

## **THE PROSPEROUS CHRISTIAN**

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### **Text:**

Psalm 1:1-3 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. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 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.

### **Specific Objective: Salvation/Christian Living**

#### **Introduction:**

Jim was really excited about getting into the pizza making business. He bought all of the equipment necessary to make the pizza's. He decorated the restaurant and arranged all of the tables. When the first customers came in, it was great. But after some time, he got bored with the job. Things just seemed to be a drag. The first excitement was gone. Likewise, after becoming a Christian, many people tend to "fizz out." They find themselves in some kind of "spiritual rut." They turn to many new things to get themselves "turned on" again. They look for "fresh oil" or some kind of gimic to get their "batteries charged." But, the Lord has a plan for the development of a Christian that never "fizzes out" and never needs to be "recharged." That way is found here in Psalms 1.

#### **The Negative Blessing**

*Watch where you walk (Walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly).*

A person who is not watching where they are walking can...

- Trip
- Stumble
- Go the wrong way
- Wander off
- Fall

ILLUSTRATION: Matthew walking off the end of the dock...

Your walk should be "**in Him**" Colossians 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

A person who is walking in Him is a person who is..

- Following
- Paying attention
- In sync
- Interested

*Watch where you stand (Standeth in the way of sinners). Your stand should be in the "power of His might."*

Your stand is..

- Where you stay when you stop
- Your integrity
- Your determination
- Your position
- Your strength

ILLUSTRATION: the last stand of the men at the Alamo...

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

*Watch where you sit (Sitteth in the seat of the scornful). Your seat should be in "heavenly places."*

Where a person is seated, is where they plan to be. A seat is a stopping, resting and residing point. It is where judgment is passed out.

Ephesians 2:6 And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

### **Positive Delight**

The person who is walking, standing and sitting right is in store for some delightful actions in their Christian life. This is why some people do not get any delight out of reading their Bible, being committed to going to Church, prayer; they have a problem with where they are walking, standing or sitting. But, if they do well in these areas, they will have a delight and that delight is in two things:

#### ***The law of the Lord***

The law of the Lord is not only the 10 commandments. The 10 commandments are the 10 commandments, the law of the Lord is any law that the Lord has given to man for his standard.

LAW: A rule, particularly an established or permanent rule, prescribed by the supreme power of the state to its subjects, for regulating their actions, particularly their social actions. Laws are *imperative* or *mandatory*, commanding what shall be done; *prohibitory*, restraining from what is to be forborn; or *permissive*, declaring what may be done without incurring a penalty.

COMMANDMENT: A command; a mandate; an order or injunction given by authority; charge; precept. Commandment comes from the word "command" which means to bid; to order to direct; to charge; implying authority and power of control and to require obedience.

We can see that commandments have something to do with authority where laws have something to do with regulation. The 10 commandments, therefore, are the authority or power to direct to the rest of God's laws, which are many more than just 10.

ILLUSTRATION: When I was a child, my mom gave me some rules whereby I was governed by her, i.e. bedtime, chores, ect. Her commanding me to keep these

rules established her authority over me and actually gave me security. Now I admit that I did not meditate over these laws/rules much, but whenever I broke one of them, her command was established over me. In other words, I learned who was in command and who was not. My mom made sure to establish who was in command and who was not. Command did that.

### *Meditating in the law of the Lord*

The Law of the Lord is manifold. It teaches me:

- How to live as a Christian.
- How to teach others to live as a Christian

### **Prosperous Results**

#### *Planted by rivers of water*

- Planted implies having some roots. It implies being established. When the winds of life come to blow, the roots hold us down.
- Roots seek water and nutrients from the ground. It is good to be “rooted” next to the river of life; getting our nutrients from it and being rooted.
- A tree planted is one that God planted. (Matthew 15:13 But he answered and said, **Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.**)
- It is planted by rivers of water. (John 7:38 **He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.**)

#### *Bringing forth fruit in his season*

- Instant in season and out of season (2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.)

#### *Not wither*

- His leaf “shall not wither,” as the fig tree of Matthew 21:19, that dried up from the roots. (Matthew 21:19 And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, **Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever.** And presently the fig tree withered away. )

### **PROSPER**

1. His roots would be deep and “spread out.”
2. The Heat would not affect his “leaf.”
3. He will have nothing to worry about when the drought comes. (James 5:17-18 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.)
4. He will yield the fruit of the Spirit until he dies. (Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.)

**CONCLUSION:**

The prosperous Christian life depends on our response to the Lord and what He is doing in us. It can only come from being on the right track. We must put away envy and stife and replace it with walking, standing and sitting in the right way, thus conditioning our minds to meditate on the God of the laws

**INVITATION:**

Do you yield the fruit of the Holy Spirit? Maybe you are sitting out there and you don't know what the fruit of the Holy Spirit is. Could that be because you are not saved; have not established a redeeming relationship with your God? You can you know. You can accept Him right now, today! There is no need to wait any longer. Do you want to continue your life walking, standing or sitting where you should not? You know where you are with God. You know where you stand with Him. You know if you are IN Him or not. AND, He knows as well. Won't you come forward today and get things right with Him? As we stand with heads bowed and eyes closed, won't you acknowledge your need for Him by raising your hand and letting me tell you how you can simply be saved? You Christians, Maybe you have been living a defeated Christian life. Now you know how everything you do can be prosperous. Would you like to come to the front here and kneel and ask Christ to give you the strength to have your Christian life revitalized?