

01-05-14

Scripture: Psalm 1

Title: Delight in His Word

*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! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,*

## Firmly planted

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### **Psalms 1:3**

*3 He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,*

*Eastern plains of Colorado, few trees*

*Can drive for some time and see none*

*Occasionally you'll see a loan tree, large tall cottonwood*

*Why is it there? What made it grow clear out here?*

*When nothing else does...*

*Likely some source of water*

*Sometimes an old windmill*

*Old watering hole of some kind*

*Dry creek bed*

*Tree has set down roots, Deep roots*

*Withstand harsh climate of plains*

*Strong winds cannot blow it down*

*Draught doesn't hurt it*

When we don't walk in the council of the wicked,

Delight in His word instead

When we don't stand in the path of sinners

Meditate on His word day and night

When we don't sit in the seat of scoffers

We are firmly planted, like trees on the plains...

Firm and deep roots

Giving us nourishment and stability

Delighting in and meditating on God's Word does this

Spending time in His Word

Being nourished by it

Being strengthened by it

Delighting in it – make it our source of happiness

Dwelling on it

Meditating on it

We grow, we become that strong tree and...

*(Repeat – 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! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,)*

## Bearing fruit

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- Which yields its fruit in its season

What is a fruitful person?

If we're talking number of kids – well.... 😊

That isn't it

A fruitful person is one who

Nourishes and feeds those around them

Encourage and strengthen them w/ truth

Their words are healing and convicting and encouraging

Profitable for??? Teaching, reproof, correction, training

When we delight in God's Word

Study it, read it, know it

God's Word literally comes out of us

*When Leslie worked at the bank in Lamar, Colorado*

*Was a man – smelled like garlic*

*Not sure if he just ate it, or drank it,*

*They could tell he was in the bank*

*W/o looking up*

*Garlic just came out of him*

*When he opened his mouth*

*When he sweated – just oozed out*

*Had to air out the bank after he left*

*When we are in God's Word*

*It will come out of us like the garlic*

*Only this will be a good thing*

*Won't need to air the room after we leave*

Several people I have known...

You visit them and leave encouraged

They have helped you see God's faithfulness

God's word is living and active in their lives

Some people who have questions about the Bible

Most times you see them, they have a question

This is good – His word is living and active...

I was wondering...

What is coming out of them?

God's Word – b/c they are taking it in...

Lives are being changed and transformed

By the power of God's Word

Living and active in a life – that is fruit

***(Repeat – 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! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season )***

## Staying strong

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- *And its leaf does not wither;*

Remember the tree out on the plains?

How does that tree survive the heat of the summer?

We're talking over 100, for days on end

No moisture – just sunshine...

Beating down on it many hours each day

Does it leaf wither?

Its roots grow deep, it's firmly planted

It can withstand the heat of summer

Its leaf doesn't wither

It has a deep water supply

A deep source of strength

*During the rise of communism several years ago a missionary couple with Inland China Mission lived with their young daughter in a small room for two years. Their only furniture was a stool. They could not contact their Christian friends for fear of getting them in trouble. Except for the smallest trickle, their funds were cut off by the government. Heat came from a small stove which they lit once a day to boil rice for dinner. The only fuel they had was dried animal refuse that they collected from the streets. These were indeed dry times. Later they wrote their testimony to God's grace in the face of such struggles, and called their book "Green Leaf in Drought Time," because they found that those who delight in the Word of God do not wither but instead produce the Holy Spirit's fruit.*

Wind, rain, draught, don't affect this tree

### **Romans 8:35-37**

*35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or*

*sword? 36 Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG;*

*WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."*

*37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.*

This is true of a life centered on God

If our roots grow deep into Him

If we are delighting in His Word

If we are meditating on His Word

We can withstand the heat of trial

We won't wilt or wither when struggles come

We will produce fruit

We will even prosper

### **Prosper**

- *And in whatever he does, he prospers.*

When we spend time in God's Word

Will we become rich and famous?

