

Having trouble reading this email? You can view it in your [web browser](#).

Ron and Val Berrus

Be Blessed! JCI #88 June 15, 2010

Just Checking In #88 Be Blessed! Psalm 1 June 15, 2010

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

Psalm 1

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper. The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

How do you describe or define "blessed?" Two words are most often translated "blessed" in the OT. First is "barak" (289x) and the second is "esher" (42x). "Esher" is the one used in Psalm 1, "*Blessed* is the man.." This word is variously translated "blessed, happy, relieved, right, and accepted." It is almost always used in the context of being blessed and made happy because of a saving, covenantal relationship with the one, true God.

Blessedness is not a mystery. What I mean by that statement is that blessedness is *not accidental*. You may sneeze and receive a chorus of "God bless you" by well-meaning passersby, but such pronouncements do not bestow blessedness. But one does not sneeze or stumble one's way into blessedness. *Blessedness is pursued and obtained by following the will of God revealed in scripture.* Only God bestows blessedness, and Psalm 1 describes the characteristics of one who is "blessed" indeed.

Counsel for the blessed Man – the advice he accepts, the words he listens to

WHAT HE REJECTS & REFUSES (blessed people say "no")

#1 *The blessed man does not accept the advice of the ungodly.* We must love the ungodly, pray for the ungodly, and seek to reach the ungodly with the gospel. But if we would be blessed, we must not accept advice of the ungodly, no matter how well meaning they may be. We listen to a different voice. We mean no disrespect to others, but we refuse any advice contrary to scripture.

#2 ***The blessed man does not follow the path of sinners.*** We follow a different direction in life because we are heading to a different destination in death. We meet sinners and seek to point them to Christ day after day. But the path we take is blessed, the opposite of the cursed path of the lost.

#3 ***The blessed man does not find his camaraderie and comfort among those who mock God and defame His name and nature.*** We do not sit down and fit in with those who mock God. The blessed man seeks the lost, but finds his acceptance and fellowship among the saints. *Blessed people are not chameleons, comfortable in every setting, fitting in everywhere.* No, blessed people are misfits in a lost world. We make lost sinners either thirsty for what we have or uncomfortable because we reject what they value.

WHAT HE RECEIVES AND DELIGHTS IN (blessed people say “yes”)

He enthusiastically delights and embraces God’s word. He can’t get enough of it. Day and night he is reading it, thinking it, learning it, reviewing it, and digesting it. It is God’s word that gives Him advice, direction, and delight. Blessedness is inextricably bound to the Words of God.

Character of the blessed Man – results of God’s words filling & controlling his heart

The illustration – a tree (solid, strong, alive, growing, productive, enduring)

Position: “planted by” design, not an accident, that he is where he is – placed by God

Provision” “by rivers” multiple rivers, constant source of supply – sustained by God

Productivity: “fruit in season” constant productivity, repeated, dependable, predictably fruitful

Perseverance: “leaf doesn’t wither” in drought, tough times, dry seasons...he endures & grows – his fruitfulness and health is not dependent on circumstance or destroyed by circumstances

Prosperity: “whatever he does prospers” proper to itself – beneficial and productive

Contrast to the Blessed Man – the ungodly man under God’s curse

The Illustration – chaff (light, fragile, dead, dry, lifeless, quickly gone without a trace)

Blown, burned, rotted, crushed.... Chaff is lifeless and useless and quickly disappears.

Unable to withstand the judgment fire of God – like a burned over field after harvest.

Absent when the congregation of the righteous (blessed) gather – no place with them before the judgment, now no place with them after the judgment.

Conclusion of the Contrast – The blessed tree versus the cursed chaff

God knows and directs the path the blessed righteous take and assures it leads to His throne, but the direction the ungodly are taking will lead them to sure destruction.

The blessed man listens to blessed words and so takes a blessed path leaving fruitful blessings along the way until he gathers with the blessed ones of all ages around the throne of THE ONE WHO IS BLESSED FOREVER AND EVER AMEN!

The cursed man listens to cursed words and so takes a cursed path leaving no trace of his passing until he ends with the cursed of all the ages in the fire that cannot be quenched.

The voice you listen to determines the choices you make, the path you take, the companions you make, the character you develop and the destiny you reap. Blessed begins with the right response to the Words of God. Listen... and be blessed!

Self Check:

1. Ungodly advice comes at us many times every day. What are some of the most common examples of the “counsel of the ungodly” you hear frequently?
2. Make a longer list of common “ungodly advice” statements and then make an “antidote list” of God’s words that refute them. (“As long as it’s right for you” versus “There is a way that seems right to a man, but it ends in death” Prov 14:12)
3. Pick a chapter of God’s word to memorize this year. This will help you meditate on it constantly! Start with one verse and keep working on it until you get the whole chapter down. Review it every day for a year. See how this transforms your thinking. Choose something you need. Some suggestions: Proverbs 9, Romans 8, Psalm 19; 2 Cor 5; Rev 22.

For further study:

Note the frequent connection between blessedness and God’s words

1Ki 10:8

Job 5:17

Ps 1:1; 2:12; 32:1-2; 33:12; 34:8; 40:4; 84:4; 89:15; 106:3; 112:1; 119:1-2; 146:5

Prov 3:13; 8:32; 28:14

Matt 5:3-11

2 Cor 1:3; 11:31

Eph 1:3-14

Rev 1:3; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7; 22:14

"Lord, You alone can remove the curse of sin and death from man. You have done it through Your Son, Jesus Christ, who was made a curse for me. In His resurrection I have forgiveness and life

everlasting. I am blessed by Thee with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places by Your divine grace. I want to live a blessed life of obedience today by heeding your words and following your commands. Make my life spiritually strong, stable, fruitful and enduring for the blessing of others and the glory of Your name. In Christ, The Blessed One's name 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.

©2010 Ron and Val Berrus

You received this email because **sample@somedomain.com** is subscribed to our list.

You can *instantly* unsubscribe from these emails by [clicking here](#).