

Feb 15, 2012

*Psalm 39:12 "Hear my prayer, O Lord... for I am a 'pilgrim' with You..."*

## **The Blessed Misfit Part 2, Psalm 1:3**

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### **The Blessed Misfit Part 2 – Psalm 1:3**

**Psalm 1:1** Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. **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, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. **4** Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. **5** Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. **6** For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

**The Blessed man (believer) is a misfit in this world, and a perfect fit for the next!**

In last month's study we discovered the Blessed Man's Discernment. **Psalm 1:1** Because he is discerning, recognizing truth from deception, he does not follow the destructive advice of the wicked, and therefore does not pursue a sinful value-system and lifestyle, nor does he adopt the outlook of those who reject God and His word, counting himself at home among those who mock God and His truth.

**But where does this blessed man get such discernment?** **Psalm 1:2** We discovered it was due to his delight. The Blessed Man's Delight is to constantly fill His mind with God's word and meditate on it unceasingly. The blessed man is obsessed with the delights of God's truth, and finds his deepest pleasures and treasures therein. Being constantly delighted and directed with truth, he is able to discern deception and avoid destruction.

### **The Blessed Man's Depiction Psalm 1:3**

**Psalm 1:3** He is like a **tree planted** by **streams** of water, which yields its **fruit** in season and whose **leaf** does not wither. Whatever he does **prosper**s.

**Now we proceed to a further description of the blessed man. He is depicted as a tree... a fruit bearing, carefully planted, irrigated, protected, sturdy, enduring, living and life-giving tree. (This is in direct contrast to the wicked that are depicted as wind-blown chaff.) Let's take this depiction apart phrase by phrase as we meditate on this text from God's word.**

**HE IS LIKE A TREE –Permanence, stability, solid, lasting, living, reproducing, life-giving.**

We use many different terms to describe and define a Christian. Consider a few and the

emphasis of each.

Born again – emphasizes his new life engendered by the Spirit through the gospel (Contrast: dead)

Believer – emphasizes his faith in the gospel (Contrast: unbeliever)

Christian – emphasizes the One he follows and seeks to model his life after (Contrast: non-Christian)

Saved – emphasizes his rescue from death and eternal destruction (Contrast: lost)

Sheep – emphasizes his care by the Shepherd and helpless dependence on the Shepherd (Contrast: goat)

Temples – emphasizes the indwelling Spirit, holiness, worship (Contrast: whitewashed tombs)

***The depiction of a believer as a tree, in direct contrast to chaff, emphasizes his living, deep rooted, stable, enduring attributes.*** The tree has roots. (Eph 3:17 and Col 2:7) It is able to withstand strong winds and remain firmly in place. (Eph 6:13 has same idea with a totally different analogy) The tree is alive, growing, and reproducing, all of which are exact opposite to the unbeliever depicted as chaff.

What evidences are there in your life of the drastic differences between you (the tree) and the unbeliever (chaff.) See also Jeremiah 17:5-8 for a nearly identical description.

### **HE IS LIKE A TREE PLANTED – Providence, sovereignty, design**

The believer is depicted as a carefully planted tree, not as an accident of nature. To be thus planted indicates divine involvement from the very beginning. We are in Christ, not as a result of accident, but by the result of divine election, foreknowledge, predestination, calling and justification, as Romans 8:28-31 so clearly declares. To be “planted” reminds us of the Pauline phrase “in Christ.” This is our location, our source, our security... and it is all “in Christ.” And we did not put ourselves in Christ. God planted us in Him by a miracle of sovereign mercy. 1 Cor 1:30-31 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God--and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD." See also Matthew 13:8 Good soil

### **PLANTED BY STREAMS OF WATER – Provision, sufficiency, essentials**

The location of the planted tree is now further described to be by multiple channels of water that irrigate it no matter the climatic conditions or lethal weather difficulties experienced by those trees that exist without such supply. The believer is so planted that “all that is needed for life” and godliness is amply and unceasingly supplied. The scriptures, the Spirit, prayer, and the local church all are life-giving streams that sustain us in the midst of life’s driest, and tempestuous seasons. (2 Peter 1:3 “as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.” Philippians 4:19; 2 Corinthians 9:8; 2 Corinthians 12:9)