Have a bumper crop?

Win the lottery?

No more car accidents?

No more health problems?  
This is talking about real prosperity  
Prosperity that stands under struggles  
In the face of economic uncertainty  
Doesn't wilt in the heat  
A prosperity based more on the eternal than the temporal  
He is effective  
Whatever he sets out to do he does  
He is not working under his own strength  
He is relying on God's strength  
That is at work in him and in his life

(Repeat: *1 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.*)

## Chaff

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### **Psalms 1:4**

*4 The wicked are not so,  
But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.  
...are not so*

The wicked, those who have turned away from God  
Who have gone after the philosophies of this world...  
Me first, get it now, nothing bad will happen  
This is their basis for life  
How they make their decisions

The godly are like the tree that stands amidst the storms of life  
Putting their roots down deep, standing strong  
Even amidst the storms of life  
The wicked are not so...  
They are like chaff  
How many of you know what chaff is?

*In Nebraska – large grain elevator in the town  
 Fans were constantly blowing  
 I used to say it was graining, instead of raining  
 More accurate would be – it is chaffing  
     Chaff was constantly falling  
         Specially after wheat or corn harvest  
 There is a little piece of chaff that comes off the seed  
     Not good for anything  
     Takes nothing to blow it around  
 The few times it did snow it would often rain chaff right after  
 turning the snow pink – called bees wings from corn chaff  
 The wind can easily blow it – kind of like the snow up here  
 The really light fluffy kind...  
     The chaff could easily be blown around  
 Swirled around, all over town – like eddies, just like w/ snow  
     It is worthless, it is good for nothing  
 If someone came up w/ a use for it they'd be rich  
 For now it's only use is to be blown away swirl around in the air  
 and make their little bit of snow dirty ☺*

Chaff is likely the most worthless stuff there ever was  
     Those who have turned from God are like this chaff  
     They have no value, no worth – only to be driven by wind

*(Repeat: 1 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.)*

### **Psalms 1:5**

*5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
 Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.  
 This worthless chaff*

Can't stand in the judgment  
    There is no value to their lives  
Can't stand in assembly of righteous  
    When the redeemed are gathered to glory  
    This person won't be there

These people have never centered their lives on God  
They haven't come to Him in repentance and trust...

    The end of the ungodly is judgment  
    Loss of all things

End of verse 6 – they will perish

### **Psalms 1:6**

*6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
But the way of the wicked will perish.*

The wicked perish

    Outside may look nice, inside is empty, hallow shell

The life centered on God

    God knows our path

    He watches over us

        Guiding, leading, directing, protecting us

    Bears fruit, withstands storms and prospers

*(Repeat: 1 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.)*

# Delight in His Word

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Comparing and contrasting the righteous and the wicked

Those who follow the Lord God, and those who reject Him

The righteous will be like the tree – standing strong and tall

Not affected by storm or draught

The wicked are like the chaff – driven by the wind

Destined for destruction, worthless

The righteous delight in God's Word and meditate on it

The wicked scoff at God's Word and those who follow it

The righteous will experience God's care forever

The wicked will perish in the judgment

Do you want to be chaff or a tree?

Do you want true happiness, blessedness or the empty, shallow happiness the world offers?

*Close w/ a quote from George Muller – lived 1805-1898*

*...I saw more clearly than ever, that the first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day was, to have my soul happy in the Lord. The first thing to be concerned about was not, how much I might serve the Lord, how I might glorify the Lord; but **how I might get my soul into a happy state, and how my inner man may be nourished.***

*For I might seek to set the truth before the unconverted, I might seek to benefit believers, I might seek to relieve the distressed, I might in other ways seek to behave myself as it becomes a child of God in this world; and yet, not being happy in the Lord, and not being nourished and strengthened in my inner man day by day, all this might not be attended to in a right spirit. Before this time my practice had been, at least for ten years previously, as a habitual thing, to give myself to prayer, after having dressed in the morning.*



