

# Preaching the Psalms Series

(5)

## Psalm 1

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

#### **Psalm 1:1-6 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup>“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!

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

<sup>3</sup>He 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.

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

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

<sup>6</sup>For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will perish.”

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).**
4. (**Psalm 1:6**) **Trust the Lord and be righteous.**

#### **Psalm 1:6 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup>“For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will perish.”

Every human being should seek to know God personally and intimately. When we establish a relationship with Him, He blesses us throughout life and promises to bless us throughout all eternity. Never forget, this relationship is received through trusting Jesus Christ and His finished work on Calvary. As sinful beings, we are justified or made righteous only through trusting the sinless Son of God (**Romans 5:1**). Now, a final contrast completes this psalm:

#### **Romans 5:1 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup>“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**a. He knows the righteous (v. 6).**

**Psalm 1:6 (NASB)**

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

*Knows (yada)* does not speak of a mental awareness, realization, or recognition. The Hebrew word means to know intimately and personally.

Here it refers to the relationship between the Heavenly Father and His children—we who have been made righteous through faith in His only begotten Son ([Galatians 3:26](#)).

**Galatians 3:26 (NASB)**

**26 “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”**

*The way of the righteous* is carefully guided and protected by God. He personally insures that we will reach our final destination, which is heaven. Through His power and care, we can rest secure knowing that He will take us to our eternal home.

**Romans 8:30-39 (NASB)**

**30 “And these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.**

**31 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us?**

**32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?**

**33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;**

**34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.**

**35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?**

**36 Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."**

**37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.**

**38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,**

**39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

**2 Timothy 1:12 (NASB)**

**12 “For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.”**

**2 Timothy 4:18 (NASB)**

**18 “The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.”**

**1 Peter 1:5 (NASB)**

**5 “Who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”**

**b. He does not know the wicked: As a result, they perish (v. 6).**

**Psalm 1:6 (NASB)**

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

The wicked *perish* because God does not know them. [Psalm 1:6](#) is an example of *antithetical parallelism* in *Psalms*.

Parallelism is a frequently used tool in Hebrew poetry, in which two corresponding statements work together to teach one truth.

In *antithetical parallelism*, the second statement contrasts or expresses the opposite of the first. When something is said in one statement of a parallel verse, it is usually implied or suggested in the other statement, even though it may not be specifically mentioned.

Therefore, *the Lord knows not the wicked* is implied in the second statement of [1:6](#); and *the way of the righteous is life* (the opposite of perish) is implied in the first statement of the verse.

**Psalm 1:6 (NASB)**

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

Only those who are known by the Lord—who have a relationship with Him—travel the road that ends in life. All others travel the road that ends in destruction. Only two roads and two destinations exist:

**Matthew 7:13-14 (NASB)**

<sup>13</sup>“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.

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

**Thought 1. Expositor and commentator John Phillips writes:**

“There are only two ways. There is the way of the cross, the way that leads by Calvary to glory. And there is the way of the curse, the broad and popular way that leads to a lost eternity.”

“By nature, and by practice our feet are set on the broad way. ‘We have turned everyone to his own way,’ the prophet declares. But, by deliberate choice, we can make the change. We come to Jesus, ‘the way, the truth, the life,’ the One who says, ‘No man cometh unto the Father but by Me.’ We take Him as Saviour and become numbered with the godly....The lost man, on the other hand, can no more fight his end than the chaff can fight the gale.”

‘The way of the ungodly shall perish.’ That is the Holy Spirit's sobering, closing word in this first great Hebrew hymn.

**Psalm 1:1-6 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> “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!

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

<sup>3</sup> He 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.

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

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

<sup>6</sup> For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will perish.”

A question that we all should ask is this: Which road are we traveling? Has there been a time when we turned from the way of sin and death to the road of righteousness and eternal life? Each of us must make sure, absolutely sure.

If you are not absolutely sure you are on the road to life—eternity in heaven with the Lord and all the righteous—do not delay changing paths. Trust Christ today as your Savior. Believe in Him and accept His work on the cross as payment for your sin. Do not assume the deadly risk that another day will bring another opportunity to be saved.

**Matthew 7:23 (NASB)**

<sup>23</sup> “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’”

**John 10:14 (NASB)**

<sup>14</sup> “I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me.”

**Galatians 3:26 (NASB)**

<sup>26</sup> “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”

**2 Timothy 2:19 (NASB)**

<sup>19</sup> “Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.”

**Proverbs 10:24-25 (NASB)**

<sup>24</sup> “What the wicked fears will come upon him, But the desire of the righteous will be granted.

<sup>25</sup> When the whirlwind passes, the wicked is no more, But the righteous *has* an everlasting foundation.”

**Proverbs 10:28-30 (NASB)**

<sup>28</sup> “The hope of the righteous is gladness, But the expectation of the wicked perishes.

<sup>29</sup> The way of the LORD is a stronghold to the upright, But ruin to the workers of iniquity.

<sup>30</sup> The righteous will never be shaken, But the wicked will not dwell in the land.”

**Proverbs 14:12 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup> “There is a way *which seems* right to a man, But its end is the way of death.”