

Preaching the Psalms Series

(1)

Psalm 1

How to Be Happy and Blessed in Life, Psalm 1:1-6

Psalm 1:1-6 (NASB)

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!

²But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

³He 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.

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

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

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

(Psalm 1:1-6) Introduction: **The United States’ Declaration of Independence** proclaims that God has endowed all men with the **“unalienable Rights”** of **“Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”** Sadly, the pursuit of happiness is the futile quest of far too many of us. We squander our precious time and resources, make poor choices, and often ruin our lives—and others’ lives—searching for the treasure of happiness in all the wrong places.

Where can happiness be found? The simple yet powerful truth of God’s Word is that true happiness is a gift of God, one of His very special blessings. This wonderful gift is ours if we are rightly related to Him and if we walk in obedience to His commands.

Many commentators believe that this psalm was purposely written as the introduction to the entire inspired collection.

Note the following about this hymn of instruction:

- It teaches us how to experience God’s blessing.
- It emphasizes God’s Word—His holy *law* (**torah**).
- It paints a picture of two men who follow sharply different ways of life, men with distinctly different futures. Bible teacher and commentator Warren Wiersbe explains:

The psalm presents two ways—the way of blessing and the way of judgment—which was the choice Israel had to make (De. 30:15, 19).

Deuteronomy 30:15 (NASB)

¹⁵“See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity.”

Deuteronomy 30:19 (NASB)

¹⁹“I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So, choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants.”

Jesus used a similar image ([Mt. 7:13-14](#)).

Matthew 7:13-14 (NASB)

¹³“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.

¹⁴For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

Bible history seems to be built around the concept of “two men”: the “first Adam” and the “last Adam” ([Ro. 5:12](#), [19](#); [1 Cor. 15:45](#))—Cain and Abel, Ishmael and Isaac, Esau and Jacob, David and Saul—and Bible history culminates in Christ and Antichrist. Two men, two ways, two destinies.

Romans 5:12 (NASB)

¹²“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.”

Romans 5:19 (NASB)

¹⁹“For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.”

1 Corinthians 15:45 (NASB)

⁴⁵“So also it is written, “The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL.” The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit.”

This contrast is fully explained in the book of *Proverbs*. *Proverbs* thoroughly discusses the two ways, the two men, and the eternal importance of living by the instruction of God's Word. Many terms that are frequently discussed in *Proverbs* appear in this psalm. A word search and study of these words in *Proverbs* provides us with a deeper understanding of this psalm. These words include *walk*, *counsel*, *way*, *scorner*, *law*, and *righteous*.

[Psalm 1](#) is the major passageway into the rest of the psalms. Outstanding commentator Derek Kidner declares that “it stands here as a faithful doorkeeper, confronting those who would be in ‘the congregation of the righteous’ ([v. 5](#)) with the basic choice that alone gives reality to worship.”

Psalm 1:5 (NASB)

⁵“Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.”

At the very beginning of *Psalms*, the Jewish hymnal, a vital truth is proclaimed: *we can only truly worship God if we have chosen to walk in His way and in the light of His Word.*

The Holy Scripture is central to all worship. God has revealed Himself, His glorious plan of salvation, and His will for every one of us in His inspired Word. Only if we delight in His Holy Word (law) can we truly enter His presence. Only if we have chosen the path of righteousness can we have an audience with Him. Only if we meditate on His Word can we fully understand the ways of God and worship Him in truth.

Anyone can be inspired and comforted by reading the psalms, but we can only experience an intimate relationship with Him if we love Him and obey His life-giving instruction ([Jn. 14:21](#); [15:10, 14](#)). Such a relationship gives us the liberty to pour out our hearts to God.

[John 14:21 \(NASB\)](#)

²¹“He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.”

[John 15:10 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁰“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.”

[John 15:14 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁴“You are My friends if you do what I command you.”

Before entering fully into the psalms, we must stop at the door of [Psalm 1](#) and make a decision to...

- walk in the Lord's way
- delight in His Word
- meditate on His Word

Only then can we be gloriously blessed in the presence of the Lord. This is, *How to Be Happy and Blessed in Life*, [Psalm 1:1-6](#).

