

**BIG IDEA: God's people love and follow his Word.****PRAY****1) INTRO**

- Kelly Clark – halfpipe gold 2002, bronze 2010 (Vancouver)
  - "God loves you" – Bible in hotel room
- There are two ways to live...1 of 2 people to be
  - Love God & his Word OR not
  - Godly or ungodly
  - Following God or following Satan & sin
  - Walk the way of the righteous or the way of the wicked?
- BIG IDEA
- Psalm 1 is the intro to the entire book of Psalms
  - Ps 1 gives us a manual for meditating on the Word
  - Ps 1 shows us three contrasts/differences

**2) vv1-2 – DIFFERENCE IN DESIRES/LIFESTYLES**

- When we love God's Word and follow it, we'll be "blessed"
  - "Blessed" is stronger word than 'happy'
    - Person God showers w/ his favor & grace
    - It's joy flowing from sense of well-being & rightness b/c of God & his goodness & closeness
  - JC uses the GRK equivalent in Beatitudes
    - Same sense of "blessed" there
- "Man" – used to point to an example of a godly/righteous person
  - Person for us to imitate
- 1<sup>st</sup>, righteous person is described by what he/she avoids...sin
  - "Blessed" person does not...
  - Ungodly person goes on living in sin
  - Godly person avoids sin
- "Wicked...sinners...scoffers" – people who refuse to live following God & his Word/Bible
  - Progression here:
    - "Wicked" – pic of person convicted of a single theft

- "Sinners" – pic of a career criminal
- "Scoffer" – actively mocks/undermines right living
- Godly people don't follow these folks/share same desires
  - We're still in the world w/ such folks
    - Casual contact & redemptive association (like JC) is not in question...it's adopting the same desires
  - Article on battling sin – first & obvious is avoid
- To not avoid sin leads to "walk...stand...sit"
  - These vv show a progression here too if sin is let in
    - Listening -> course of life -> sitting in the habit
  - Gives the picture of allowing a little bit of sin to catch our attention as we run this race that's set before us
    - Then letting it slow us to a walk, then to standing, then to sitting in sin
      - Gives the picture of an increasing comfortableness w/ sin
  - We must be constantly battling sin, which Bible tells us
    - Not even entertaining a hint of sin to creep in
    - Jordan – blog post about ladybug
      - Even a hint – if left alone – can overrun
  - Righteous people avoid sin at all costs...battle it/fight
    - TV, movies, music, books, magazines, internet
  - Left to ourselves, we'll continue living in sin
    - We'll not care about being entrenched in sin
    - Until Jesus saves us & changes us
- "but" – significant transition here..."but rather"
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, righteous person described by what he/she does
  - "Blessed" person does...love the Bible
- "Law of the Lord" – delights in/loves God's Word/the Bible
  - "Law" – generally refers to Torah
    - But, in wisdom lit – which Ps 1 is – refers to God's instruction in general...Bible
      - We don't ignore the Bible or scoff at it
      - We love it – we immerse ourselves in it
        - Let it soak into all we are
- Righteous person is glad to have God's Words in our hands

- John Piper article on hearing God's words
- "Meditate" – HBW meditation wasn't silent
  - Wasn't a disengaging of mental activity
  - Involved intellectual engagement w/ Scripture
    - Heart-mind connection
  - So, would mutter – speak in low tones...like someone talking to themselves
    - If you talk to yourself, you're already halfway there
- "day and night" – gives the picture of "around the clock"
  - The righteous person constantly and at all times meditates on the Word of God
  - Godly people read it, study it, memorize it, listen to it taught, remember it, relish in it, rejoice in it...at all hours of the day
    - Not just a morning or evening devotion time for 5 min, 15 min, or 50 min before moving on to other things
  - Alistair Begg – cow-like in our meditation of Scripture (cud)
    - Consistently doing whatever you have to to keep Bible central
      - Listen on Bible app, tape vv around house, listen to Scripture put to music, sermons going
- How are you doing in your meditating on God's Word?
  - Hopefully, none of us will say that we've got it down
  - Hopefully we're in a good rhythm
    - But, we can always be better, can't we?
    - "You are what you eat"
      - May we constantly feast on God's Word
      - And, may we live it!

