

June 18, 2017

Meditating Upon the Word of God in Psalm 1

Intro

Heb. 4:12 *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart...*

- The Psalms are Hebrew poetry that express many of the same emotions, feelings, and attitudes that we all experience in life.
- We see the Psalmist wrestling with life as he expresses his feelings and fear, hope and doubt, love and hate, praise and complain—but always with the steadfast and faithful love of the Lord.

Seeing, Savoring, & Encountering *God* in Psalm 1

Seeing the Whole Psalm

- All of humanity is divided into two groups—the blessed (**v. 1-3**) and the wicked (**v. 4-6**).
- What is the end of each? *Prospering vs. Perishing.*

Verse 1

Seeing

- What does it mean to be “blessed”? Happy. This word has to do with Who God is within Himself.

1 Timothy 1:11 ...the blessed God...

- Why was this man blessed? God had chosen to unite him to Himself in Christ (Eph. 1:3) which gave him the privilege of enjoying the personal presence of God.

Savoring

- Are you a *blessed* person?

Encountering

- When you ponder God's work of blessing you, what do you experience?

Seeing

- "...does not walk in the counsel of the wicked." This man refuses to allow his decision and practices to be informed by the fallen culture of humanity.
 - **Savor:** In what areas am I listening to the advice of the world?
- "...does not stand in the way of sinners." This man refuses to adjust the path of his life to the lifestyle of the world.
 - **Savor:** In what areas am I adjusting my path to that of the world?
- "...does not sit in the seat of scoffers." This man does not allow himself to become comfortable, at home with the philosophy and practices of the world.
 - **Savor:** In what areas am I becoming comfortable with the world's practices and philosophy?

Encountering

- As I see and savor these verses, what is the Spirit saying to me?

Verse 2

Seeing

- This verse tells us *why* the blessed man can resist becoming swallowed up in the culture of the world.
- By his regular reading and meditating upon the Law (Word) of God, this man has discovered that the Word of God is a greater *delight* or pleasure than any of the pleasures that the world offers.

Savoring

- He has learned by experience to savor God's Word, to spend quality time meditating upon the Word of God and meditating upon the God of the Word.

Encountering

- As a result, he has experienced rich communion with his loving Heavenly Father.

Verse 3

Seeing

- The man who meditates and delights upon God's Law is compared to a tree planted by streams of water.

Savoring

- What comes to mind when you think of a tree?
- The tree is strong, durable, and stable because it has been planted by streams of water for its continual nourishment.

John 4:10; 7:28

Isa 61:1-3 ...oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.

- The character of the man: “yields its fruit in its season.”

Gal. 5:22-23 ...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control...

Rom. 8:29

- The life and vitality of such a man continues and even prospers during every season of life.

Encountering

- Is this the description of your life?

Verses 4-6

Seeing

- The wicked & their fate:
 - *Like chaff*—useless and will be blown away.
 - In the judgment, the wicked will be exposed by their deeds.

2 Cor 5:10 ...we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil

- The righteous will stand in the judgment—will be acceptable to God.

Encountering