

# Ron and Val Berrus

...Laboring for the Laborers

## Just Checking In #122 The Blessed Misfit Part 3 Psalm 1:4-6

March 1, 2012

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

### The Blessed Misfit Part 3, Psalm 1:4-6

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 **prosper**s. 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!**

### JCI #122 Psalm 1:4-6 THE DISTINCTION OF THE BLESSED AND CURSED MAN

In Psalm 1:1-3 we have focused on the blessed man's discernment, delight and depiction. Now, in 1:4-6 we focus on the contrast between the blessed and the cursed man. Even a blind man can distinguish a tree from chaff. Let's see the distinction of the blessed man under God's grace and the cursed man under God's wrath.

#### THE DIFFERENCE – tree versus chaff

<b>TREE</b>	<b>CHAFF</b>
<b>Alive</b>	<b>Dead</b>
<b>Productive</b>	<b>Useless</b>
<b>Solid</b>	<b>Insubstantial</b>
<b>Stands</b>	<b>Blown away</b>
<b>Remains</b>	<b>Removed</b>
<b>Watched Over</b>	<b>Perishes</b>

Psalm 1:4 begins with the shocking introduction... "Not so the wicked!" This points us to a great gulf fixed between those who are saved and those who are lost, in this life as well as the next.

**Like Chaff - Lifeless**

The wicked, cursed, lost man is like chaff in that he is lifeless. In the winnowing process, chaff is the dead husk covering the kernel of wheat, and any other broken pieces of lifeless wheat stalk that is incapable of reproduction. This describes the spiritual state of every son of Adam as they enter this world. Ephesians 2:1-3 "As for you, you were *dead* in your transgressions and sins, in which you *used* to live when you followed *the ways of this world* and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. *All of us* also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. *Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.*"

Regardless of one's outward stature, wealth, health, influence, or temporal comforts, chaff is lifeless. Pile it up ever so high, it will never reproduce. It must rot or be burned, for it is without life. Such is the end of all who live and die without the life-giving new birth, the regeneration of the Spirit. (John 3:3-7, Titus 3:5-6) Bless God that He can make "children of Abraham out of stones" and can make "trees out of chaff."

### **Like Chaff – Useless**

In the eternal scope of things, the wicked will never produce anything. Chaff left to itself will rot and mold and prevent other seeds from germinating. It must be burned, for it is worse than useless, it is a hindrance to further life. It is natural for the unbeliever to consider himself "basically a good person." To admit to being chaff, a person must come to a transformed view of self, seeing it from a divine perspective. We are worthy of eternal wrath. All of our best efforts are but an offense to Divine Holiness. As Isaiah 64:6 declares... "all of our righteousnesses are filthy rags" in His sight. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 7:16-23, that many will lay claim to a place in heaven on the basis of assumed productivity only to find that the fire is their end.

### **Like Chaff – Removed**

In the winnowing process, as the wheat and chaff is thrown into the air, the strong harvest winds blow away the chaff, while the weightier wheat remains and is gathered in. So the final judgment is likened to a strong harvest wind that blows the chaff away into judgment, even as the wheat endures and remains. There is coming a day of harvest wind that only wheat may abide. Consider the following teaching of Christ that speak of that final wind of judgment.

Matthew 3:11-12 – promised judgment by Christ

Matt 22:1-14 The invitation isn't enough, you must come in through the door – John 14:6

Matt 25:31-46 Sheep and goats – eternal punishment, eternal life

Rev 20:11-15 – Great white throne

Luke 12:20 - Rich farmer – this night, your soul...

Mark 8:36-38 – what does it profit...gains the world... loses his own soul

Hebrews 9:27 tells us that here is a final judgment in which wheat and chaff will be unmistakably

distinguished. There are no questions on that day. Tree planted or chaff blown. No middle ground. No third option. Will you stand in the assembly of the righteous, or be carried away to the isolation of hell? Verse 4 reminds us that the righteous will enjoy fellowship (assembly) and the wicked will know only isolation. Luke 16:19-31.

### **GOD'S OBSERVATION(But not long distance with binoculars!)**

Psalm 1:6 give us the final comparison and ultimate contrast of the man under God's blessing or curse

God actively watches over the way of the righteous, to make certain their destiny is in His presence

The Lord (knows (KJV) "watches over" (NIV) (Hebrew yada) the way of the righteous

The word "yada" translated "knows" or "watches over" is an intensive word. It refers not to a mere acquaintance or observation from afar, but to a personal, certain, active, involved knowledge of and participation with to object known. It is a full and deep and participatory knowledge of, as the following passages prove.

Genesis 4 Adam knew his wife

Exodus 33:17 God said of Moses, I know you by name!

1 Sam 3:7 Samuel did not know the Lord – this is more than knowing about, it is knowing personally! Samuel knew much about the Lord, lived in the tabernacle, slept in the Holy place, but did not yet "know" the Lord!

Job 23:10 He knows the path I take... Job 1 – my servant Job

Psalm 16:11 You make known to me the path of life

2 Tim 2:19 The Lord knows those who are His – a NT passage that gives the sense of the word as well

### **MAN'S DESTINATION – The way of the wicked will perish**

The scriptures speak of two kinds of life: physical and spiritual or eternal life, which those who possess will not "perish."

Similarly, it speaks also of two kinds of death: physical and spiritual or eternal death. This is the essence of the word "perish." Those on the path that leads to "perishing" are willingly ignorant.

They find it preferable to assume the best about the future based on present ease. Like the man who jumped off the 50 story building... as he fell past the 25<sup>th</sup> floor they heard him saying... "So far, so good!" Proverbs 14:12 tells us that "there is a way that seems right" ... but ends wrong!

2 Thess 2:10; 2 Peter 3:3-9; and Matthew 7:13-14 all give us similar analogies warning us against false assumptions of the future based on ignorance and assumption. What you don't know CAN and WILL hurt you... forever. Hebrews 9:27 and Revelation 20:11-15 are given to awaken us to eternal realities. Let us take heed for ourselves and warn others of the certainty of "that day." Living "today" in the light of "that day" is the way of the righteous that is blessed indeed.

### **SELF CHECK:**

**1) Do I live with an acute awareness of eternal destiny - my own and others?**

**2) Define the difference between "knowing about" and really "knowing" the Lord.**

**3) consider the difference between God's omniscient awareness of the wicked and His intimate involved knowing of His own... Prov 5:21-23 and 2 Tim 2:19**

**FOR FURTHER STUDY:**

**Do a word study on the word "perish." It is a word of intense warning, without remedy once entered.**

*O God, You are the God who changes the hearts and souls of men. You took us when lifeless chaff and gave us life as a tree of Your planting. You took our useless existence and made us productive and fruit bearing by Your indwelling Spirit. You took our certain destiny in the fire of eternal wrath, had Your holy Son take this wrath for us, and promised that in Him we could abide the judgment and come forth with lasting reward. This is all of Thy grace. We acknowledge before Thee that Christ is all our righteousness. We dare not approach Thy throne, or face Thee except as hidden in Him. Grow me in knowing You, and lead me on Your path that leads to life. In the Name of Christ my Vine, my Righteousness, my Blessed Savior, 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.