

**April 13, 2022**

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

***Ps. 1:1-3 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on His law, day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither--whatever they do prospers. (NIV)***

The psalmist begins by giving us a contrastive picture. He begins by stating that the person who 'does not' do these things will be blessed. It is important that we see the images that are painted in this first verse. To be blessed means that the LORD's favor rests upon you and that His blessings will follow our obedience. Notice the progression of one who chooses to follow their own desires. First, they '**walk**' with those who are wicked or ungodly. In other words, they do not consider that the word of the LORD is important. They disregard His counsel and His law. Then, they '**stand**' in the *way* that sinners take. They have quit moving and become even more comfortable with the crowd that they are following. The word *way* means the paths or the thoughts of those who ignore the law of the LORD. And lastly, they '**sit**' down with those who even mock God and His law. They see those things as useless and abhorrent to their own desires. This is truly an image of those who choose self over God.

Now in contrast, we see what is in store for those who choose to follow the LORD and the blessings that they reap in their lives. They are described as those who **delight** in the law of the LORD. This means they find joy in obeying His law. There is a confidence in following His statutes because they bring blessings. And notice that this is a continual lifestyle. Day and night tells us that it is constant and not occasionally. The faithfulness of the Father is borne out through the faithfulness of the follower. And the result is pictured as a tree planted by streams of water. This tree will yield fruit. This tree will grow strong. This tree will not wither away but instead it will prosper and be steadfast through the storms of life. This is a beautiful scene of abundant life.

**Dear LORD, You are all that we need. Your Word shows us what we are to do and Who You are. Remind us daily to be focused on You and not the ways of the world. They may seem enticing but they will lead us away from Your precepts. Lead us in Your way by Your Word. In Jesus Name, Amen**