

On that first Palm Sunday the people of Jerusalem shouted, *“Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!”* **But which way was blessed?** Not even 34 years old, Jesus was on His way to the death of the cross. **Where was the blessing in that?** He could have turned aside from the cross and given the people what they wanted. He could rule the world, marry, and have a family! He could enjoy the things of this world as no other man ever could! He had spent His entire life doing good for others. Why not do something for Himself?

Surely our Lord was tempted with such thoughts as He made His way along the streets of Jerusalem 2,000 years ago. The Bible tells us that *“He was tempted in every way just as we are.”* (Heb. 4:15) Jesus was facing another of those moments of decision when a person asks:

WHICH WAY TO BLESSEDNESS?

I.

Maybe you also watched many talented basketball players in the NCAA tournament. No doubt, some of them are thinking that **the way to blessedness** is to sign up with an NBA team and make millions as a professional.

There are those who believe that **the way to blessedness** is to stand up for their **“rights.”** Mortgage companies have been trying to convince home-owners to **refinance their houses** so that they have more money to “enjoy life.” **Is that the way to blessedness?**

On what basis will we be making our decisions this week and this year? Which way is real blessedness or happiness? **According to our text the way to blessedness begins when a person wants no part of a wicked life.**

How is the “wicked life” described in v. 1 of our text? The **“ungodly”** reject the truth and wisdom of God’s Word and **oppose** His rule. They spread their godless ideas in the name of **“freedom of choice”!**

The “way” of life for the ungodly is **“the way of the sinner.”** Each has his own special way of sin; one is a drunkard, another a cheat and a liar, another an adulterer or an abuser. **Their way shows no fear of God and no sorrow over sin.**

The wicked are also **“scornful.”** They like to **mock** God. They get together to use curse-words and experiment with alcohol and sex. The larger the party, the safer they feel in their sin, **like so many of the college kids on “spring break.”**

The way of blessedness wants **no part** of the wickedness that spits in the face of God! The “blessed” man will **not keep company with it, “walk” with it, or “sit”**

in it!

II.

Instead, he takes “pleasure in the Word of His Lord.” The Psalmist says, *“He delights in the law or word of the LORD, and in His word he mediates day and night.”*

What a privilege we have in our day! In David’s time **the blessed believer** in the promised Savior had little more than the first five books of Moses. We have the whole Old and New Testaments of God’s word to man!

But how many of us are receiving all the blessing available to us from these Scriptures? First we have to be **serious students** of God’s Word, who not only hear and read it, but **“meditate”** on it.

I have seen many cows in Florida. Have you ever **watched a cow chew its food?** It chews and swallows, chews and swallows with deliberation and patience. This is the way we should read and study God’s Word – **with care and patience.**

Then, in days of **success and prosperity** we will **give thanks and praise** to our God as in the Psalms and other Scriptures. **In the night-time of suffering** we will receive **comfort** from the same Word of our Savior.

If you don’t understand a Bible passage, **pray, think, and dig**, the way you would if you **knew** there was a treasure in your back yard. When we expect to find treasure, even more blessing results!

III.

The way of the Christ-believer is fruitful and prosperous, the Psalm says. He can’t help it! When **a tree is planted by water**, it lives and bears much fruit. So also, the Word of our God is **like “rivers of water.”** When the blessed man is **“planted”** by that Word and he draws spiritual life and strength from it, he brings forth the “fruits” of faith in Christ.

Like a tree, the Christian brings forth fruits of faith **“in season”** – whenever desired by God or needed by others! **In time of suffering** he will bring forth the fruit of patience. **In time of prosperity** he will produce thanksgiving, praise and service to God. **In time of temptation** he will lean on the Lord. **When he falls into sin**, the fruit of repentance and faith will follow. South Carolina has many varieties of trees. **They all have one thing in common:** They all spread their branches to heaven and give glory to their Creator. So also each of you is **different**, a **special “planting” of your God.** As long as you are planted in the living water of God’s Word, you will all bring glory to your Savior in many ways **as you walk the way of blessedness to eternal life!**

For so long, the Psalmist says, your *“leaf will not wither and whatever you do shall prosper.”* The Lord’s trees, **are like evergreens** that never lose their life,

because they **delight** in God's Word. When others lose their **spiritual sap**, and **dry up in time of trial and temptation**, the true Christian continues to draw life and strength from His Savior's Word of grace and forgiveness.

The life of faith continues so that **"whatever"** he does **"shall prosper."** As the blessed Christian keeps on living in the Word, the Lord will continue to make him a **prosperous servant**. His works of **love shall be remembered**. The Lord will be at his side, giving strength to faith **in every trial**. *Finally, the blessed man will be brought to eternal life!*

IV.

So you see, **the Lord knows the way of the righteous, blessed man**. The ungodly are **not trees** planted by God which bear fruit. They are like the chaff of the grain which gets blown away by the wind, because it is of no use. **The ungodly "shall not stand in the day of judgment."** There will be **no "sinners in the congregation of the righteous"** on the day of judgment. Our LORD will separate His blessed sheep from the goats!

When I was a boy I heard adults say, **"It's who you know that counts**. But what is **MOST** important in this life is NOT who **YOU** know, but **WHO** knows **you!** *"For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish."* **On the basis of this Psalm**, can you tell that **the Lord knows you?** Can you say with faithful Job: **"The Lord knows the way that I take; and when He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold"?** (Job 23:10)

This is the blessed way and wisdom of the cross! It's the **way** to eternal blessing which only God knows. **He does not reveal** all its troubles and sufferings to us ahead of time. **But He does show us in this first Psalm the HOW of getting there;** and He promises that by the power of His living Word the blessed man will prosper forever!

"Which way to blessedness"? **Jesus knew the way**. He continued on to Calvary's Hill because it was His Father's will. **And He saw the blessing that was to come to Him by His obedience**. Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would **see** the hard labor of His soul and would be **satisfied with the outcome!** (Is. 53:11) May we receive grace to follow Him in **The Way to blessedness!** Amen.