

**THE SUCCESS OF THE BLESSED
PART 5-CONTRAST OF THE UNGODLY
PSALM 1:4-6**

Introduction

We have been studying **THE SUCCESS OF THE BLESSED** in the **first three verses here** and where that **SUCCESS** comes from!

1. The **BLESSED** man is careful **NOT** to take **COUNSEL**, from those who are **UNGODLY (Vs 1a)**, but rather from the very **WORD OF GOD** which he both **DELIGHTS IN** and **MEDITATES ON! (Vs 2)**
2. And because he both **DELIGHTS IN** and **MEDITATES ON** the very **WORD OF GOD**, he also finds the **LIGHT** in its **PAGES** for his **WAY** (his **PATH** in life) which stands in contrast to **SINNERS** who walk in the **PATHS** of **DARKNESS** having no **LIGHT! (Vs 1b, 2)**
3. And because he both **DELIGHTS IN** and **MEDITATES ON** the very **WORD OF GOD**, he **BELIEVES** and **FEARS GOD** being careful not to **SCORN** or **SCOFF at GOD** or those who belong to **HIM! (Vs 1c, 2)**
4. And because he both **DELIGHTS IN** and **MEDITATES ON** the very **WORD OF GOD**, it **AFFECTS** his **LIFE** in a **POSITIVE WAY!**

Being **SITUATED** or **PLANTED** on **PURPOSE** by the **RIVERS** of the **WATER OF GOD'S WORD** brings about a **GODLY PROSPERITY AND BLESSEDNESS** that **STANDS OUT** like a **FRUITFUL TREE!**

HE is a **SUCCESS** in the eyes of **GOD, WHO** is the only **ONE WHO** truly matters and it brings forth **BLESSING** in his life! *(Vs 3)*

Tonight we pick up in **verse 4 through the end of the PSALM** as we see a **STARK CONTRAST** in the life of those who are referred to as **UNGODLY** and **SINNERS** when compared to **THE BLESSED MAN** we've seen.

Read **verses 4-6**

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I. WE SEE THAT THE UNGODLY ARE NOT SO! (Vs 4a)

A. "The Ungodly..."

Synonymous with *unrighteous, unjust, an evil person, wicked, and a transgressor of the law!*

The Hebrew word translated "**UNGODLY**" here often describes *unbelievers who hate GOD and are habitually hostile toward HIM*. They often conduct their lives as if **GOD** does not exist while having no regard for **HIM** or **HIS WORD!**

B. "...Are Not So..."

Charles Spurgeon said that in this verse "*the contrast of the ill estate of the wicked is employed to heighten the coloring of that fair and pleasant picture which precedes it.*"

"NOT SO" - Not what? Simply put, the **WICKED** are **NOT** like the **BLESSED! Which means:**

1. They are **WALKING** by the **COUNSEL** of others who are **WICKED** like themselves!

JESUS said in **Luke 6:39**– "*... Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?*"

2. They are **STANDING** in the **WAY or PATH** of **SINNERS** who walked before them/with them! That broad **way** that leads to destruction! *(Matt. 7:13)*

Romans 3:12– "*They are all gone out of the way...*"

Romans 3:17– "*The way of peace have they not known*"

Isaiah 57:20-21– "*20 But the wicked are like the troubled sea, When it cannot rest, Whose waters cast up mire and dirt. 21 There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.*"

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3. They **DO SIT IN THE SEAT OF THE SCORNFUL!**
Constantly finding fault with **GOD, HIS WORD** and
HIS CHILDREN all which cast them in a bad light!

Romans 3:13-14— “13 Their throat is an open
sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the
poison of asps is under their lips. 14 Whose mouth is
full of cursing and bitterness.”

Romans 3:18— There is no fear of God before their
eyes.”

4. They have no **DELIGHT** in the **LAW OF THE
LORD**, but rather only **CONTEMPT!**
5. They are not like **TREES PLANTED
PURPOSEFULLY** by the **RIVERS OF WATER!**
6. They are not bringing forth **GOOD FRUIT**
(i.e. **SPIRITUAL FRUIT!**) in season! (Because they
are the wrong kind of tree. *Cf. Matt. 7:17-20*)

Romans 3:16— “Destruction and misery are in their
ways:”

7. They are not remaining green in the dry times, but
withering just as we were before we came to **CHRIST!**
Isaiah 64:6— “But we are all as an unclean thing, And
all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; And we all do
fade as a leaf; And our iniquities, like the wind, have
taken us away.”
8. They are not **PROSPERING** in all they do!
(Speaking primarily of **SPIRITUAL PROSPERING**,
because the things of this world will pass away!

