



# **THE BLESSED LIFE: How to be a Godly Employer or Employee, Part I: Old Testament**

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# THANKS FOR BEING HERE!

- ◆ It's a treat to return to my former hometown! I lived in Somerset from 1962-1967. Fond childhood memories of this area!
- ◆ You made a freewill decision to allocate time and treasure to be here. I trust and pray that you will be blessed. Let's begin with prayer.



## Core Scripture:

- ◆ Psalm 1:1-3 says *<sup>1</sup>Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*
- ◆ *<sup>2</sup>But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*
- ◆ *<sup>3</sup>And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*



# What does it mean to be blessed?

- ◆ It is the highest form of “prosperity.”
- ◆ It means to be enriched by God; a state of happiness, especially through the enjoyment of God’s favor.



- ◆ Note this passage covers it all. As we live our everyday lives, except when we are sleeping we are either walking, standing, or sitting.
- ◆ This passage gives us great advice, no matter where we are and what we're doing.



# 1. The blessed man (woman):

- ◆ *“Walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly”*
- ◆ Walking means moving forward, advancing.
- ◆ You can't move forward without making decisions, making choices.



- ◆ You tend to make decisions partially based on the advice and teaching you receive. The coaching, the “professional development,” the examples you follow.
- ◆ What voices are you listening to? If you are walking in the counsel (advice) of ungodly people, then beware!



# Where do working people tend to get counsel?

- ◆ Lawyers
- ◆ Accountants
- ◆ Consultants of many kinds
- ◆ Peers
- ◆ Mentors
- ◆ Professional & business organizations
- ◆ Colleges & Universities
- ◆ The media



# GIGO

- ◆ Garbage In Garbage Out.
- ◆ Here's a Christian version of that: WIWO (World In World Out) vs. SISO (Spirit In Spirit Out)!
- ◆ You are wise for coming today. We should be able to go to Christian churches, para-church ministries, colleges, universities, resources for counsel.



## 2. The blessed man (woman):

- ◆ *Standeth not in the way of sinners.”*
- ◆ To stand means to be vertically motionless; to remain in the same position.
- ◆ We're all sinners, each one of us. So what does this mean?



- ◆ To me, this passage has several contexts: **standing physically**. Where? Am I deliberately putting myself in places where I'm in the midst of and observing blatant sin?
- ◆ To me, it also connotes **standing on key issues and principles**. Do you follow the herd? Follow our culture? Follow the ways of sinners, or are you counter-cultural?



### 3. The blessed man (woman):

- ◆ *Sitteth not in the seat of the scornful.*
- ◆ We all know what sitting means.  
You're sitting now, listening to me.
- ◆ We sit at the office, in the car, in church,  
in restaurants, in homes, lots of places.  
When we're sitting with other people...



- ◆ Do we hang around scornful people. People who are bitter, resentful, full of past hurts, angry, aggressive and hostile?
- ◆ Do the people we hang around bark, shout, and dictate?
- ◆ If you're scornful, than you can sit at the seat of the scornful even when you're alone!



# The blessed man (woman):

- ◆ Psalm 1:2, *“But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.”*
- ◆ Is your delight in the Word of the LORD, the Bible? Do you read the Bible regularly? Or do you read everything else BUT the Bible?



# I'm concerned about us.

- ◆ Even within Christianity, I'm concerned that we are being made merchandise of, as the Apostle Paul spoke about.
- ◆ I'm concerned that we are allocating more time to read Christians' books about what the Bible says, than we do to actually READ GOD'S WORD.



## In this passage:

- ◆ Whether he is walking, standing, or sitting, this man's focus is on God and on God's Word.
- ◆ Watch this...***as a result of this focus,*** there is a remarkable promise:



- ◆ *<sup>3</sup>And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*



- ◆ He's going to be nourished 24/7 by the Living Waters of the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ He's going to be fruitful in due season—in God's time and way, not his.
- ◆ He will not wither. He will endure. He will be an evergreen full of life.
- ◆ Whatever he does will be blessed.



## Psalm 1:1-3 means a lot to me.

- ◆ I own and operate a marketing and media business. We started the business in July of 1988, and Psalm 1:1-3 has been the foundational Scripture ever since.
- ◆ Here we are almost 20 years later, and I have experienced the reality of this Scripture in my own life. I have bloomed where I am planted, in Him.



# The Problem as I see it:

- ◆ Our focus isn't consistently on the LORD and on His Word.
- ◆ And, we have embraced naïve and foolish definitions of, and expectations for, “prosperity.” We need to be careful and wise or we will swerve from the faith and drown ourselves in many sorrows.



## As we work:

- ◆ We have freewill to walk in the counsel of the ungodly.
- ◆ We have freewill to stand in the way of sinners.
- ◆ We have freewill to sit in the seat of the scornful.
- ◆ But by doing so, we make ourselves more vulnerable to drought, to a poor harvest, to failure.



# But if we keep our focus...

...on the Lord and on His Word daily,  
in all of these operational areas of  
our businesses simultaneously:

- ◆ We will be planted and refreshed.
- ◆ We will bear good fruit.
- ◆ We will not wither.
- ◆ Whatever we do will “prosper.”



## But how do you define prosper?

- ◆ If you are naïve, you will be ignorant of what true prosperity is. You won't recognize it when it's right there. You'll miss it.
- ◆ If you are foolish, you will assume or presume what prosperity is. You won't recognize it when it's right there. You'll miss it.



- ◆ But if you're wise, the Holy Spirit will give you eyes to see the abundant prosperity in your life each day.
- ◆ The fruit of the Spirit will be expressed in all eight of these areas of your businesses. Imagine all of these areas influenced by love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and self-control. Wow!



- ◆ The fruit of the Spirit will be expressed-- love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and self-control. Wow!



- ◆ You'll see fruit in terms of reputation.
- ◆ Fruit in terms of relationships.
- ◆ Fruit in terms of Kingdom growth: saved souls, growing souls, growing service.
- ◆ Fruit in terms of growing influence and impact for the Lord. Your life can be one big crescendo leading into heaven!



# Some quick examples in my life:

- ◆ **Walking not in the counsel of the ungodly** pertaining to finance (D/E ratio, A/P, bankruptcy, investments based on Matthew 6)
- ◆ **Not standing in the way of sinners** pertaining to who my customers are (types of industries)



- ◆ **Not sitting in the seat of the scornful** as it pertains to company culture and employees. We have a staff of 10-12 people and PEACE is a core value. Tranquility of spirit. A humble attitude from the top down. Angry people just don't last at my business!



# The choice is yours:

- ◆ If you want to live the blessed life at work, then apply Psalm 1:13 in your life.
- ◆ We'll take a brief break and then continue with Part II.