

The conscious decision

November 8, 2021

PSALM 1:1-3 NKJV – (1) Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. (2) But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. (3) And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Psalm 1:1–3 teaches that those who properly respect God's Word will enjoy spiritual prosperity and spiritual success. It begins by identifying the man who is blessed. The word "blessed" in the Hebrew Old Testament is actually a plural noun. Therefore, the words, "Blessed is the man," may be rendered, "Blessings to the man." Also, the word for "man" in this context refers to human beings in general. Blessings come to anyone who refuses to be influenced by the ungodly, those whose lives are governed by evil passions. The blessed person refuses to align with sinners: those who choose to do wrong. Further, they refuse to join the ranks of those who mock God, mock the righteous, or oppose whatever is virtuous.

This verse describes a downward spiral. First is willingness to be influenced by the ungodly, followed by entering into fellowship with them, followed by joining in their scornful attitudes and behavior. Christians today need to lead a righteous life, refusing to be influenced by godless attitudes. Despite the temptations of popularity or comfort, believers should not side with those who disdain God's standards of righteousness. **Ephesians 5:7–8** commands: "Therefore do not become partners with [the sons of disobedience]; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light."

Verses 4-6 responds to the one who will fail, not prosper or make it. Simply because they choose to follow their own way. Today, make a decision. Make a conscious decision.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

To change a habit, make a conscious decision, then act out the new behavior.

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"