*Now I saw, that how I might get my soul into a happy state, and how my inner man may be nourished., that thus my heart might be comforted, encouraged, warned, reprov'd, instructed; and that thus, whilst meditating, my heart might be brought into experimental communion with the Lord.*

*I began, therefore, to meditate on the New Testament from the beginning, early in the morning. The first thing I did, after having asked in a few words the Lord's blessing upon His precious Word, was to begin to meditate on the Word of God, searching, as it were, into every verse, to get blessing out of it; not for the sake of the public ministry of the Word; not for the sake of preaching on what I had meditated upon, but **for the sake of obtaining food for my own soul.***

*The result I have found to be almost invariably this, that after a very few minutes my soul has been led to confession, or to thanksgiving, or to intercession, or to supplication; so that though I did not, as it were, give myself to prayer, but to meditation, yet it turned almost immediately more or less into prayer. When thus I have been for awhile making confession, or intercession, or supplication, or have given thanks, I go on to the next words or verse, turning all, as I go on, into prayer for myself or others, as the Word may lead to it; but still continually keeping before me, that food for my own soul is the object of my meditation.*

*The result of this is, that there is always a good deal of confession, thanksgiving, supplication, and intercession mingled with my meditation, and that my inner man almost invariably is even sensibly nourished and strengthened and that by breakfast time, with rare exceptions, I am in a peaceful if not happy state of heart. Thus also the Lord is pleased to communicate unto me that which, very soon after, I have found to become food for other believers, though it was not for the sake of the public ministry of the Word that I gave myself to meditation, but for the profit of my own inner man.*

*The difference then between my former practice and my present one is this. Formerly, when I rose, I began to pray as soon as possible, and generally spent all my time till breakfast in prayer, or almost all the time. At all events, I almost invariably began with prayer, except when I felt my soul to be more than usually barren, in which case I read the Word of God for food, or for refreshment, or for revival and renewal of my inner man, before I gave myself to prayer. But what was the result? I often spent a quarter of an hour, or half an hour, or even an hour on my knees, before being conscious to myself of having derived comfort, encouragement, humbling of soul, etc.; and often, after having suffered much from wandering of mind for the first ten minutes, or a quarter of an hour, or even an hour, I only then begin really to pray. I scarcely ever suffer now in this way. For my heart being nourished by the truth, being brought into experimental fellowship with God, I speak to my Father, and to my Friend (vile though I am, and unworthy of it!) about the things that He has brought before me in His precious Word.*

*It often now astonishes me that I did not sooner see this. In no book did I ever read about it. No public ministry ever brought the matter before me. No private intercourse with a brother stirred me up to this matter. And yet now, since God has taught me this point, it is as plain to me as anything, that **the first thing the child of God has to do morning by morning is to obtain food for his inner man.** As the outward man is not fit for work for any length of time, except we take food, and as this is one of the first things we do in the morning, so it should be with the inner man. We should take food for that, as everyone must allow.*

*Now what is the food for the inner man? Not prayer, but the Word of God; and here again not the simple reading of the Word of God, so that it only passes through our minds, just as water runs through a pipe, but considering what we read, pondering over it, and applying it to our hearts.*

*I dwell so particularly on this point because of the immense spiritual profit and refreshment I am conscious of having derived from it myself and I affectionately and solemnly beseech all my fellow-believers to ponder this matter. By the blessing of God I ascribe to this mode the help and strength which I have had from God to pass in peace through deeper trials in various ways than I had ever had before; and after having now above forty years tried this way, I can most fully in the fear of God, commend it. How different when the soul is refreshed and made happy early in the morning, from what it is when, without spiritual preparation, the service, the trials, and the temptations of the day come upon one!*

Closing...

Benediction:

**Psalms 1:1-2**

*1 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.*

Sermon outline

01-05-14

Psalm 1

Firmly p\_\_\_\_\_

Bearing f\_\_\_\_\_

Staying s\_\_\_\_\_

C\_\_\_\_\_

D\_\_\_\_\_ in His Word