

BOOK OF PSALMS
THE SUCCESS OF THE BLESSED
PT 2b-HIS PATH
PSALM 1:1b, 2

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Introduction

Last week we began to look at how the **LORD’S MEASURES SUCCESS** — i.e. what it takes to be **BLESSED** and **PROSPEROUS** or **SUCCESSFUL** in the **LORD’S EYES!** That is quite different from a couple of weeks ago when we looked at the **WORLD’S MEASURE** of **SUCCESS!**

Last week we saw in the first part of *verse 1* that the **BLESSED MAN DOESN’T WALK** in the **COUNSEL** of the **UNGODLY**, but rather he **WALKS** in the **COUNSEL** of **GOD’S WORD** instead! (*Vs 2*) !

Vs 1a—“Blessed is the man that WALKETH NOT in the COUNSEL of the UNGODLY...”

Vs 2— “But his DELIGHT is in the LAW OF THE LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.”

In the **HEBREW** mind, **WALKING** is a **PICTURE** of **LIVING LIFE!** Our **WALK** is our **LIFE**; and the **NATURE** of our **WALK** is determined by the **STANDARDS** which govern our **LIFE**. Those **STANDARDS** come from the **COUNSEL** we receive and take heed to!
(e.g. *Parents, grandparents, friends, teachers, preachers, etc.*)

Our **COUNSEL** as **BORN AGAIN CHILDREN OF GOD** is to come from the **LORD** and those that love **HIM**, not from the **UNGODLY** in the **WORLD** who are controlled by **SATAN!**

Understand too that the word “*ungodly*” is translated from the **HEBREW** word [*rasha*] whose root idea is “*to be loose or unstable.*” This word carries two ideas. **First it means to be loose with one’s morals. It also means to be loose from the LORD, without HIM as an ANCHOR or controlling device!**

It refers to **those who are CONTROLLED BY THEIR OWN DESIRES, EMOTIONS, and FLESH rather than by the WORD and HOLY SPIRIT.** We are to **AVOID COUNSEL** from those who do not have the **LORD** as an **ANCHOR** in their life! (The song... “*WE HAVE AN ANCHOR*” #161)

JAMES speaks to the nature of **WORLDLY WISDOM** in:

James 3:15–17— “15 This wisdom [i.e. the kind that brings bitter envying and strife] descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. 16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.”

So, *WE SAW THE IMPORTANCE OF RIGHT COUNSEL!*
WE SAW THE WARNINGS AGAINST WRONG COUNSEL!
WE SAW THE RIGHT KIND OF COUNSEL DESCRIBED and
WE SAW THE SOURCE OF RIGHT COUNSEL!
(The **LORD’S WORD** and those who are immersed in **HIS WORD!**)

The **BIBLE** has a lot to say on how we should **WALK** as **BELIEVERS!**
(*See Colossians 2:6-8*) **In fact it makes for a great study!**

We should PRAY asking the LORD to show us how we should WALK!
Psalms 143:8— “Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; For in thee do I trust: Cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; For I lift up my soul unto thee.”

We should **DETERMINE** to **WALK** in the **LORD’S TRUTH!**
Psalms 86:11— “Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: Unite my heart to fear thy name.”

We should **WALK IN THE SPIRIT!**
Galatians 5:16— “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”

Now, it’s not easy to **WALK** according to **SCRIPTURE!** It takes **COMMITMENT, DISCIPLINE, and DETERMINATION.**

Now to tonight we see that not only is the **BLESSED MAN** identified by the **SOURCE OF THE COUNSEL HE RECEIVES**, but in the second part of *Vs 1* we see **HIS PATH!**

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*Vs 1—Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly... NOR **STANDETH IN THE WAY OF SINNERS!** What does that mean?*

I. LET’S CONSIDER THE WORD “SINNERS”!

The **HEBREW** word translated as “**SINNERS**” is an archery term and means “**TO FALL SHORT OR MISS THE MARK.**”

The **MARK** is the **WILL OF GOD—GOD’S LAW**. **SIN** is the **TRANSGRESSION OF GOD’S LAW!** We all know that we are **SINNERS!** We have all **MISSED THE MARK!** This is why **CHRIST** had to die for our **SINS** so we might have **HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS!**

But the word “**SINNERS**” here also indicates “**HABITUAL SINNERS**” who **DELIBERATELY** and **CONSISTENTLY CHOOSE** a **WAY OF LIFE** or a **PATH CONTRARY** to **GOD!**

