Not Preached Yet Dr. Rick Griffith

Studied in 2008, Modified in 2022 Single Message

NIV 40 Minutes

**Two Ways, Two Results**

***Psalm 1***

**Topic:** Happiness

**Theme:** How can you genuinely prosper in life?

**Thrust:** God alone brings prosperity and punishment.

**Purpose:** The listeners will trust in God and His Word for a blessed life.

**Meditation:** Psalm 1:6

**Reading:** Psalm 1

# Introduction

### Interest: Many different philosophies exist to tell you how to have a prosperous life (Chinese mediums, horoscope, tarot cards, Anthony Robbins, A Course in Miracles, Internet “pass this email on and you will be rich in ten days,” etc.).

### Need: Every bit of counsel has a bias—so which bias do you listen to?

### Subject: How can you prosper in life?

### Background: Satan fell from heaven and now offers prosperity to us instead of that offered by God. Since then there have been differing views on how to prosper and be happy.

### Text: Psalm 1 gives us God’s recipe for real happiness and prosperity.

### Preview: This psalm contrasts two supposed ways to prosper, showing first the wrong way.

### Transition: Everyone around us is trying to be an “influencer” with their words. So which words should we seek?

# I. Seek God’s word over man’s word (1-3).

## Don’t get counsel from the world (1).

## Get your advice from God’s Word (2).

## God’s advice makes you stable, replenishing, and prosperous (3).

# II. Realize the godless are unstable (4-5).

## Wicked people have no firm root (4).

## The wicked will be judged but the godly worship together (5).

# III. Choose God’s blessing over death (6).

## The godly earn God’s blessing (6a).

## The wicked earn death (6b).

# Conclusion

### God alone brings prosperity and punishment (Main Idea).

### Main Points

#### Seek God’s word over man’s word (1-3).

#### Realize the godless are unstable (4-5).

#### Choose God’s blessing over death (6).

### Exhortation: Where are ***you*** looking for fulfillment instead seeking the LORD? Money, sex, pleasure, godless advice, etc. will not satisfy.

# Study Questions (Step 1)

# Context: What did the author record just before this passage?

### This is the first psalm.

### However, the preceding book of Job has shown us that the righteous do suffer.

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### Psalm 1 is a wisdom psalm placed by the compilers at the front of the 150 psalms as it sums up all the rest.

### It tells us how we can truly be blessed in life.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### The time when the psalms were written and arranged was when many competing wisdom literature sources existed in Egypt and Mesopotamia.

### At that time everyone had their ideas on how people could genuinely prosper in life—not just in terms of money, but in their families, health, happiness, etc.

# Questions

### What does it mean to be “blessed” (1)?

### What is the progression here from walk-stand-sit (1)?

### What is the progression here from counsel-way-seat (1)?

### What is the progression here from wicked-sinners-mockers (1)?

### What does the “law of the Lord” mean (2b)?

### What does it mean to “delight” in this law (2a)?

### How can someone meditate at night (2b)?

### How is reading the Bible like a riverbank tree (3a)?

### What does yielding fruit in season mean (3b)?

### Is this an evergreen tree (3c)?

### Does “whatever he does prospers” mean a godly man will never fail (3d)?

### Does a wicked being like blown away chaff mean he will never be wealthy (4)?

### What is the assembly of the righteous (5b)?

### What does it mean for God to “watch over” us (6a)?

### What does it mean for the wicked’s way to perish (6b)?

# Structural Diagram (Step 1 NLT)

# PSALM 1

# 1 Oh, the joys of those who do not

# follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.

# 2 But they delight in the law of the Lord,

# meditating on it day and night.

# 3 They are like trees planted along the riverbank,

# bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.

# 4 But not the wicked!

# They are like worthless chaff,

# scattered by the wind.

# 5 They will be condemned at the time of judgment.

# Sinners will have no place among the godly.

# 6 For

# the Lord watches over the path of the godly,

# but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.

# Structural Diagram (Step 1 NIV)

# PSALM 1

# 1 Blessed is the man (effect to cause)

# who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, or stand in the way of sinners, or sit in the seat of mockers.

# 2 But (contrast) his delight is in the law of the Lord,

# and on his law he meditates day and night.

# 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water, (illustration)

# which yields each fruit in season. and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

# 4 Not so the wicked! (pivot)

# They are like chaff, (illustration)

# that the wind blows away.

# 5(climax)Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,

# nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

# 6 For (summary with interchange)

# the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,

# but the way of the wicked will perish.

**Outlines (Steps 2-5)**

**Two Ways, Two Results**

***Psalm 1***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# Exegetical Idea (CPT): The way the godly prosper but the wicked perish is due to the Lord’s care.

# I. The result for a godly man who follows God’s Word instead of ungodly advice is stability and prosperity (1-3).

## A godly man does not get his advice from the ungodly (1).

## A godly man gets his advice from God’s Word (2).

## The result of a godly life is stability, continual growth, and prosperity (3).

# II. The result of wicked lives is instability and judgment (4-5).

## Wicked people have no firm foundation in life (4).

## Wicked people will be judged but the godly worship together (5).

# III. The way the godly prosper but the wicked perish is due to the Lord’s care (6).

## The godly earn God’s blessing (6a).

## The wicked earn death (6b).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will trust in God and His Word for a blessed life.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)—Steps 5-6

# Subject: Why do the godly prosper but the wicked don’t? (former subject when EI read “the reason…”)

# Subject: How can you genuinely prosper in life?

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# Discussion Questions:

# Tentative Theme/Thrust Statements (Step 5)

Text

# Possible Illustrations (Step 6)

### Text

# Possible Applications (Step 6)

**Psalm 1**

Questions by Singpu

1. What are the markers of a “blessed man” or “a commendable person”?

He loves God’s Word more than man’s advice.

1. Compare and contrast the two kinds of people in the psalm.

The main influences in his life lead to completely different results.

1. What are the consequences of the two types of paths?

Man’s advice eventually leads to mocking things of God (v. 1) and condemnation from God (v. 5).

Meditating on God’s Word bears continual fruit (godly character) and prosperity (material sustenance).

1. The tree is the central metaphor of the psalm. How are law-delighting people like trees planted by a river (3)?

A tree needs fertilization and water, so the godly have a strong life resulting from proper nourishment.

1. In what ways are the wicked like chaff (4-6)?

Chaff is not heavy enough to last when the wind blows, so the wicked following man’s advice are easily changed

1. How should we protect ourselves from bad company? This is our defensive approach.

*Discern the motives of the ungodly*—whether to take our money, to get us to do their sin so they won’t be alone in it, simply to get us to “have fun” at any cost, etc.

*Know the ways of the godly* so well that you will recognize bad company for who they are

*Renew your mind* by meditating on the law of the Lord (v. 2)

1. How do we motivate ourselves to delight in the law of the Lord? This is the offensive approach.