### 3) vv3-4 – DIFFERENCE IN FRUITFULNESS/CONSEQUENCES

- When we love God and follow his Word, we'll be like a tree
- "like a tree planted" – this is a symbol of the blessed life
  - Picture of permanence & stability
  - Spurgeon – "strict walking is much despised in these days, but...it is both the safest and the happiest
    - gives a great pic of safety & endurance & strength
- "by streams of water" – points to resources

- As a tree drinks from the stream, so the righteous drink from the Word of God
- When we meditate & memorize & feast on & drink from God's Word, we're planting our roots deeply into the life-giving water of God's Word
  - The same "living water" that JC offers to Sam woman at Jacob's Well in John 4
  - Dr. Niehaus – water in OT is associated w/ HS
    - In Old Cov – this is as good as it gets – "by"
    - In New Cov – HS is now IN us
    - [The Gospel message of the Bible – salvation in JC & the gift of the HS]
- "fruit...does not wither" - in JC we bear fruit and don't dry up
  - We have life and are healthy
- "prosper" – carries the sense of a successful conclusion
  - Not restricted to finances (like we think of prosperous)
    - But, instead a successful conclusion
      - In JC, our conclusion is the best
- "wicked are not so" – not so for the wicked
  - The contrast is strong
  - Righteous are compared to a tree, drinking in water & bearing fruit...showing life
    - But wicked are compared to dead & rootless plants
- "life chaff that the wind drives away" – chaff was thrown away
  - Chaff is outer shell of kernel of wheat that needs to come off. Beat the wheat on threshing floor with sleds to crush the outer husk. Then they'd throw the wheat in the air with a winnowing fork and the chaff would fall off and blow away in the wind b/c it was light. But, the wheat was heavier and would fall straight to the ground – and the wheat and chaff would be separated.
    - Shows instability & worthlessness compared to the tree that's permanent & enduring & strong & bearing fruit
    - Chaff is frequent symbol of wicked in Bible – Matt 3:12
    - Contrast is crucial – we're either fruitful trees or useless chaff
      - Between well-watered stability or dry, dusty, wind blown impermanence

#### 4) vv5-6 – DIFFERENCE IN OUTCOME/END RESULT

- The end result is also quite different
- “wicked...sinners” – are brought back to us as examples
  - They’re given as examples of those who won’t be able to stand in the final judgment
- “perish” – and, we see that the wicked will actually perish
  - The sense here is that they’ll ‘come to nothing’
  - As chaff is good for nothing, the wicked way of life comes to nothing
- “YHWH knows the way of the righteous”
  - “knows” – also carries the sense of noticing & taking care of
  - YHWH takes care of the way/the journey of the righteous
  - The godly/righteous are held in YHWH’s arms, taken care of
- We’re shown the different outcomes here:
  - The way of the righteous is overseen by God
  - The way of the wicked will ultimately perish
- How are we going to respond?
  - Paul Tripp – All of our behaviors & all of our choices are rooted in the desires of our hearts – that’s what this Psalm shows us.”
  - On the cross, Jesus took all of our misplaced delight – the sin we enjoyed
    - He took it all on himself and gave us his righteousness when we submit, surrender, and believe in him as Lord and Savior
    - When we surrender to him, we’re made righteous
      - And, we’re no longer in the camp of the wicked b/c of the HS now in us
    - Maybe the HS’s even working right now in your heart
      - Maybe to surrender for the 1<sup>st</sup> time
      - Maybe to acknowledge that your desires have been misplaced...haven’t been on God & Bible
- Evangelist story – sitting on the fence
  - Which side are you on?

- How’s your love for God & his Word?
- When God has sovereignly changed us, we’ll read & meditate on God’s Word and we’ll respond in love & submission to it
- When we’ve encountered JC, we’ll be people who love the words that point us to him & we’ll walk the way of the righteous
- When we’ve been transformed by the HS, our desires will line up with what’s in the Bible & we’ll be able to live these words
  
- Do you ever take time to evaluate/self-reflect where you’re at in your walk?
  - It’s a good thing to do
  - As you evaluate your life right now, do you see a love for God & his Word?
  - Do you see a growing desire to live – by the power of the HS – what the Bible says?
    - Honest reflection of these questions will help you to know where which path/way you’re on
    - And, may the Lord show us how to grow in these areas as well
      - Cry out to him for help; he’ll help

#### 5) CONCL