

Unspoken Advice

Psalm 1:1

Blessed is the man
who has not walked
in the counsel of the immoral

or

Moving from Living by Unspoken Advice
To Living by Spoken Advice

"Walking" connotes activity. The godly man does not walk, or *behave*, in a certain manner.

To "walk in the counsel" of someone is to act according to his advice. It is *not necessarily* to *consciously* hold to their advice. **Most people live according to advice with which they would never consciously agree.**

For instance, most men walk according to the counsel, "Do not make God the whole end of your existence." However, you would be hard pressed to find even one who would vocalize this as part of his credo. Quite the contrary! Most men will make it sound as though their objectives include giving God His due. (True, this is not the same as making God the center of their lives, but it roughly answers the general idea in their eyes.)

So man can and does live according to advice for which he has no words, no specific formulas- even advice he might verbally deny.

The psalmist's warning is to avoid living according to the advice of the ungodly- even be it unformulated.

THIS REQUIRES THAT WE *BECOME AWARE* OF WHAT THE IMMORAL ADVISE.

Another point. Are the lawless aware of the full ramifications of the counsel they give? No. Just as they themselves *walk* according to unspoken advice, so they *give* advice with *unspoken* principles behind it.

Their advice for us to "live it up" is based on the unconsciously held belief that God is not to be central to our lives. Even though they may not consent to this godless belief in words, it *is* the principle that guides them. They may, in fact, seek to make *concessions* to a God-centered philosophy, admitting that it is right and honorable. Again, we are being warned about how they *walk*, not necessarily how they *speak*.

So the positive side of the psalmist's warning is to be **conscious** of certain advice:

Psalm 1:1, 2 Blessed is the man who has not walked in the counsel of the immoral, and has not stood in the way of sinners, and has not sat in the seat of scorners. But his delight is only in the Law of Jehovah, and he meditates in His Law day and night.

Notice that the psalmist does not contrast the ungodly's walk to the Christian's *walk*. For the Christian, it is what he *thinks*. The Psalmist knows that we will walk according to what we think. He also knows that we will not be able to retain *unpleasant* thoughts in our minds, so he tells us that it is the man to whom God's instructions (root meaning of "Law") are *pleasant* who will distinguish himself from the ungodly.

The man who 'mumbles' (root meaning of "meditates") Scriptures will be placing them in his *conscious* thoughts. He will be learning, not only God's counsel, but how to live *deliberately* by it, rather than according to unspoken principles.

What is the next big challenge after we begin putting Scriptures right before us to walk by them? The next big challenge, even bigger than the first, is to recognize where we *still* walk *unconsciously* according to immoral advice.

The normal mode of Christian existence, unfortunately, is to put correct notions in our head, altering a definite part of our lifestyles according to them, but then leave large, underlying, ungodly standards in place in our lives. The *correct* notions and practices actually become *camouflage* against recognizing the *incorrect*!

That's one reason we must meditate on Scriptures *day and night*. If we're thinking about them *all* the time, we are more likely to 'stumble' upon our underlying sins. Spotty meditations are like slovenly guards on patrol whom our sins may watch and time their movements to avoid.

Let us move with certainty from living by unspoken advice to putting God's spoken advice before our minds constantly.