

Psalm 1: The Righteous and the Ungodly
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Psalm 1 is a contrast of two types of people: the Righteous Man and the Ungodly Man. Some see this Psalm as an introduction to all of the Psalms, relating a style and a purpose to their work. The Psalmist (who is not known) wants us to see that it is well known who is righteous and who is ungodly.

The Righteous man:

1. He does not listen to the ungodly - Ungodly people have LOTS of advice; they want to tell us how to live in things such as immorality and covetousness. As well, ungodly people have LOTS of teachings and doctrines. They can include ideologies like evolution and humanism, or the false religious doctrines of men. The point we can take is that if someone is not Godly in their life, don't take their advice.
2. He does not walk in the path of sinners. The path of sin has certain characteristics that make it discernable. The path of sin is easy (Matthew 7:13). The path of sin is popular (Luke 13:24). The path of sin is pleasant (Titus 3:3). The righteous man knows that the easy, popular fun path is not the right path.
3. He does not sit with the scornful - Some translations say "scoffers". These are those who live to find fault in good things. They love to find fault with the church; they can point out the hypocrites, and try to pull apart the works of the church. They are quick to establish themselves as spiritual leaders, but then want to find contradiction and immorality in the Bible. A righteous man does not spend time with those who live to find what is wrong with righteousness.
4. He delights in the law – the law of God requires that a man have a desire to obey it. He must want to please God, and sees the law of God as the way to do so. Even now the law of Christ requires love (Galatians 5:14). A righteous person loves the law of Christ, and seeks the ways to please God.

What is the fate of the righteous man? The Psalmist makes several comparisons. He is like a tree by the river (well sustained). He brings forth fruit in its season (results). He has a leaf that does not wither (satisfaction). Ultimately, it is summed up in saying that whatever he does shall prosper (3 John 2).

The Ungodly Man:

1. They are like chaff in the wind – In other words, everything moves them around. They are constantly changing their minds and ideologies. When it comes to doctrines, they are always being blown around (Ephesians 4:3). When it comes to the difficulties and circumstances in life, again they are constantly blown around (Matthew 7:26-27). Their fate is this: they will not stand in the judgment.

God knows those who are His. He knows by both their hearts and their deeds.

Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness."

2 Timothy 2:19