II. LET’S CONSIDER THE WORD “WAY”!

This too points to a **PATH** that is **HABITUAL!** A **PATH** that has been **TREAD DOWN!** (*e.g. Like cows to the feeding trough or water pot, they tend to habitually take the same path.*)

Though we **ALL STILL FALL SHORT OF GOD’S WILL**, we who are **SAVED** no longer **PRACTICE SIN!** We have been **MADE RIGHTEOUS** by the **BLOOD OF THE LAMB** and so therefore we seek to **WALK** in the **ONE WHO** is **THE WAY...CHRIST!**

We are **NOT** to **WALK** in the old **TREAD DOWN WAYS** of **SIN** that **LOST SINNERS** do.

So, the **BLESSED MAN** is the one who is **SAVED** and therefore **CHOOSES** to **DIRECT HIS NEW LIFE** by **GOD’S WILL**, **NOT** by the old **WAYS** that he used to **WALK!**

III. LET’S CONSIDER THE WORD “STANDETH!”

A. Let’s Consider PHYSICALLY STANDING!

When we are **PHYSICALLY STANDING** somewhere we are “**HANGING AROUND**” or “**HANGING OUT**” there.

Or we could say that we are somewhat “**IDENTIFYING WITH**” where we are. Where we choose to be **PHYSICALLY** could be construed by others that we are at least somewhat **IN AGREEMENT WITH** those who normally are in such a place.

*(e.g. I’m **PHYSICALLY STANDING** behind the pulpit right now of this independent, fundamental, Bible-believing, Baptist Church! I’m OK with all of what that means!*

*But understand that there are places in this world that I would not **PHYSICALLY** go “**HANG OUT**” or “**IDENTIFY WITH**” because of my position of being **IN CHRIST...being A CHILD OF GOD!**)*

Think about the places where **SINNERS STAND**. (*i.e. The **PATHS** or **WAY** they **FREQUENT** or **WALK IN...where they **HANG OUT!*****) As one of the **LORD’S** own, I should make sure that the **WAY** or **PATH** of **SINNERS** is not the one I am either **FOND OF** or **FOUND IN!**

*(e.g. I personally refuse to knowingly turn around in the parking lot of a liquor store or some other place associated with things that are contrary to the nature of **CHRIST** and my being a **CHRISTIAN**.)*

*(e.g. There have been times when I walked into a situation that the spirit of it was all wrong to who I am in **CHRIST** and I left as quickly as I could and never went back! I didn’t want to be associated with something contrary to **CHRIST!**)*

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OK, so that is *PHYSICALLY STANDING*...now...

B. Let's Consider *STANDING IN AGREEMENT* or *SUPPORT*!

When we are *STANDING IN THE WAY*, it also means we are OK with or at least "*somewhat in agreement with*" where we are!

There are *PROFESSING BELIEVERS* who **STAND IN AGREEMENT WITH** some very **UNGODLY WAYS** of **SINNERS!** There are other *PROFESSING BELIEVERS* who try to take a **NEUTRAL POSITION** when it comes to some **UNGODLY WAYS!**

Let me say that **NEITHER OF THESE** is a **PATH OF BLESSING** for a **BELIEVER!** The **BLESSED MAN STANDS AGAINST SINFUL WAYS OF SINFUL MEN!**

He avoids WALKING IN THE SAME PATHS as they do!
His attitude is THEIR WAY SHALL NOT BE HIS WAY!
If he happens to find himself in their WAY, he will not CONTINUE in their way!

Proverbs 4:14-15— "14 Enter not into the path of the wicked, And go not in the way of evil men. 15 Avoid it, pass not by it, Turn from it, and pass away."

Ephesians 5:11— "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

Matthew Henry put it this way, "*He that would be kept from harm must keep out of harm's way.*"

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C. LET'S CONSIDER WHERE WE ARE TO STAND!

1. We Are To Stand In The Fear Of The LORD!

Psalm 33:8— "Let all the earth fear the LORD: Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him."

Hebrews 4:13— "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."

2. We Are To Stand Firm In The Faith!

1 Corinthians 16:13-14— "13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. 14 Let all your things be done with charity."

3. We Are To Stand Together In One Mind And Spirit!

Philippians 1:27— "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;"

4. We Are To Live And Stand In The New Life That We Have In Christ!

2 Corinthians 5:17— "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Romans 6:4— "...that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

God's desire is that we put off the old man and put on the new man! *Ephesians 4:22-24*