

## Trinity Home Teams

Sermon Notes / April 19, 2026

### Psalm 1 / The Two Ways

As humans, we desire happiness, contentment, and peace. All that we do is ultimately a quest to find what our hearts were created for. Because of the fall and our own ongoing sin, we look to satisfy these longings in all the wrong places.

As Jared Wilson puts it, *“You and I are starving for the glory of God. Underneath all the desires, all the longings, all the cravings, and all the yearnings, this is our fundamental and essential need—an experience of the magnitude and the character of the God of the Universe.”*

How this fundamental need is pursued is the difference between blessing and cursing, between righteousness and wickedness, between life and death.

**Proverbs 4:14-19** *“Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil. 15 Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on. 16 For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong; they are robbed of sleep unless they have made someone stumble. 17 For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence. 18 But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. 19 The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.”*

#### The way of the righteous

THE RIGHTEOUS MAN IS THE BLESSED MAN. -- John MacArthur *“From the perspective of the individual, this is a deep-seated joy and contentment in God; from the perspective of the believing community, it refers to redemptive favor (cf. the blessings and cursings of Dt 27:11–28:6).*

COMMENTARY: “A stronger word than “happy”; to be “blessed” is to enjoy God’s special favor and grace.

THE RIGHTEOUS MAN DOES NOT CONFORM TO WORLDLY WISDOM -- The descending path into wickedness is slippery; it is rejected by the righteous.

- Entertain ungodly counsel
- Explore sinful behavior
- Embrace the wicked lifestyle (maligning truth and righteousness)

COMMENTARY: “If Christians start listening to the counsel of the ungodly, they will soon be standing in their way of life, and will ...agree with them.”

THE RIGHTEOUS MAN DELIGHTS IN AND MEDITATES ON THE LORD’S INSTRUCTION -- He takes pleasure in that which is consistent with the character of God. The Lord’s word and his ways are ever before us; they inform all that we do, for they are always on our minds and on our lips.

THE RIGHTEOUS MAN FLOURISHES IN GODLINESS.

- He is divinely planted ... properly nourished.
- He produces the fruit of righteousness.
- He prospers in his works of righteousness.

#### The way of the wicked

THE WICKED ‘ARE NOT SO.’ -- In every sense, they are the antithesis of the righteous man. They reject the instruction of the Lord for worldly wisdom and scorn righteousness. COMMENTARY: “They prefer the counsel of the ungodly to the “whole counsel of God.”

Consequently, they cannot flourish. They have rejected that which is necessary for life and growth, so they cannot produce anything that is pleasing to the Lord.

**Matthew 3:12** *“His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”*

THE WICKED CANNOT STAND -- They will be judged in their unrighteousness; they have rejected God and his righteousness in their rebellion.

#### The sobering reality

The contrast between ‘the man who is blessed’ and ‘the wicked’ should grab our attention. We like to think of ourselves as righteous; we believe in God, we try to do the right things, and we are acquainted with his word. In reality, however, we have no righteousness of our own.

**Isaiah 64:6** *“We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf; our iniquities, like wind, take us away.”*

We are wicked, ungodly, and pursue the world rather than the Lord. Unless we see this as an impossible standard, we will succeed only in turning it into works.

#### The glorious hope

**Psalm 32:1-2** *“Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.”*

If we would be blessed, we must entrust ourselves to the blessed man of Psalm 1, the one who is alone wholly righteous. Only in him will we be blessed.

The blessed man (singular) is contrasted with the wicked (plural). Therefore, we need to understand that, while we may find ourselves a person blessed by God, it will not be on our own merits, but only through the truly blessed man, Jesus Christ. He is the righteous one; he is the prosperous one.

**Matthew 7:13-14** *“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”*