- [1. Separate from the wicked \(v. 1\).](#)**
- [2. Be devoted to God's Word \(vv. 2-3\).](#)**
- [3. Understand the unhappy and wicked \(vv. 4-5\).](#)**
- [4. Trust the Lord and be righteous \(v. 6\).](#)**

1. ([Psalm 1:1](#)) Separate from the wicked.

[Psalm 1:1 \(NASB\)](#)

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!”

This beloved, oft-memorized psalm teaches us how to meet one of the most urgent needs of our lives: how to be happy and *blessed* (see [Deeper Study # 1](#)). Note that the Hebrew word for *blessed* (**esher**) is plural. It means many “**happiness's**”; abounding in blessing; experiencing the full measure of joy, peace, and prosperity with nothing withheld.

Who would not want to live in the realm of the blessed? What must we do in order to receive this favor and dwell in this state? First, we must not associate with ungodly people.

Three postures are described in this verse: **walking**, **standing**, and **sitting**. These different terms are used as poetic language, and together they represent the overall life choices and activities—the day-to-day lifestyle—of the blessed individual.

At the same time, each expression relates to the specific type of vile person who is to be avoided. **Kidner** says that these phrases describe three degrees of departure from God and three different levels of conformity to this world.

DEEPER STUDY # 1

Psalm 1:1 (NASB)

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!**”

([Psalm 1:1](#)) *Blessed*: the best synonym the English language offers for this Hebrew word (*esher*) is the word *happy*. Yet *happy* falls short of beginning to express all that is contained in what it truly means to be blessed. Being blessed means...

- joy
- contentment
- peace
- satisfaction
- fulfillment
- protection
- calmness
- assurance
- provision
- prosperity

Blessed is both an inward and outward state: we enjoy this happiness in our spirits, and also in our relationships with others. It is a joy, peace, and assurance that transcends circumstances. **“Even when the righteous do not feel happy, they are still considered ‘blessed’ from God’s perspective.”**

This blessing is a gift from God. It is the result of His approval, acceptance, and favor upon an obedient believer’s life. This gift, however, is conditionally received. While God’s favor is always undeserved due to our sinfulness, this blessing is the result of some action on our part.

Throughout *Psalms* we are said to be blessed because we...

- do not associate with the ungodly ([Psalm 1:1](#))
- trust in the LORD ([Psalm 2:12](#); [Psalm 34:8](#); [Psalm 40:4](#); [Psalm 84:12](#))
- confess and receive God’s forgiveness for sin ([Psalm 32:1-2](#))
- live in a nation that worships the LORD ([Psalm 33:12](#))

- are the descendants of the righteous ([Psalm 37:26](#))
- are generous to the poor ([Psalm 41:1-2](#))
- dwell in God's house ([Psalm 65:4](#); [Psalm 84:4](#))
- find our strength in the LORD ([Psalm 84:5](#))
- are chastened by the LORD ([Psalm 94:12](#))
- maintain justice and live righteously ([Psalm 106:3](#))
- fear the LORD ([Psalm 112:1](#); [Psalm 128:1, 4](#))
- are undefiled and keep God's law ([Psalm 119:1-2](#))

Throughout *Psalms* we are said to be blessed because we...

- **1**) do not associate with the ungodly ([Psalm 1:1](#))

[Psalm 1:1 \(NASB\)](#)

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**) trust in the LORD ([Psalm 2:12](#); [Psalm 34:8](#); [Psalm 40:4](#); [Psalm 84:12](#))

[Psalm 2:12 \(NASB\)](#)

¹²“Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish *in* the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!”

[Psalm 34:8 \(NASB\)](#)

⁸“O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!”

[Psalm 40:4 \(NASB\)](#)

⁴“How blessed is the man who has made the LORD his trust, And has not turned to the proud, nor to those who lapse into falsehood.”

[Psalm 84:12 \(NASB\)](#)

¹²“O LORD of hosts, How blessed is the man who trusts in You!”

- **3**) confess and receive God's forgiveness for sin ([Psalm 32:1-2](#))

[Psalm 32:1-2 \(NASB\)](#)

¹“How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered!

²How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit!”

