

Psalm 1 (NIV84)

1 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

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, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

4 Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

6 For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

In Psalm 1 we learn of the seductive influence of evil and the danger it presents to our souls; the psalmist breaks down it's progression, from WALKING in the counsel of the wicked, to STANDING in the way of sinners, to finally SITTING in the seat of mockers. The more comfortable one becomes in the presence of wickedness, the more damage it can inflict on one's soul.

Our sinful nature wants to convince us that "a little bit of sin" isn't too harmful -- "Let your hair down, just this once. Live a little, just this once." But our sinful nature is never content to sin "just this once." It wants nothing less than to enslave and control and ruin us.

This is why we must be grounded on Christ our Rock and rooted in God's unchanging and unchangeable word. When you and I delight in and meditate on God's word, we will have all that we need for the strengthening of our faith, for living God-pleasing lives, and for the refreshment of our souls despite the withering heat of temptation that we face in this world. Being rooted in God's word ensures that our Lord is with us to watch over our way and enable us to stand before Him, unafraid, on the day of judgment.

Prospering with you in Christ,
Pastor Golm

June 13

The Profitable Life

Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. 1 Timothy 4:8

An unbelieving soldier was making fun of his buddy who was a sincere believer. "The trouble with you", said the scoffer, "is that you think you are better than the rest of us."

"Not better", replied the Christian young man, "just better off."

How true! The person (he or she) who has come to God through faith in Christ is indeed better off than the one who has not. The person who, out of gratitude and love for his Lord, leads a Christian life, who deals honestly with his neighbors, who lives at peace with his fellows, who tries, with the Spirit's help, to obey the laws of God and man, is much better off than the man who turns his back on Christ and leads a life of sin.

The point that our text is making is that not all of the rewards of the Christian faith lie on the other side of the grave. We have many of these rewards both here and now—in "the life that now is". True, many of them are intangible, but, oh, how precious! Among them are peace, contentment, love, joy, daily fellowship with Christ, the assurance of ultimate victory. With these in our heart, surely we are "better off" than the person who has never experienced them.

In addition, our Lord, according to his gracious will and unfailing wisdom, also blesses his faithful with earthly blessings too numerous to mention. Martin Luther lists them in his explanation of the fourth petition. Indeed, the believer in Christ is "better off"—both "in this world and the next".

Lord, how can I ever thank You for all Your goodness to me? Amen.

(Devotion from: Daily Walk With God - Meditations for Every Day, by Herman W. Gockel)