

Scriptural Background: Psa 1

"I Blessed is the man
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stand in the way of sinners,
nor sit in the seat of scoffers;
2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.
3 He is like a tree
planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
In all he does, he prospers.
4 The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away." Psa 1:1–4

Psalms is a collection of prayers, praises, and laments. Not coincidentally, many of them are written by David, the king with whom God had made His covenant that a Son would reign forever. Yet curiously, the first psalm is primarily a reflection on the word of God. By delighting in God's law, a man will be separate from wickedness, will avoid the judgment against sin, and will be established in righteousness and fruitfulness like a living tree. This is the highest aim a person can live for! Nevertheless, every person who has ever lived, save one, fails at this quest continually and miserably. The gospel is that when Jesus Christ came to earth – He who was the very Word of God in the flesh – He perfectly fulfilled the terms and conditions of this psalm, yet received all its judgment and condemnation nonetheless. When He cried out "I thirst," He was being dried up like chaff (Jn 19:28)! What was happening? At the cross, Jesus took the tree of death to make you like a tree of life. That's how the great Son of David builds the House of God, inaugurates His kingdom, and establishes you in righteousness forever.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, wow! God's Word and plan of redemption are so amazing. Give us insight into the Bible so that we might delight in it. And, give us understanding of all You did so that we might delight in You. May Your love keep us from both self-effort, where we attempt to fulfill these conditions on our own, and apathy, where we don't walk in this new way of life at all. Rather, by Your finished work change us, that we would walk in Your kingdom in thought, word, and deed. Amen.