

THE HAPPY MAN

Int.

1. Aim: To show how we can follow the rules of David in Psalm 1 and be happy.
2. Psalms
 - a. Title = praise or book of Praises
 - b. 150 poems to be set to music for worship
 - c. Ps. 119 is longest chapter - 176 verses
 - d. Ps. 117 is shortest & middle chapter of Bible - 2 verses, 32 words
 - e. Author - David and a few others - all inspired
3. New Testament has 283 quotes from O.T. = 116 from Psalms - more from Psalms than any other book
4. Jesus was fond of the Psalms and often quoted from it.
5. First Psalm is the formula for a happy man
 - a. First word - Blessed = happy
 - b. Tells of the road to a successful happy life

Discussion

I. BLESSED IS THE MAN - v. 1

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."

- A. We all want happiness
 1. Man desires happiness and despises misery
 2. Declaration of Independence - Second Paragraph - "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

B. Man's way of searching for happiness brings misery

1. Solomon is an example - he tried everything
 - a. Wisdom
 - b. Knowledge - literature
 - c. Wealth - exceeded all
 - d. Power - ruler of mighty nation
 - e. Sex - 700 wives and 300 concubines
2. His conclusion "All is vanity and vexation of spirit" Ecl.2:17
3. Men today try all these today and it is useless for they do not bring happiness

II. NEGATIVE INSTRUCTIONS V. 1**A. Do not walk in counsel ungodly**

1. Counsel = advice, instructions
2. Ungodly = wicked -- One uninfluenced by God - morally wrong, a bad person
3. He is not concerned about his salvation nor that of others
4. He advises others to follow in his footsteps
5. Do not take their advice or follow the pattern of their lives
6. A happy man does not heed the ungodly counsel

B. Do not stand in the way of sinners

1. Sinner is one missing the mark
2. He not only does no good but he does evil
3. Each has his own particular way of transgressing - drinking, dishonesty, unclean, immoral
4. This is a lower step than walking

5. Do not cooperate with sinners - 1 Cor. 15:33 asv "Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals."

6. The happy man will not stand in the way of sinners

C. Nor Sitteth in the seat of the scornful

1. Scornful - mock, deride, ridicules the holy things of God

2. His conscience is seared - he is a believer in all unbelief !

3. The happy man will not sit down with the man who mocks and ridicules God

D. Notice the progressive nature of sin

1. Ungodly Sinner Scornful

2. Walk Stand Sit

3. Counsel way Seat

4. The person who

a. Walks according to the counsel of the ungodly will soon

b. Stand to look on the way of sinners and

c. Will soon be a partaker of his evil deeds

5. Thus he will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin and will soon SIT down with the scornful to ridicule religion

6. Prov. 4:14-15 Solomon says about the same "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."

7. The happy man will avoid these ways !!!

- E. The happy man does not follow the advise of the ungodly, the sinner or the scornful
1. If he does he will grow worse
 2. Instead of being blessed he would be cursed
 3. "Cursed is the man who walketh in the Counsel of the ungodly, who standeth in the way of sinners, and who sitteth in the seat of the scornful." [Clarke]
 4. Blessed is he who does not walk in the state of mind which the ungodly cherish, much less that he should associate with the vicious life of sinners, or even delight in the company of those who scoff at religion. [Keil and Delitzsch]

III. THE POSITIVE INSTRUCTIONS - v. 2

"But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."

- A. Delight in law of the Lord
1. Delight = pleasure, considers it a valuable thing, acceptable
 2. His desire, will and every motive in his heart are on the side of God and His truth
 3. All of his actions are governed by the Bible
 4. He who loves to read the Bible will be a happy person
 5. One man said "The gospel feeds you, then it makes you hungry."
 6. You can't read the Bible too much.
- B. Meditates on the Word
1. Meditate = ponder, muse = contemplate, ruminate, reflect
 2. He thinks about what he has read - how does it apply to me
 3. Jas. 1:23-25
 - a. He is a doer of the word
 - b. Therefore he is blessed or made happy

4. 1 Pet. 2:2 - he is hungry for the word of God "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"
5. Mt. 5:6 "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."
6. The happy man loves to read the Bible and loves to live by the Bible
7. Pro. 23:7 NKJV you are what you think "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he."