- **4**) live in a nation that worships the LORD ([Psalm 33:12](#))

[Psalm 33:12 \(NASB\)](#)

¹²“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.”

- **5**) are the descendants of the righteous ([Psalm 37:26](#))

[Psalm 37:26 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁶“All day long he is gracious and lends, And his descendants are a blessing.”

- **6**) are generous to the poor ([Psalm 41:1-2](#))
Psalm 41:1-2 (NASB)
¹ “How blessed is he who considers the helpless; The LORD will deliver him in a day of trouble.
² The LORD will protect him and keep him alive, And he shall be called blessed upon the earth; And do not give him over to the desire of his enemies.

- **7**) dwell in God’s house ([Psalm 65:4](#); [Psalm 84:4](#))
Psalm 65:4 (NASB)
⁴ “How blessed is the one whom You choose and bring near to You To dwell in Your courts. We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your holy temple.”
Psalm 84:4 (NASB)
⁴ “How blessed are those who dwell in Your house! They are ever praising You. Selah.”

- **8**) find our strength in the LORD ([Psalm 84:5](#))
Psalm 84:5 (NASB)
⁵ “How blessed is the man whose strength is in You, In whose heart are the highways to Zion!”

- **9**) are chastened by the LORD ([Psalm 94:12](#))
Psalm 94:12 (NASB)
¹² “Blessed is the man whom You chasten, O LORD, And whom You teach out of Your law.”

- **10**) maintain justice and live righteously ([Psalm 106:3](#))
Psalm 106:3 (NASB)
³ “How blessed are those who keep justice, Who practice righteousness at all times!”

- **11**) fear the LORD ([Psalm 112:1](#); [Psalm 128:1, 4](#))
Psalm 112:1 (NASB)
¹ “Praise the LORD! How blessed is the man who fears the LORD, Who greatly delights in His commandments.”
Psalm 128:1 (NASB)
¹ “How blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways.”
Psalm 128:4 (NASB)
⁴ “Behold, for thus shall the man be blessed Who fears the LORD.”

- **12**) are undefiled and keep God’s law ([Psalm 119:1-2](#))
Psalm 119:1-2 (NASB)
¹ “How blessed are those whose way is blameless, Who walk in the law of the LORD.

² How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, Who seek Him with all *their* heart.”

1. ([Psalm 1:1](#)) Separate from the wicked.

[Psalm 1:1 \(NASB\)](#)

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!”

a. Their counsel ([v. 1](#)).

[Psalm 1:1 \(NASB\)](#)

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!”

God’s blessing will be ours when we *do not walk in the counsel of the ungodly*.

Note the significant words in this statement:

⇒ *Walk* (**halak**) is most frequently translated as *go* in the Old Testament. It refers to our natural activity or movement. As used here, it applies to our behavior in daily life.

⇒ *Counsel* (**etsah**) generally means advice or guidance. However, it sometimes refers to purposes, plans, or schemes.

⇒ *Wicked* (**rasha**) is usually translated as wicked. It is the opposite of righteous, and speaks of a person who is guilty of wrongdoing and stands condemned before God. Scholar **H.C. Leupold** notes that its root means loose, and it refers to those who have loosed themselves from God and have fallen into evil. In this context, it is accurately understood as people who have cast off the restraints of God’s Holy Word. They have chosen to live according to their own sinful purposes rather than God’s righteous commands.

b. Their sinful way ([v. 1](#)).

[Psalm 1:1 \(NASB\)](#)

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!”

Path (**derek**) is the road or path we choose to travel. According to Scripture, only two ways exist in life: the way of righteousness that leads to life and the way of wickedness that leads to death and ends in destruction. There is no middle road ([Mt. 7:13-14](#)).

[Matthew 7:13-14 \(NASB\)](#)

¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.

¹⁴ For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

Sinners refers to those who are guilty before God because they disobey God. They miss the mark defined in God’s Word.

Classic commentator Adam Clarke notes the distinction between the *ungodly* or **wicked person** of the first statement and the sinner of this statement: the wicked person is without God and is uninfluenced by Him. The sinner, however, rebelliously lives outside of God's limits and willfully transgresses against God's law.

