

# PSALM 1 vs 1

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This Psalm may be regarded as **The Preface Psalm**, having in it a notification of the contents of the entire Book. It is the psalmist's desire to teach us the way to blessedness, and to warn us of the sure destruction of sinners. This then, is the matter of the first Psalm, which may be looked upon, in some respects, as the text upon which the whole of the Psalms make up a divine sermon. Many comments come from: **The Treasury of David**, by C Spurgeon

Division: this Psalm consists of two parts: first David sets out wherein the joy and blessedness of a godly man consists (1-3); in the second part he contrast the state and character of the wrong, reveals the future, and describes, in telling language, his ultimate doom(4-6) - Charles Spurgeon.



<sup>1</sup> **Blessed is the man** / the Psalm starts with a benediction in the plural; in Hebrew the word is not Adam – translated man it is: **ish**... we know the meaning when we consider the following common words: English, Span**ish**, Dan**ish**, Swed**ish**... to mention a few; the word is in the emphatic.

**who does not walk in the counsel of the wrong** / some bibles say: the wicked, but now that word means: great, terrific; the psalmist is talking about what we see and hear along the way: our advice, our ideas, our images, our information, our patterns of thinking; he says: choose wisely walking through a broken world; and since what matters most is not complicated, then don't believe all the ads: **keep walking**,

**nor stand in the way of sinners** / lots of nice people probably with good intentions, want to halt the lost world rushing aimlessly through the streets of life... even in their limousines to red carpet affairs; the psalmist says: not necessary, step aside, let them pass: **keep walking**,

**nor sit in the seat of scoffers** / Peter, to the faithful says: I want to stir up your minds by way of reminding you the words the Lord spoke to us, knowing this first, there will come scoffers in the last days; well, all the loveless, heartless, angry 21<sup>st</sup> century mockers and jokesters and deceivers have arrived; but Peter along with the psalmist both say: **keep walking**,

<sup>2</sup> **but his delight is in the law of the LORD** / his feelings of joy and pleasure and satisfaction... said differently: his ideas and information and patterns of thinking... are derived from the law of the Lord -- now written on the heart; this one has a heart, and also a mind, he does what the Lord asks him to do!  
Deut.5

**and in his law of love... he meditates day and night** / in the Lord's law of love, starting with the record of the loving Father God, tirelessly working His will... to secure the well-being, what is good for each of his people considering, and rethinking and turning over in his mind... all the loving ways of our Father in heaven; unlike the malicious, impersonal, cruel, abusive world that laughs at the ways of God; and deflects our minds from knowing God.

<sup>3</sup> **And he is like a tree planted by rivers of water, that its fruit is produced in season** / those who delight in the Lord; this tree is planted in a garden... worked and watched over by a thoughtful, loving Caretaker of the ground; who has good ideas about how things in His garden grow best, its fruit will ripen with full-flavor at the proper time, and the delicious produce will refresh all within reach;

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**whose leaf will not wither, and whatever he does will prosper** / his own indicator of healthy fruit, that comes to full growth will not wilt; it will not decline or waste away; no wonder, **he keeps walking!**

We were singing about the faithful; and now about the faithless...

<sup>4</sup> **Not so the wrong not so** / in the Septuagint, the old Greek bible, here we read a **double negative**, their non-flourishing life; unhealthy, withered indicators; under-developed produce; did they plant near polluted, highly toxic streams:

**but are like chaff which the wind drives away** / the only positive thing the psalmist says, is what an agrarian botanist would observe: their worthless remains, are easy to carry, and will make good fuel for the fire.

<sup>5</sup> **Upon this the wrong will not stand in the judgment** / the prideful, loveless, and careless not a surprise, is it? After Tyre and Sidon; Sodom and Gomorrah, and the Queen from Arabia stand to say something: then will they who lived as if everything was a joke, will they start playing the comedian? And piously say did we not do thus or such representing you? till the Lord himself says, [I never knew you!](#)

**nor sinners in the assembly of the upright** / they won't stand in the assembly of our great God either; where all is right, flowing from His abundant heart. [Genesis 1 outlines in detail the loving care of our Father God](#), as in faith He prepared a place for His creation to live and learn as they walk with Him. Righteousness = God at work... and what He does is always right and good. Sinners don't hang out there. His LOVE... is seen as He secures the welfare of each in His adopted family. [We love Him, because He first loved us](#)... who secured our good well-being. When He says, [children, love one another as I loved you](#)... we do not simply start half-heartedly grinning at others, and tell each other empty platitudes.

We do learn to think differently, when we start to think God's way... which includes, both in word and deed, securing the benefit and care and well-being of others near us... just like our Father in heaven taught us, up close and personal, when He sent His Son; and our Father knows best!

Can you imagine a **congregation of people doing right**... people from every nation, tribe and language who seek to secure the good and well-being of others? So then, **I don't need to look out for myself**, because our Father God already does... as I learn from him; putting iron in our soul.

<sup>6</sup> **For the LORD knows the way of the right** / He knows the number of hairs on our head; if you think He doesn't... then climb down from your high horse and bend the knee before Him... so He can count yours too:

**but the way of the wrong will perish.** John wrote: God so loved the world... that it would not perish; and gave the world His best. Now, God isn't a fool, and No second best will be coming; so those who yawn and foolishly do not reconsider... will one day be dismissed from His presence... to their destination.

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