

## OUTLINE & NOTES FOR PSALM 1

*(Psalm 1:1–6 ESV) Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. 4 The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; 6 for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.*

### 1. The blessed are those who delight in [have a strong feeling of happiness in, take great pleasure in] the ways of the LORD, 1:1-3.

“Not” ... introduces the antithetical approach of the psalmist.

- This person knows what true blessing is, and he knows that true blessing is not found in the ways of the wicked, 1:1a.
- This person does not live by the advice of the wicked. By not living by the advice of the wicked he finds himself in a position of philosophical and practical disagreement with sinners as to how we are to live our lives, 1:1b.
- This person does not fall prey to the

hopeless cynicism of this world.

- This person delights in the “law” (the instruction) of the LORD, 1:2.

**But why?** Why does this person delight in the law of the LORD? Because he has found true blessedness in a life that is directed by the word of God and filled with the presence and power of God.

- This person has been so profoundly captured in the delight of the LORD that he meditates on his word day and night.

This delight in the LORD and the word of the LORD dominates his life so much so that he moves further and further away from the counsel of the wicked—those who do not know God. He does not stand with sinners no matter how good or moral or well-intended they may seem because he now recognizes their way is the way that perishes—the way of death and destruction. The person who delights in the LORD is so profoundly moved by the word of the LORD that it would be the furthest thing from his mind to sit in agreement with scoffers.

- The blessed person lives a fruitful, transcendent life, 1:3.

Transcendent means beyond or above the range of normal or merely physical human experience; extending or lying beyond the limits of ordinary experience; being beyond comprehension.

We could understand this concept biblically as in joy inexpressible and full of glory and peace that passes understanding.

These “blessed” people live in the day to day reality of a God who is bigger and better and brighter than this world.

### Transcendent trust and courage ...

*(Psalm 46:1–3 ESV): God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah.*

### Transcendent abundance and vitality ...

*(Psalm 92:12–15 ESV) The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God. They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green, to declare that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.*

### 2. The wicked are “not so”, 1:4-5.

**So who are the wicked?** This is essential to not only this psalm but to the entire Bible and to life. **Who are the wicked?** The wicked are “not so.” Are not so what? The wicked are not the blessed, the righteous. The wicked are all of those who are outside of Christ.

- The wicked are not planted and fruitful and refreshed in the LORD, but they are like chaff that the wind drives away, 1:4.
- The wicked cannot stand in the judgment, 1:5a.

When judgment comes for the wicked, as they have chosen a life other than the life that God offered, their the end is now

death and destruction. There will be no negotiations with God at the pearly gates. No second chances. No pleas will be heard. When life ends for the wicked, all that is left is to face the judgment of God.

- Sinners will not stand in the congregation of the righteous, 1:5b.

**Please note that this is the “congregation of the righteous.”** Not the congregation of religious people or church people or good people or moral people, but the congregation of the righteous. So only the righteous will stand in the congregation of the righteous.

**The only way that anyone stands in the congregation of the righteous is to be righteous. How does that happen?**

*(Galatians 3:6 ESV) Just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?*

*(Romans 4:22–24 ESV) That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord.*

*(2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV) For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

### 3. The blessed and the wicked part ways forever, 1:6.

*(Jeremiah 21:8 ESV) And to this people you shall say: “Thus says the LORD: Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death.”*