This path of disobedience to God's commands is the way of those who do not have a relationship with God. Its end is death and eternal separation from God in hell. If we truly desire to be blessed by God, we do not stand in this sinful way of the wicked, much less travel it.

As true followers of the Lord, we have chosen the way of life over the road that leads to destruction. We are no longer traveling the foolish way of transgression against God.

However, it is possible for us to *stand* in that road, or to return for a visit to the way of sinners. If we return, we backslide and forfeit God's blessing upon our lives. In making that choice, we willfully depart from the blessed state of joy, peace, and contentment. The result: we will painfully experience God's loving but firm hand of discipline ([Heb. 12:5-11](#)).

Hebrews 12:5-11 (NASB)

⁵ **“And you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, “MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM;**

⁶ **FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.”**

⁷ **It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline?**

⁸ **But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.**

⁹ **Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?**

¹⁰ **For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He *disciplines us* for *our* good, so that we may share His holiness.**

¹¹ **All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.”**

The way of sinners is the exact opposite of the blessed life. Those who live sinful lives do not know lasting joy, satisfaction, or contentment. They never experience the deep-seated and lasting peace that God alone can give. Instead, their experience is a continuous flow of unsettling conflicts with others.

As a result, they are plagued with guilt because of their transgressions and the hurt they bring to those who love them. They are selfish, and their sin often leads them to an isolated, lonely life that is cut off from others. Habitual sinners are prone to turn to substances—drugs and alcohol—to numb their nagging consciences and ease their pain.

c. Their mockery (v. 1).

Psalm 1:1 (NASB)

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!”

Scoffers mock everything that is holy. They have no respect for God and His Word. The Hebrew verb form of this word literally means to make mouths at. Through continued rejection of God’s Word, they have become hardened toward sin and toward God. The *scorner* (**luwts**) is thoroughly discussed in *Proverbs*.

Scoffers are marked by their pride (**Proverbs 3:34**; **Proverbs 21:24**).

Proverbs 3:34 (NASB)

³⁴“Though He scoffs at the scoffers, Yet He gives grace to the afflicted.”

Proverbs 21:24 (NASB)

²⁴“Proud,” “Haughty,” “Scoffer,” are his names, Who acts with insolent pride.”

They elevate themselves above God and others, and they defiantly disobey God’s commands. Note that the **scoffer** is portrayed here as *sitting*. Picture the scorner arrogantly perched on his self-appointed throne, contemptuously sneering at God and jeering at all who walk in the path of righteousness. He haughtily looks down on those with a lifestyle that shuns sin and revolves around God’s instruction. He exists to fulfill the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life (**1 John 2:16**).

1 John 2:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.”

If we desire to be blessed, we will not sit in his seat: we will not act arrogantly before God or others. We will not disregard God’s holy commands. Instead, we will guard ourselves from being influenced by those who live in mockery of God’s Word.

In conclusion, **Psalm 1:1** charts the path that can lead us away from God and into a life of sin.

Psalm 1:1 (NASB)

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!”

It begins with considering ungodly advice. Then it progresses to following the ways of sinners. It culminates in adopting the attitude of those who live in proud, persistent rebellion against God’s Holy Word.

It is significant that all the verbs in these statements are in the Hebrew perfect tense. This indicates that those who are blessed have made a once-and-for-all commitment to live in obedience to God, a commitment that guides them the rest of their lives. The journey of righteousness is walked day by day in the power of God’s Spirit. But it is their settled commitment to God that holds them faithful in all things.

This complete presentation of oneself to God as a living sacrifice prevents straying onto the way of sinners ([Romans 12:1](#)). Faithful devotion to this commitment results in God's glorious favor and blessing upon us.

Romans 12:1 (NASB)

¹“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.”

Thought 1. [Psalm 1:1](#) is a verse that calls for a decision: Will you fully dedicate yourself to the Lord Jesus Christ?

Psalm 1:1 (NASB)

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!”

Will you make a commitment to walk in obedience to Him, to obey His Word and will for your life? Paul's passionate plea in [Romans 12:1-2](#) challenges us all:

Romans 12:1-2 (NASB)

¹“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

This presentation of ourselves to Christ—laying all that we are and have upon the altar of sacrifice to Him—includes the commitment to live separately from sinners, to pledge...

