

A Tale of Two Roads

Psalm 1

INTRODUCTION

- A. We often ponder the direction our lives will take.
 - 1. We spend time finding just the right spouse.
 - 2. We spend time training for just the right career.
- B. Yet, there are only two directions our lives can take (Mt. 7:13-14).
 - 1. There is the way of the righteous and the way of the unrighteous.
 - 2. Tonight, we want to examine those two roads.

THE WAY OF THE RIGHTEOUS, vv. 1-3

- A. The righteous man is blessed, v. 1.
 - 1. "Blessed" means to have divine favor.
 - 2. God is pleased with those who are righteous.
- B. The righteous man does not associate with evil, v. 1.
 - 1. This man does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly.
 - a. "Ungodly" refers to those who are immoral.
 - 1) These are those who have no moral standards.
 - 2) Many have no moral standards.
 - b. "Counsel" refers to their "way of thinking."
 - c. The righteous man does not think like the ungodly--he refuses to live immorally; he has standards.
 - 2. This man does not stand in the path of sinners.
 - a. "Sinners" refers to those who are overtly sinners--everyone in town knows their sin.
 - b. "Path" refers to their life.
 - c. The righteous man does not pass his life in open sin.
 - 3. This man does not sit in the seat of the scornful.
 - a. "Scornful" refers to those who mock holy things; people actually will mock the divine.
 - b. "Seat" refers to their gathering place.
 - c. The righteous man does not get together with those who mock true religion.
 - 4. The righteous are separated both from evil and from those who commit evil.
 - a. The righteous are to be separated from evil (1 Pet. 2:24).
 - b. The righteous are to be separated from evil individuals.
 - 1) Scripture admonishes us to be separated (2 Cor. 6:14-15).
 - 2) Scripture admonishes us to be separated because we become like our friends (1 Cor. 15:33).
- C. Instead of partaking with evil, the righteous man loves the law, v. 2.
 - 1. This man delights in the law.
 - a. The law makes the righteous man happy.
 - b. As is clear from the context, this man delights in doing, not just knowing, the law.
 - c. This man is going to make every attempt to know and to do the law.
 - d. Does doing God's law make you happy?
 - 2. He meditates upon the law day and night.
 - a. Since not everyone in this day had his own copy of Scripture, individuals would memorize large sections.
 - b. They would internalize the law--allow the law to become part of them.
 - c. We can't just know the law.
 - 1) We must allow the law to become a part of us.
 - 2) We must make an attempt to understand the law.
 - 3) We must see how the law applies to us.
- C. The righteous man is not easily moved, v. 3.
 - 1. This man is like an immovable, firm tree.
 - a. This tree is planted by the waters.
 - b. This tree brings forth its fruit.
 - c. This tree's leaves do not wither.
 - 2. This is a healthy, immovable tree; the righteous are healthy and immovable.
 - a. Much in life will try to move us, but we dare not move (1 Cor. 15:58).

- b. Are you immovable?
- D. Whatever the righteous man does prospers, v. 3.
 - 1. This verse shows that God blesses the righteous.
 - 2. Joseph received such a blessing from God (Gen. 39:3).
 - 3. Is God blessing your work?

THE WAY OF THE WICKED, vv. 4-5

- A. The wicked are like chaff, v. 4.
 - 1. The wind comes and drives this chaff away.
 - 2. They are far from immovable—the wicked just move with the flow.
- B. The wicked shall not endure the judgment, v. 5.
 - 1. Due to their wickedness, the ungodly will not stand in the judgment.
 - a. In other words, the wicked will not make it.
 - b. The end of the wicked may not be clear in this life, but they shall come to an end.
 - 2. The wicked shall not be in the congregation of the righteous.
 - a. The “congregation of the righteous” here refers to those who are saved.
 - b. The wicked will not be a part of that number.

CONCLUSION, v. 6

- A. God knows the way of the righteous.
 - 1. God knows how we live.
 - 2. When no one else sees us struggling against sin, God sees.
- B. The way of the wicked shall perish.
 - 1. The wicked will get away with nothing.
 - 2. It may seem that in this life they shall escape, but they shall not.
- C. Does God know your way or shall your way perish?