been transplanted by the hand of our Lord. I have been taken up from the miry clay of sin and planted on a firm foundation by the river of life! God has brought me out of a life of death and despair, one that was in the broad way, and planted me in the garden of His goodness! I am planted in the family of God by His mighty hand!

B. Our Production (3) – [that bringeth forth his fruit in his season](#). Those who live for God, planted in Him can expect a life of productivity. This is two-fold. Notice production involves:

1. Fruitfulness – Those who are right with God will bring forth fruit in their season. We aren't left to a life of idleness, but one that is fruitful for the Lord and His work. Each of us ought to desire to bear fruit for the Lord. He has done so much for us; the least we can do is be productive for Him. That is what He desires for us. [John 15:5 – I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.](#)

2. Faithfulness – The believer who lives for God will bear fruit in his season. God will bless those who live for Him. I want to be the type of Christian who blooms every season. I want to have a heart of obedience the Lord can use continually. I don't want to be one who blooms quickly and then fades away in the heat of the summer. Many start out well, but soon lose their desire and commitment. I want to bear fruit and serve God as long as I have breath in my body!

C. Our Prominence (3) – [his leaf also shall not wither](#). There will certainly be times of drought and seasons of storms, but even in the tough times we can remain vibrant for the Lord. Those planted in the Lord have set their roots in the deep things of God. They have built their lives upon a firm foundation and grown strong in the Lord. I don't want my leaves to fade and have the appearance of a dead Christian. I want to live a life that bears witness to others. God will do that for those who dwell in Him!

D. Our Prosperity (3) – [and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper](#). God gives a final promise in this verse. We must remember that the situated way is dependent upon our relationship with Him. Those who diligently serve Him and seek His way can claim these promises. We are promised whatsoever we do shall prosper.

- Now God isn't promising that you can go out and start a new business and become an overnight millionaire, but He does promise your way will be prosperous. Your life can be filled with

the abundance He gives. You can have a Rock to lean upon and hide in when trials come. You can live a life that honors God and brings unending joy. You can influence others, compelling them to seek the Lord as you have. These are what real prosperity is anyway. I have been given eternal prosperity rather than temporal satisfaction.

Conclusion: I pray we have all been challenged to live closer to the Lord than ever before. We live in a world that is quickly abandoning the ways of God. It needs those who are committed to the Lord!

Is your life all it should be for Christ? Do you know Him as Lord and Savior? Are you walking with Him, abiding in His Word? If not, I urge you to seek Him as He leads!