

Modified to preach at Greeley, November 27, 2011,

The Psalm I just read ought to be in the memory of every child of God. If you have not memorized it, I would strongly suggest that you make it a family project and do so as soon as possible. It will enrich your life for years to come. I have read from the King James Version, because I suspect that most of you who learned this Psalm learned it in that version.

As David Dickson wrote on the Psalm: It "teacheth, that no ungodly man is blessed, but the godly man only." God makes a distinction between the godly and the ungodly in this life and in the life to come. The Psalm is New Testament in spirit, even if it is Old Testament in form, for the life of the Spirit of God moves and breathes in the Psalm. It anticipates the words of our Lord in the opening verses of the Sermon on the Mount as He announced that the blessed ones of the Kingdom are the meek, the pure in heart, those that mourn, the merciful, the poor in spirit, the persecuted, the peacemakers, and those that hunger and thirst after righteousness.

The Psalm must be read in the light of the New Testament in the blood of Jesus Christ, or we will be prone to misunderstand it in terms of the righteousness of the law, rather than the righteousness of faith. But there is no reason for us to do that because the Lord has graciously appeared for our benefit and enlightenment and there is no reason for us to fall into the self-righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees. But let us look at the words.

There are four things: 1. The difference in behavior and delight. 2. The difference in life and work. 3. The difference in destiny. 4. The reason for the difference.

I Verses 1 and 2: We have a descriptions of the godly man's behavior and delight.

A. His behavior. Note contrast between the behavior and delight of the godly with the ungodly.

1. The godly man does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly. He does not learn from the mind of the wicked. Godless philosophy, science, and ethical standards do not feed his mind and heart. The ungodly are not so: they comfort one another and support one another with cleverly fabricated webs of deceit: in reality, in thought, and in behavior. The godly man does not walk that way.
2. If the godly man does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly, you will not find him standing in the way of sinners. As you walk in their counsel, you will soon sit in their way. You will find a place to stand if you walk in the counsel of the ungodly. You will stand in the sin of the ungodly if you walk in their counsel. This is very difficult to resist, and you will certainly be standing in the wrong place if your have not made the Holy Scriptures your counsel and delight.

Paul wrote of this in Ephesians 6: 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

3. Further, if the godly does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly, and does not stand in the way of sinners, then he will be unlikely to sit in the seat of the scornful. The word "scornful" means to "boast and make fun of" which are related words, for people mock at others in order to raise themselves in the eyes of their listeners.
 - a) Pr 14:9 Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous [there is] favour.
 - b) Jer 9:5 And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, [and] weary themselves to commit iniquity. {deceive: or, mock} Those that mock and make fun do so to pervert the minds of those that hear. It is a violation of the Ninth Commandment, for it is lying about sin and holiness and godliness.
 - c) They put a purple robe on Christ and a reed in His hand and a crown of thorns, and mocked Him and made fun.
 - d) Lot's daughters mocked him and made fun, when he went to warn them that God's judgment was upon Sodom and the city was about to be destroyed.

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- e) The young people mocked the prophet Elisha at Bethel, and they were cursed and bears destroyed them.
- f) The sins of Israel were summarized in: 2Ch 36:16 But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till [there was] no remedy. {remedy: Heb. healing }
- g) But God is not mocked: Ga 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.
- h) This is where sin ends: it begins in walking in the counsel of the ungodly; then progresses to standing in the way of sinners, in sinful behavior; it ends in scorning and sitting with those that mock Christ, His people, and His law.
- i) Note: It is very difficult to be scornful by yourself—it takes a village. You need people around you to appreciate your humor and your wit as you destroy your neighbor. The scornful run in packs as Ps. 22 predicted of the sufferings of Christ. “7 All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, 8 He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.”

B. His Delight: in the law of the Lord: in the holy Scriptures: Behavior is worthless before God is there is no delight in righteousness, but only policy and pretense. This man meditates day and night in the Scriptures. As in Ps. 119

“7 ¶ I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments. 8 I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly. 9 ¶ BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed *thereto* according to thy word. 10 ¶ With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. 11 ¶ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. 12 ¶ Blessed *art* thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes. 13 ¶ With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth. 14 I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as *much as* in all riches. 15 I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. 16 I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.” (Ps 119:7-16 AV)

II There is a difference between the godly and the ungodly in this life. The godly man is nourished like a tree planted by the rivers of water; the ungodly are dry like the chaff which the wind drives away.

A. There is a difference in the source of their life.

1. The godly have a hidden source of spiritual and moral life: the water of life. This looks to the Holy Spirit and the Risen Christ. What is anticipated in the Old Testament comes to clarity in the New. Jesus said:
 - a) Joh 4:14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.
 - b) Joh 7:38,39 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)”
 - c) They had the Spirit in the Old Testament, but He was not yet poured out in abundance, fullness, and clarity as in the New. This honor was reserved until the ministry and work of the Lord Jesus was finished, and He was glorified.
2. The ungodly seek their life from this world and are dead toward God. “2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.” (Eph 2:2-3 AV) They are dry and barren.

B. There is a difference in their work:

1. The godly are successful in the work and purpose which God has ordained for their life. They will be successful; not according to earthly standards, but godly standards. They build their house upon the rock, for they have heard the words of Christ and do them.
2. The ungodly are like chaff, and their houses are thrown down by the storms and changes of life, for they build upon sand. They have heard the words of Christ, but they do not do them.

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III There is a difference in the world to come.

- A. The godly will survive the judgment of God; the ungodly will not. Hear the words of Scripture;
1. Da 12:2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame [and] everlasting contempt.
 2. Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
 3. Joh 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.
 4. Mt 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:
 5. "5 ¶ *Which is* a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer: 6 Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; 7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; 10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day." (2Th 1:5-10 AV)
- B. If you stand in the way of sinners, you will not stand in the judgment, but will be swept away like chaff—the dust of the harvest that is burned in the fires.
- C. The godly will be in the congregation of the righteous; the ungodly will not. The sheep will be separated from the goats. Jesus said the goats will go away into everlasting punishment; the sheep into eternal life.
- D. This separation will be for ever and ever. There will be no rest for the ungodly night and day; the godly will enjoy eternal peace and life for ever and ever.

IV This distinction between the godly and the ungodly originates in the mind of God

- A. He knows:
1. The way of the godly and the way of the ungodly.
 2. There are only two ways
 - a) The one is a narrow way that the godly take; the other is a broad way that leads to destruction and death.
 - b) The first is a single way; the second has many branches and side-tracks for Satan has many devices.
 - c) The first begins in submission to Christ and to God; the second begins in rebellion and self-will.
 - d) The first keep on the path of obedience and godliness and enjoy eternal life forever; the second wanders in many different paths and mazes, but ends in destruction and ruin
- B. He knows the way of the righteous, which is the way of faith, which has always been the way, as Hebrews 11 tells us.
1. The way of the godly is the way of faith: justification, sanctification, chastening, perseverance, resurrection, and glorification and eternal life, for this is the way of the Spirit and every saint knows and experiences this way. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. This is the way to glory, to eternal life: the way of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.
 2. The way of the ungodly is the way of death: It begins in unbelief and rebellion and ends in death; in being blown away as chaff before the wrath of God.
- C. The world is built on sand and chaff. But hear the promise of God:

Joh 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Lu 8:18 Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have. {seemeth...: or, thinketh that he hath}

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Mt 24:4 ¶ And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

2Ch 19:7 Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do [it]: for [there is] no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.

De 11:16 Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them;

Amen and Amen. Which way are you going? Are you among the blessed? Then happy, indeed are you. But if not, then your misery is very great for it is the way of death and destruction.