### **WHICH YIELDS ITS FRUIT IN SEASON –Productivity, sustainability**

Because of the careful planting and constant nourishing, the believer bears fruit in every season of life. This fruit is seen year after year, without interruption or limitation. In the season of affliction comes the fruit of patience. In the season of answered prayer comes the fruit of thanksgiving. In the season of turmoil comes the fruit of trust and peace. In the season of persecution comes the fruit of forgiveness and love. In the season of abundance comes the fruit of self discipline and generosity. Every season sees fruit, for the tree is carefully planted and unceasingly provided for. See also Matthew 7:15-20

Galatians 5:22-25)

### **AND WHOSE LEAF DOES NOT WITHER – Protection from drought, disease & insects**

My first college degree was an AAS in forestry, from SUNY. As we studied entomology, meteorology, geology, and silviculture, we discovered that leaves wither for three basic reasons...drought, disease, and insects, or a combination of these. The leaf is the essential food factory of the deciduous tree. The leaf, through the process of photosynthesis, takes the moisture and minerals from the roots and the energy from the sun, and manufactures the food that the tree must have to live, reproduce, grow and be sustained. Leaves that do not wither are an obvious indication of the protection that is afforded to the tree. The water is abundant, and disease and insects are absent. This perfect evidence of health and of on-going growth and productivity are thus assured. God keeps His own from all that would hinder continued productivity. What a careful and diligent Gardner is our God!

### **WHATEVER HE DOES PROSPERS –Prosperity, success, growth**

The final phrase indicates continual growth, regardless of the circumstances that surround the tree. What is success, or prosperity, as defined in the context of treeness? Is it not continual growth and unceasing fruitfulness? Success for the believer is “knowing and doing the will of God continually.” Growing in every season – continually enduring and surviving the droughts and storms and growing taller, stronger, and more fruitful as time moves on.

The believer defines prosperity/success as “*doing the will of God to the glory of God unceasingly.*” We see that this included both life and death...John 21:18-19 “the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God.” And it must also include extreme suffering and affliction, as the “and others” of Hebrews 11:33-38 so clearly teaches. All of these “prospered” in their days. We must be careful to always define terms biblically, and not superficially, as the “name it and claim it crowd” would have us naively assume. Does your definition of success differ from the world’s definition? If so, how?

#### **Self Check:**

- 1) Describe your present "season" of life and the "fruit" God is growing in your life as a result.
- 2) Describe some of the most "fruitful" seasons of your life in the past and how the heavenly Gardner dealt with you in those days to produce such fruit.
- 3) Give God thanks for every evidence of fruit and growth in your life and ask Him to enable you to produce more in the coming seasons of life.

#### **Further Study:**

- 1) Consider the lives of some of God's choicest servants, and see how the heavenly Gardener brought such sweet fruit from such difficult seasons in their lives. Job, Joseph, Moses, Daniel, Peter, Paul, Barnabas...
- 2) Compare the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit (do a comparison chart) from Gal 5:19-23. Apart from the work of the heavenly Gardener we could produce nothing of value (John 15:5) Give God thanks for any evidence, even if only a bud or a flower, of fruit beginning to form in your life. It is all a work of His grace and constant supply.

*O God, I am your tree and You are the Gardener. Grow in me every kind of fruit that reflects the glories of Your Son. There is no lack of supply from Thee. You have planted me in the garden of Your grace, supplied me with the constant resources of Thy Spirit, protected me from every evil, and pruned and shaped my life with Thy infinite wisdom and skill. O God, may I bring You glory and praise as You sustain and strengthen me to bear fruit in every season of life.*

*In Thy name, O Sovereign Gardener of Grace I pray, Amen."*

Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you.

Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4 Ron & Val

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable, changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows, spending our time on eternity, owning nothing yet possessing everything that matters and lasts.

We are Pilgrims in Paradox. Welcome to THE JOURNEY.

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