

BOOK OF THE PSALMS
THE SUCCESS OF THE BLESSED
INTRO: THE WORLD'S MEASURE OF SUCCESS
PSALMS 1

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INTRODUCTION

Do you know someone that you would deem **SUCCESSFUL** in this life? In this world, we know that there are different yardsticks by which men **MEASURE** someone being a **SUCCESS** in this life.

LET'S SEE HOW THE WORLD MEASURES SUCCESS!

I. SOME ASSOCIATE SUCCESS WITH ONE HAVING ATTAINED POWER OR POSITION IN THE WORLD!

Working one's way up or reaching a place in one's life where they have control or "*calls the shots*" so to speak for a great number of other people.

[Like maybe becoming the CEO of a major corporation!
(e.g. **Jeff Bezos** – Amazon; **Bill Gates** – Microsoft; **Elon Musk** – Tesla and SpaceX)]

[Or maybe by becoming powerful in Politics! (e.g. *President of the United States or Governor of a state; or the leader of some other country;*.)]

It's referred to often as "*climbing the ladder of success*"! They apply themselves in certain areas of their life to "*get places!*" (Often it takes education, hard work, and sacrifice!)

Sadly, as some climb the ladder of success they sacrifice their scruples! Maybe they **leave God out of their lives** and/or they may **leave a wake of people they have used or stepped on** to get where they are going! If that is the case, then we can obviously see that is wrong! (Violates the 2 greatest commands of **SCRIPTURE** to **LOVE GOD** and to **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!**)

Sadly, some sacrifice their morals to get into high places!

There is nothing wrong in and of itself with having attained **POWER** or **POSITION** in the world, as long as it is done right! (e.g. David)

II. SOME ASSOCIATE SUCCESS WITH HAVING ATTAINED PRESTIGE IN THE WORLD!

Making a name for one's self in such a way that, when your name is mentioned, everybody knows who they are talking about!

Some of us may know of those who have gone out to **make a name for themselves** because were or are **full of themselves**— They are full of self-**PRIDE!** Then there are those who are **FAMOUS** for just being **FAMOUS!** (Which I totally do not understand in the least!)

Proverbs 29:23– “A man's **pride** shall bring him low: But honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.”

Also, sadly, there are many who have **made a name for themselves in the wrong things** –we call that **notoriety** or being **notorious** for something. (e.g. **JEZEBEL; TED BUNDY; mass murderers**)

Now we know that the **BIBLE** says in *Proverbs 22:1*–“A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches...”

And understand that many have attained **PRESTIGE** while serving the **LORD** which is great as long as we do it for **HIS GLORY** and not our own self-glory!

1 Corinthians 10:31– “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, **do all to the glory of God**”!

Think about those mentioned in the **HALL OF FAITH** who obtained a **GOOD NAME** because of their **FAITH in GOD!**

Hebrews 11:39– “And these all, having obtained a good report through faith”

(e.g. **ABEL; ENOCH; NOAH; ABRAHAM; SARAH; ISAAC JACOB; JOSEPH; MOSES; JOSHUA; RAHAB; OTHERS NAMED** and many unnamed!)

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(e.g. **HUDSON TAYLOR; ADRIAN ROGERS; BILLY GRAHAM; many, many OTHERS!**)

III. SOME ASSOCIATE SUCCESS WITH ATTAINING POSSESSIONS!
(POSSESSIONS – Money or the things that money can buy!)

Let me be clear about this, there is absolutely nothing wrong with having **POSSESSIONS** as long as those **POSSESSIONS** don't have us...and as long as we are not **DRIVEN BY** or **GUIDED BY** the **ACCUMULATING** and/or **USE** of those **POSSESSIONS!**

(i.e. Have you ever known someone who came into some money and it ruined their life because the things money can buy pulled them away from GOD? I have seen it on more than one occasion!)

But listen, being BLESSED with POSSESSIONS is not wrong unless we allow the POSSESSIONS to have us!

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e.g. **JOB (O.T.) and the RICH YOUNG RULER (N.T.)**

Let's consider **JOB** for a minute. The **BIBLE** says that he was one that **"...feared God and eschewed evil"** (*Job 1:1*)

In addition to having seven sons and three daughters we are told...

Job 1:3–“His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.”

So, **JOB** was a **RICH MAN** both in the things of **GOD** (faith) and in the things of the world (possessions)!

The **LORD GOD** allowed **SATAN** to take all of **JOB'S POSSESSIONS** away! Remember **JOB'S** response to that?

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*Job 1:20–22– “20 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, 21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, And naked shall I return thither: **The LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD.** 22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.”*

And then, when the **LORD** allowed **SATAN** to take away **JOB'S** health, and his wife turned on him and tried to get him to just curse **GOD** and die. Remember what **JOB** said to her?

Job 2:10– “But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.”

We read in the end that the **LORD** gave **JOB** back his health, gave him seven more sons and three more daughters, and then gave him twice as much in **POSSESSIONS** as he had before!

JOB had **POSSESSIONS**, but his **POSSESSIONS** didn't have him!

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However, let's compare that with the **RICH YOUNG RULER in MATTHEW'S GOSPEL CHAPTER 19!** When **JESUS** called on him to sell all that he had and give it to the poor and then to come follow **HIM**, the **SCRIPTURE** says...

*Matthew 19:22–“But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: **for he had great possessions.**”*

He had great **POSSESSIONS**, but more importantly, we can see how those **POSSESSIONS** had a hold on him!

That's why **JESUS** cautioned in **HIS SERMON ON THE MOUNT** with these words:

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Matthew 6:19–21—“19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 **For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**”

Matthew 6:24—“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon”

Matthew 6:33—“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

There are some who have the philosophy of “*He who dies with the most toys wins!*”, [an actual bumper sticker I saw one time] but we know that’s not right.

Look at 1 Timothy 6:6-12 and 6:17-19

While attaining such things as **POWER, POSITION, PRESTIGE, and POSSESSIONS** (or even other things) might be the indicators of how the world views **SUCCESS**, we know that the **LORD** views things quite differently!

Measuring our **SUCCESS** as **BELIEVERS** is much different in the eyes of **HIM** with **WHOM** we have to do! And **HE** is the **ONE WHO** counts!

In this **PSALM**, we find insight into what makes a **BELIEVER BLESSED** and thereby **SUCCESSFUL** in the eyes of the **LORD**!

As **BELIEVERS**, **GOD’S WORD** is the “*plumb line*”, the “*measuring stick*” that we are to use to judge **SUCCESS**!

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We are to use **GOD’S WORD** to see how we are **MEASURING UP** to the **LORD’S STANDARD** for being a true **SUCCESS** in **HIS EYES**!

I believe this **PSALM** will help us see the **SUCCESS OF THE BLESSED**! And what the **MEASURE OF SUCCESS** is!

But we really don’t have time to delve into that tonight! **LORD** willing, we’ll come back next week and examine what this **PSALM** has to say about what the **MEASURE OF SUCCESS** is for the **BLESSED BELIEVER**!