- **1)** *that we will refuse to listen to worldly advice.* We are surrounded by ungodly counsel. Writers, self-proclaimed experts, television hosts, worldly family and friends, and a host of others—many throughout society beckon us to live contrary to God's Word. If we will be blessed, we must first know what God says in His Word, the Holy Bible. We must then reject all advice that is in disagreement with God's Word, and we must trust Him enough to choose His counsel over the counsel of others.
- **2)** *that we will never depart from the path of obedience to God's righteous commands.* We all face daily temptations to sin. The desires of our sinful nature stir us to disobey God's holy commands. The world presents repeated opportunities to indulge our flesh. If we will be blessed, we must adhere to God's Word. We must refuse to stray from the path of obedience—refuse to even *stand*, much less walk, in the sinful way.
- **3)** *that we will guard ourselves against the tireless efforts of scorners to influence us to question God's Word.* In many countries, the teaching of God's Word vanished decades and even centuries ago. Within every nation, believers are

pressured to accept immorality, dishonesty, injustice, and sinful living. Scorners of God's Word beckon believers to be tolerant of sin. However, if we, as believers, want God's blessings, we must stand strong on the truths of God's Word.

We must stand for what is right, even when we can no longer successfully overcome evil influences ([Eph. 6:13-14](#)). We forfeit God's blessing when we succumb to the pressure of those who mock God's holy commands.

Ephesians 6:13-14 (NASB)

¹³“Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

¹⁴Stand firm therefore, **HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.”**

The once-and-for-all decision to present ourselves fully to Christ enables us to know what to do in the daily decisions we face. Our choices are clarified in the light of our total surrender to Him. Our commitment to Him will guide us through every step of life and will help us to obey Him and His will. *This is the key to the blessed life*, a life that results in God's joyous favor.

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NASB)

³³ Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 (NASB)

¹⁷“Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE,” says the Lord. “AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN”; And I will welcome you.

¹⁸“And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me,” Says the Lord Almighty.”

Psalm 26:4 (NASB)

⁴“I do not sit with deceitful men, Nor will I go with pretenders.”

Proverbs 4:14-15 (NASB)

¹⁴“Do not enter the path of the wicked And do not proceed in the way of evil men.

¹⁵Avoid it, do not pass by it; Turn away from it and pass on.”

Proverbs 13:20 (NASB)

²⁰“He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will suffer harm.”

Jeremiah 15:17 (NASB)

¹⁷“I did not sit in the circle of merrymakers, Nor did I exult. Because of Your hand upon me I sat alone, For You filled me with indignation.”

Thought 2. Pastor and Bible teacher **Harry A. Ironside** viewed this verse as Messianic; that is, as a prophetic reference to the Lord Jesus Christ. He understood the perfect tenses of the verbs to speak of one who *never* walked in

the counsel of the ungodly, nor stood in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seat of the scornful:

“Who is this blessed man to whom our attention is directed as we open this lovely Old Testament book of praise and prayer? ...he is telling us of the blessedness of the Man who has never done any of these things, the Man who never took his own way, the Man who never walked with the world as part of it, who never did a thing in opposition to the will of God. Who is that man?

... there is only one Man who ever walked through this scene to whom these words apply. The One of whom David speaks here is the One who hung on Calvary's cross, and who in the words of the twenty-second Psalm cried, ‘**My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?**’ ([Psalm 22:1](#)).

How delightful it is to contemplate Him, to think of Him coming down into the world His hands had made, becoming man and going through this scene in all perfection, ministering to the needs of sinners but never joining with them in their rebellion against the Father.”

Ancient church fathers Augustus and Jerome also believed that the first half of this psalm was intended to describe the character and reward of the Lord Jesus Christ. The instruction of the psalm to us must not be ignored, but meditating upon these verses with Jesus in view stirs our hearts to focus on Him and follow His example as never before.

Luke 9:23 (NASB)

²³“**And He was saying to *them* all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”**

Colossians 2:6 (NASB)

⁶“**Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk in Him.”**

1 Peter 2:21 (NASB)

²¹“**For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps.”**

1 John 2:6 (NASB)

⁶“**The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.”**