IV. COMPARED TO A TREE - v. 3

"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

A. A tree is planted

1. Planted = rooted
2. Does not grow wild
3. Christians have been planted - Rom. 6:3-5
4. Sinners grow wild in sin

B. By the rivers of water

1. Does not lack for moisture - a tree with an unlimited supply of water will certainly grow and be healthy.
2. The law of nature demands that a tree grows or it will die
3. The Law of God demands that a Christian grow or he will die
4. 1 Pet. 2:2 The word of God is the food for Christians to Grow and prosper
5. Roots = deep in the word
6. John 4:13-14 - the water that will satisfy our thirst

C. Bringeth forth fruit

1. A planted tree that receives water will eventually bear its fruit
2. God's children will also bear fruit
 - a. Mt. 3:10 "And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire."
 - b. John 15:1-8 - a branch in Jesus will bear fruit
3. Gal. 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23. Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."
 - a. Fruits of the spirit
 - b. All we do is to be aimed at bringing others to Christ
 - c. Good works - influence others
 - d. Bearing fruit is not just saving self
4. II Pet. 1:5-8 -- Christian Graces
5. The happy man described as a tree will bring forth fruit in his season

D. His leaf also shall not wither

1. It is an evergreen - healthy
2. We must not fade or give up at any season - he endures - perseverance
3. He abides in the happy life

E. And whatever he doeth shall prosper

1. Prosper = be profitable, be good
2. Rom. 8:28
3. Doing good is always right

V. CONTRASTED WITH WICKED MAN -- V. 4

"The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away."

A. Not So for the ungodly

1. These things are not true of the ungodly man
2. They are not like a planted tree that brings forth fruit
3. They are the opposite of V. 1 -
 - a. Led by the counsel of the ungodly,
 - b. Stand in the way of sinners,
 - c. Sit in the seat of the scornful
4. Their future is very dark

B. Like Chaff

1. Blown about by the wind - useless - worthless
2. He and his works shall be carried away to destruction by the wind of God's judgment !
3. The wicked man ignores God and His word
4. Does not meditate on the word !

VI. BOTH WILL FACE JUDGMENT -- v. 5-6

v. 5 "Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous."

V. 6 "For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish."

A. Ungodly shall not stand

1. They will be condemned in the judgment
2. They shall have nothing to plead in their behalf
3. II Cor. 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." John 5:28-29

B. Nor sinners with the righteous

1. The sinner will be separated from the righteous
2. Parable of Tares
 - a. Matt. 13:24-30
 - b. Wicked or sinners will be destroyed
 - c. The wicked are among the righteous on this earth - but there is coming a day of separation

C. For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous

1. This way is approved by God
2. He will care for and provide for them

D. But the way of the Ungodly shall perish

1. They will come to nought
2. They shall be condemned to everlasting fire.
3. The wicked shall perish at the presence of the Lord.

CONCLUSION

1. The Happy Man
 - a. He is our example
 - b. We want to have his reward
 2. Where is happiness?
 - a. Not in Unbelief - Voltaire was an outstanding infidel of his day, and he wrote, "I wish I had never been born."
 - b. Not in Pleasure - Lord Byron lived a life of pleasure if anyone did, yet he wrote, "The worm, the canker, and the grief are mine alone."
 - c. Not in Money - Jay Gould, the American millionaire had plenty of that, but when dying he said, "I suppose I am the most miserable man on earth."
 3. We will be happy if we
 - a. Forsake the ungodly
 - b. Love the word of God
 - c. Are doers of the Word of God
 4. We'll be happy here and hereafter
 5. Rom. 6:23 -- gift of God ---- eternal life " For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
-