

## Sermon Questions

*The Blessed Life*

*Psalm 1*

*Pastors Jarrod Stichter and Isaac Sutton*

Key verse of the passage?

Main/key point(s) of the sermon?

What did or did not make sense in the sermon?

What in the sermon spoke most to you at this point in your life?

Did you see/hear God in the sermon?

## Sermon Notes

*The Blessed Life*

*Psalm 1*

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1. Many Scholars believe that Psalms 1 & 2 work together as a unified pair. Psalm 1 highlights the importance of dwelling and mediating on God's law, teaching, and instruction. Psalm 2 highlights the future Messianic King (Jesus) who will (and has) fulfill(ed) the prophecy given to King David in 2nd Samuel 7. Together, these 2 Psalms highlight the repeated themes that are found in the rest of the book.
2. Psalm 1 opens with the words "Blessed is the man." Jesus uses a similar opening in His Sermon on the Mount by beginning with the beatitudes. In both instances, "blessed" does not mean material prosperity or health and wealth. Following Jesus will not bring usually bring prosperity. In fact, James 1 tells us to expect trials of "various kinds" and be thankful for them as they will strengthen our faith. Instead, "blessed" in Psalm 1 refers to the joy, fulfillment, and purpose one experiences when they choose to live life God's way not the world's way. Sin is even more than breaking God's law; it is living outside of God's created purpose. Therefore, when we live life according to the identity and purpose God has created us for, we will experience nearness with God, true joy, fulfillment, and abundant life.
3. Psalm 1 tells us in verse 1 that the Blessed man is the one who does not "walk in the counsel of the wicked, stand in the way of sinners, or sit at the seat of scoffers." Consider how the Psalmist is using climatic parallelism to demonstrate the progression of one who grows too comfortable with sin. Through verse 1, the Psalmist progresses from walking to standing to sitting. Each progression illustrates the growing numbness one has towards sin in their life when they allow bad influences into their life. The blessed life avoids such influences.
4. Consider the imagery of the tree in verse 3. Being a tree that is planted near streams and bearing fruit is directly connected to where you are planted. If you are planted among the scoffers and wicked, you cannot possibly bear the fruit that God desires for you. Delighting in and meditating on the law of the Lord is being rooted near the stream. God Himself is the living water that our souls crave. Throughout life and many seasons ahead, you will grow spiritually thirsty, and you may find yourself in a spiritual desert. You will wonder why your leaves are browning and beginning to wither. It is then you can look at your life and see where you have planted yourself. With the scoffers or near the stream?