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Only those things done in the saint **ABIDING** in the
VINE of **CHRIST JESUS** will endure! *Cp John 15:5*)

What a contrast!

**II. WE SEE THE UNGODLY ARE LIKE THE CHAFF WHICH
THE WIND DRIVETH AWAY! (Vs 4b-6)**

Some may argue, “But preacher I know of plenty of **UNGODLY** that
seem to be **PROSPERING!**”

We can and do look sometimes and see what appears to be the
PROSPERITY OF THE WICKED, but it is only in the things of this
world that are **TEMPORAL** in nature? (*Cf. Psalm 73*)

From our viewpoint, many who leave **GOD** out of their lives seem at
times to be glamorous, powerful, exciting people. But what we read
here is **GOD’S VIEW**, as *verses 5-6* shows. **GOD’S VIEW** takes
ETERNITY into account! Those who leave **GOD** out of their lives
are like **CHAFF** which the wind driveth away. What does that mean?

*In the Middle East, as in many other parts of the ancient world,
farmers made a threshing floor by picking out a slight depression in
the ground or digging one if necessary, usually on a hill where breezes
could be caught. The soil would then be wetted and packed down until
it was very hard. Around the perimeter of the floor rocks would be
stacked to keep the grain in place. After the stalks of grain were placed
onto the floor, an ox, or a team of oxen, would drag heavy pieces of
wood around over the grain, separating the wheat kernels from the
chaff or straw. Then the farmer would take a winnowing fork and
throw a pile of grain into the air. The wind would blow the chaff away,
while the kernels, being heavier, would fall back to the floor.
Eventually nothing would be left but the good and useful wheat.*

The **UNGODLY** are like **CHAFF** in two ways. **CHAFF** is
WORTHLESS and **CHAFF** is **BURNED!**

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This pictures the **FUTILE, EMPTY, WORTHLESS NATURE** of the **LIFE** of the **UNGODLY**, as well as their future **JUDGMENT!**

Matthew 3:12—“Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

If only those who are running away from **GOD** could see this! Many cannot see because they are blinded by **SATAN** and will not take time to **LISTEN** to **GOD’S WORD** so that the **HOLY SPIRIT** can open their heart to the **TRUTH**. They see the things of **GOD** as foolishness!

The world is all about fulfilling the **DESIRES** of the **FLESH!**

If it makes them feel good they’ll do it and do more of it. So they strive to get all the gusto they can out of this life! But all too soon they find that the **PLEASURES OF SIN** are only for a season!

(Hebrews 11:25)

And the proof is all around them that we all have a **DIVINE APPOINTMENT** with **DEATH**, but they **DENY** both **DEATH’S NEARNESS** and the **JUDGMENT THAT FOLLOWS!** *(Heb. 9:27)*

UNBELIEVERS will face **GOD’S JUDGMENT** without the required **RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST**, so they will be excluded from the **ETERNAL BLESSINGS OF GOD’S PRESENCE** that will be enjoyed by all those who stand before **GOD** by **FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS!**

III. WE SEE THE DESTINY OF THESE TWO GROUPS—THE RIGHTEOUS (THE BLESSED) AND THE UNGODLY! (Vs 5-6)

Matthew 7:13–14—“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

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Proverbs 14:12 and 16:25— “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, But the end thereof are the ways of death.”

That is the **WAY** of the **WICKED**. The **WAY** of the **RIGHTEOUS** is the **WAY** of the **LORD JESUS CHRIST**, who described **HIMSELF** as “...*the way, the truth, and the life...*” *(John 14:6)*

Note how in *verse 6*, the emphasis is on the **WAYS** of the two rather than on the people themselves.

Men are **BLESSED** for changing their own **WAY** to **GOD’S WAY** by being **BORN AGAIN!**

Men are **CONDEMNED** for choosing to stay in the **WAY** they were born in!

GOD’S only favorites are **HIS SON JESUS CHRIST** and those that are **IN HIM!**

THE WAY OF CHRIST IS THE ONLY WAY OF BLESSING!