

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Eddie Dickinson

Opening Prayer: Greg Lowery

On the Table: Head - Al Corkren
Servers - Ralph Burleson
Arlen Foss
Josh Berryhill

Closing Prayer: Billy Box

Preparing the Lord's Supper Michelle Lowery

Weekly Service Times

Sunday

Bible Study 10:00 am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Evening Worship 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Visit Our Website

www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill
David Key / Billy Box
Eddie Dickinson Minister: Greg Lowery

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Trials & Temptations



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



The Blessed Person

Brian R. Kenyon

Psalm 1 is one of the most recognizable psalms! In many ways, it could be considered an introduction to the entire God-inspired collection. One thing, for sure, is that it shows two distinct classes of humanity in relation to each class's ultimate fate. The psalm starts out with the phrase, "Blessed is the man," which is a spirited declaration of blessedness that could be expressed, "Oh, the blessedness of the man!" The "blessed man" about to be described is a rare jewel compared to the masses of the general population. Only one class of people is given this designation of blessedness, both now and in eternity. Interestingly, this psalm was alluded to by Jeremiah when describing the apostate people of Judah and the consequent doom coming upon them (Jeremiah 17:5-8). If only they had applied this psalm! Let us note three truths about the person who is blessed according to this psalm.

Recognizes the Danger of Sin

"Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful" (Psalm 1:1). In recognizing the danger of sin, a person must be aware of the deceptive nature by which it traps – by subtle degrees. The "blessed" person "does not walk" in the plans or ideas of the ungodly because he knows their schemes lead to destruction (Isaiah 57:20-21; Jeremiah 7:24). He does not "stand in the path of sinners." He does not "sit in the seat of the scornful." The "scornful [scoffers, ESV]" refers to those who mock, or those who make divine truth and holiness a subject of derision (cf. 2 Peter 3:3-4). Scoffers are enemies of truth (Proverbs 22:10; 29:8). There are differences in degrees in both the action and the type of people with whom the blessed person refuses to associate. Three degrees in action are: (1) "walks," which figuratively means agreeing with or at least, entertaining the ungodly people's ideas; (2) "stands," which indicates fixing one's character upon that of sinners, and (3) "sits," which means to become wholly a part of the scornful people's world. Three degrees in types of people are: (1) "ungodly [wicked, ASV]," those who may or may not be fixed in their position of irreverence toward God; (2) "sinners," who habitually continue in transgression, and (3) "scornful [scoffers, ESV]," who not only continue in sin but are proud of it, mocking anyone who, in their mind, would be addicted to religion.

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Lannie & Glenda Key: be praying for both of them during this difficult time

Mary Rainey: has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn's Sister} is in the nursing home in Guin, pray for her she has some ongoing health issues

Joey Colburn: is taking treatments for cancer, please pray that the treatments will be successful in defeating his cancer

Angie Ganey Gardner: fighting against breast cancer, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Shauna Silas: diagnosed with thyroid cancer, please be praying that with treatments this cancer will be defeated

Mary Box: some ongoing other health problems, please keep her in your prayers

Celia Grace Hamlett, daughter of Gary and Kassie Hamlett, was diagnosed with MLD(Metachromatic Leukodystrophy); planning on gene replacement treatment; please pray that these treatments will be successful.

Pam Braden: she is dealing with some ongoing health problems, please continue to keep her in your prayers

Guy Weeks: is undergoing cancer treatments, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Maddie Bishop (young girl South Haleyville) diagnosed with stage 4 Ewing sarcoma, please pray for her and her family and that treatments can defeat this cancer

Hayden Lackey: he will be going to Children's, let us be praying that they will determine why he is having seizures and that they can be stopped or controlled.

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Billy Lee {Carolyn’s Brother} he is in renal failure, is back at the nursing home in Guin, please be praying for him and the staff caring for him

Timmy Weeks: is planning on having total shoulder replacement surgery, let us be praying that it will be done without any complications

Danny Berryhill: diagnosed with thickness of the heart, please be praying that doctors can successfully help him with this problem

Bill Berryhill: dealing with cancer found new spot on his kidney, please be praying that his battle with cancer can be controlled and won

Mason Estes: he is need of a liver transplant; please be keeping him and his family in your prayers

Judy Barker (David Barker’s Mother): she had been diagnosed with bone and lung cancer; please keep her and her family in your prayers

Kristi White: diagnosed with cancer affecting her esophagus, stomach and other areas taking treatments at MD Anderson, please pray this cancer will be defeated

Austin Carter (Travis Garrison’s Nephew): scans found a mass on his thyroid, please be praying that this does not turn out to be a serious problem

Wayne Sherry (Arlen’s old boss): currently fighting cancer; pray that this cancer can be controlled and defeated

It is impossible to end up sitting with the scornful without first heeding the counsel of the ungodly and then stopping to associate with sinners! God’s people today must keep progressing along the way that leads to eternal life (Matthew 7:14)! They cannot stop the pursuit of Christ to dabble in the world! Yet, for some reason, God’s people sometimes think there are no consequences in attempting to split time between Christ and the world. “No one can serve two masters” (Matthew 6:24)! Let’s be people blessed and keep ourselves from digressions!

