

April 22, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Ps. 1:1-2 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.

I was reminded again today of a spiritual truth someone shared with me many years ago. It has made an impact on my life since then. The question he first posed was, do you want the blessings of God or the favor of people? At first, I would have immediately responded, the blessings of God, but then I realized what I would say would contradict what I would probably do. If I was going to be honest with myself and with the LORD, I would probably have to say that I enjoy the favor of people. Everyone likes to be liked. We all appreciate being appreciated. The problem with this is that it is selfishly motivated. It panders toward our sinful nature. Hence, this scripture warns us of the progression of our own sin. We first walk alongside those whose thoughts are not His thoughts and their ways are not His ways. Before long, we are standing in the midst of those whose ideas, thoughts, and actions are not the actions of our LORD. And, if we don't watch out, we will soon be sitting in the midst of those who mock our God. This is the progression of sin.

Now don't get me wrong, we are to be salt and light to the world. We are to go to them and share with them that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. We are to live our lives as an example of those who have been redeemed. But, we are to find our joy and delight in God's Word. Not only are we to be reading it, we are to be meditating on it. It is in the place of meditation, of dwelling on His Word, that it comes alive and touches us to our core. It is there that the Spirit of our awesome God speaks clearly to our minds and our hearts and shows us His will and His way. It is His blessing that we will receive instead of the favor of people. Remember what Jesus said in **Matt. 10:22** *You will be hated by everyone because of Me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.*

Dear LORD, I desire Your blessing today instead of the favor of others. Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Speak to me today so that I may walk and live for You. In Jesus Name, Amen.