

An Introduction – Psalm One

A look at Christ & us in the Psalter

Seeing and Understanding – an exposition

1. The Blessed Man v.1-3
 - a. Not this v.1
 - i. Walks – stands – sits: An increasing grip of a lifestyle to be avoided
 1. walks – along with
 2. stands – together with
 3. sits – take up permanent residence
 - ii. Wicked – sinners – scoffers: Groups of opponents of God
 1. Wicked – Judged
 2. Sinners – dominated by sin
 3. Scoffers – Laughs at righteousness
 - iii. Counsel – way – seat: Different realms – thinking, behaving, belonging
 - b. But this v.2
 - i. Delight: taking pleasure in
 - ii. Law: instructions of the LORD
 - iii. Meditates day and night: a constant companion
 - c. Resulting in this v.3
 - i. Tree planted: permanence
 - ii. Streams of water: satisfying sustenance
 - iii. Fruit: Excess life for others
 - iv. Leaf not withering: doing well when life isn't going well

2. The Cursed Man v.4-6
- a. Not this v.4a
 - i. Are not so: opposite of blessedness
 - b. But this v.4b
 - i. Chaff in the wind: lacks permanence
 - c. Resulting in this v.5-6
 - i. Will not stand in judgment
 - ii. Will not stand in the congregation of the righteous
 - iii. Will perish

Sharing & Responding – an application

It is normal to read or hear this Psalm and to think about ourselves. You know, if you are good God will bless and if you are not He will curse. I say this normal but it is wrong.

Who is this Psalm about?²

Is it about you? You are in trouble! Have you avoided the sins of this song?

- ◆ Ps.119:1 – blameless all the time?
- ◆ Ps.106:3 – does righteousness at all times?

Is it about Christ? He is awesome!

- ◆ The Blessed Man!
 - Ps.40:7,8 speaks of Christ (see Hebrews 10:5-7)
- ◆ The Cursed Man!
 - Ps.22:1 speaks of Christ (see Matt.27:46; Gal.3:13)

Is it about you in Christ? You are not in trouble!

- ◆ The one who trusts in Him (cf. Ps.32:10,11; Jer.17:5-8)

The Approach to the Psalms

The Canonical Process Approach³ – a recognition that the text's intention becomes deeper and clearer as the parameters of the canon are expanded.

1. What the Psalms meant to the original poet (Hint: most Psalms are about a king).
2. The meaning of the Psalms in the earlier collections associated with the First Temple.
3. The meaning in the final and complete O.T. associated with the Second Temple.
4. The meaning in the full canon (N.T.) with its presentation of Jesus as the Christ.

² A great sermon was preached by Bill Baldwin in May of 2002. The flow of questions came from his sermon.

³ Articulated most clearly by Dr. Bruce K. Waltke.