Stabilizes Himself with God’s Word

“But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away” (Psalm 1:2-4). The person who is blessed takes “delight in the law of the Lord”! When a person is said to “delight” in something, it means he enjoys the activity so much that it becomes his preferred business or occupation. The chief interest of the blessed person is to fulfil the law of God (Psalm 19:7-10; Joshua 1:8)! Furthermore, the blessed person is likened to a well-watered tree. “Planted” indicates a deliberate nourishing and strengthening, not something growing wild. This is a person who has been carefully cultivated by God’s Word. This is a picture of stability and prosperity!

This deliberately planted person is unlike the ungodly, who are led by the counsel of the wicked, who involve themselves in the way of sinners and become comfortable in the seat of the scornful. The wicked are like chaff that is blown away. They are without root below or fruit above. They have no delight in God’s law. They may prosper for a while, but at the first indication of drought, they shrivel up (cf. Matthew 13:4-5). To use another, well-known comparison, when faced with storms of judgment, “the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall” (Matthew 7:27)! Let’s be deliberate in cultivating God’s Word in our lives (cf. 2 Timothy 2:15)!

Finds God’s Approval

“Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish” (Psalm 1:5-6). The wicked cannot endure the judgments of God (Psalm 37:9, 13, 15, 17, 35-36). Though in the eyes of men a person may seem to belong to the “congregation” of the Lord, God knows better. He cannot be deceived (cf. Galatians 6:7). Paul said on one occasion, “For they are not all Israel who are of Israel” (Romans 9:6). The apostle also wrote, “Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: ‘The Lord knows those who are His’” (2 Timothy 2:19a). The Lord “knows” those who truly belong to Him! In Psalm 1:6, the word “knows” means more than mere intellectual knowledge. It also carries the idea of approval, carrying through (Psalm 31:7), and identifying with (cf. Proverbs 3:5-6). The way of the righteous is the only way that leads to eternal life. People belonging to God must depart from iniquity (2 Timothy 2:19b). “The Lord knows the days of the upright, And their inheritance shall be forever” (Psalm 37:18). The way of the wicked will always end in eternal separation from God (Matthew 7:23).

The only way to endure the judgments of God is to be in harmony with His will. Today, that means to be a faithful Christian! Paul wrote, “For you died [referring to baptism, Colossians 2:12], and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory” (Colossians 3:3-4). When the Christian keeps focused on “things which are above” (Colossians 3:1-2), God will look upon him through the cleansing blood of His Son!

Conclusion

What a contrast between “blessed” (Psalm 1:1) and “perish” (Psalm 1:6). The “blessed” person recognizes the danger of sin, is stabilized with the Word of God and is approved of the Lord. The ungodly are as weak as wind driven chaff, are unable to stand in God’s judgment and are destined for destruction unless they repent! Into which category of people do we find ourselves? Are we among the blessed or are we among those whom the Lord disapproves? May we always delight in God’s ways!

Obtained at: www.gospelgazette.com

I Saw the Light and Was Glad

By Aaron Cozort

...Do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance [patience, KJV], so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise. (Hebrews 10:35-36 NKJV)

This morning, I was driving east as the sunlight was beginning to shine over the ridge. The spectacle was beautiful. The sun was at the perfect angle to send rays of light across the sky in streams while still being below the horizon in other areas. Our Father’s creation is magnificent. Habakkuk prophesied about God as if His presence were the sun itself.

God came from Teman, The Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah His glory covered the heavens, And the earth was full of His praise. His brightness was like the light; He had rays flashing from His hand, And there His power was hidden. (Habakkuk 3:3-4)

When we see the sun rays on a calm, cool morning, we know Who exists and Who reigns supreme over the day and the night.

The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, And rejoices like a strong man to run its race. Its rising is from one end of heaven, And its circuit to the other end; And there is nothing hidden from its heat. (Psalm 19:1-6)

As a child of God serving Him faithfully, take comfort each new day as God continues to send sunshine and rain on the just and on the unjust. “That you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matthew 5:45).

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