

Psalm 1 (NIV)

1 Blessed is the man 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 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, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. 4 Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. 6 For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

What makes you happy? Where do you find joy in this world? In what do you delight? It's amazing the variety of answers that you will find to those questions. Many people think that they will find happiness in money, extramarital sex, and the other "pleasures" that this world can offer them. But my guess is that for most people the words ring true, "You can't buy love, you can't buy happiness."

The Psalmist realized this too. He says that people will be blessed if they avoid the pleasures of this world. Blessed is the man who isn't associated with the ways of this world or the people who support these things. Where then will he find happiness; in God's Word. The new man of faith that resides in each believer delights in God's Word. He finds joy in meditating on it, in reading it, and it permeates every aspect of his life. His life will be full of blessings from the Lord.

The Psalmist compares him to a tree that is well watered. That tree is going to have the necessary resources to produce good fruit. The water supply will keep his leaves full of the necessary lifeblood. They won't wither as long as they keep feeding and drinking from the water. So to the Christian who feeds off of God's Word! His life will be full of fruits of faith. These things will flow naturally from a heart that delights in God's Word. As long as the Christian stays connected to God's Word, he will continue to flourish; he will not wither.

But this isn't true for the wicked. The old man, the original sinful self that resides in every human being, cannot find joy in God's Word. He hates it. He will not be blessed by the Lord. He will not flourish. He is like chaff that blows away in the wind. There is no promise of glory at the end of this life for the wicked, only destruction.

Dear Christian, there is a constant battle being waged inside of each of you. It is the battle between your old man and your new man. Don't let the old man win! He's the one who loves the things of this world, to walk in the council of the wicked, to sit in the seat of mockers. He loves to oppose God's Word. Instead, use God's Word to drown your old man. Use the waters of life that drowned him at your baptism and let your new man arise. The new man delights in God's Word. He feeds off of it! He will flourish because of it. Fight the good fight of faith. Stand firm to the end. Be faithful even to the point of death, and God will give you your crown of life, the ultimate joy and happiness, in heaven!