

Intro.

- A. The search for happiness is endless for most folks, and seems to always evade many striving souls.
  - 1. Solomon wrote a book about his elusive search for happiness.
  - 2. His conclusion: the real, ultimate happiness & favor is realized only when we seek God's favor
- B. Solomon possessed divine wisdom as a gift, & wrote by inspiration. He = his father, David's, son!
  - 1. The sweet singer of Israel's 1<sup>st</sup> hymn = a psalm about how a man can find happiness.
  - 2. David tells us plainly the *key* to becoming a *blessed...man*.
- C. Psalmist identifies a blessed man in the negative & the positive, explaining what he is & is not.
  - 1. Then he proceeds to describe the manner of his blessedness (happiness realizing divine favor).
  - 2. In the process, he draws a sharp contrast between a blessed man and one who is not.

Discuss.

**I. A HAPPY MAN – WITH DIVINE FAVOR.**

- A. There is a **negative** identification:
  - 1. *Doesn't walk* [to enter; to be eased => into] *in counsel of ungodly* condemned of wickedness.
  - 2. “ *stand* [to be employed, established; be present & remain] *way of sinners* [criminal=guilty]
  - 3. “ *sit* [make habitation, marry, keep house, inhabit] *in seat of scornful* [mock sacred things].
- B. Then, there is a **positive** description of a truly happy man.
  - 1. His happiness is many times over.
  - 2. His pleasure springs from meditation on [studys, ponders, & talks of] God's laws.
  - 3. David fixes our attention on God's law to direct us to real happiness. (c. **Psa. 119:9, 11**).
- C. A picture of such a **blessed man**: *he is like --- a TREE!* (notice this description of a godly life) --
  - 1. Not one that grew naturally, or by coincidence, but one that was planned & *planted*.
  - 2. *Fruitful*...in its season --- shows maturity, as expected, and produces after its kind
  - 3. *Unwithered*, having been rooted near vast resources of life-giving water, despite difficult days.
  - 4. *Prosperous* – realizing & accomplishing God-given goals for his/her life. (c. **Jer. 17:5-8**)
  - 5. *Ex.* => Joseph in **Gn. 39:1-12** his happiness was found in uncompromised purity!

**II. Not So! --- FOR AN UNHAPPY, WICKED MAN**

- A. Ungodly person's happiness is temporary, w/o interest in Bible, lacks good fruit, & will wither!
- B. Wicked (i.e., not blessed) are pictured as chaff.
  - 1. During threshing, chaff is separated from the seeds (which contain life).
  - 2. Chaff = completely worthless, very opposite to the *tree* of vs. 3
  - 3. Chaff is *driven away* by the wind. (Ref. **Mt. 7:26f**)
  - 4. Picture of worthless emptiness is also seen in **Ecc. 2:10f & 22f**.
- C. Two men who flirted with evil, & fell:
  - 1. Lot - (see **Gen. 13:11, 12-13 & 19:1**)
  - 2. Samson's life is well described in **Prov. 5:20-23**
  - 3.

**III.**

- A.
  - 1.
  - 2.
- B.
  - 1.
  - 2.

3.

Concl.

A

1.

2.

a.

b.

c.

B.

1.

2.

3.