

I. Introduction: Who will prosper this year?

II. If you seek wisdom from God's Word you will prosper. v. 1-3

A. Separate yourself from sinful influences. v. 1

1. Don't expose yourself to wicked counsel. v. 1a
 - a. God is concerned about the company you keep. Pr. 13:10 1:10ff I Co. 15:33
 - b. Choose your teachers and mentors (and those of your children) carefully.
 - c. You are also influenced by various media. Ps. 101:3 1 Jo. 2:15 5:19
2. Ungodly counsel leads to sinful behavior. v. 1b Js. 1:14-15
3. Ultimately you will join the scoffers who mock righteousness and promote evil. v. 1c Is. 5:20 Pr. 9:7-8 13:1 14:6,9 15:12 Ro. 1:32 I Pe. 4:4
4. The godly (prosperous) man flees from evil. 2 Ti. 2:22 1 Ti. 6:11 Js. 4:4 Gen. 39:7ff

B. Delight yourself in God's Word. v. 2

1. The Word, not the world, is your joy. Ps. 109:97,103,127
What if Bible reading is drudgery? 1 Pe. 2:2 Ps. 119:18,124-125
2. The Word, not the world, is your source of guidance. Ps. 109:105,98-100
3. Don't merely read. Meditate (and memorize)! Josh 1:8 Ps. 77:12 1 Jo. 2:14
4. What is meditation? Ps. 77:12 139:23-24 Eph. 5:19 Deut. 6:7 Js. 1:22
 - a. Seek to understand the meaning of the text.
 - b. See where Christ is in the text. Luke 24:27
 - c. Make application to your life. Ps. 139:23-24 Js. 1:22
5. Continually fill your mind with God's Word: day and night. Ps. 19:14 Josh. 1:8
6. Respond to God's Word by speaking to Him in prayer. 1 Th. 5:17 Phil. 4:6ff
Mark 6:35 Dan. 6:10-11 Acts 10:9

C. Your life will thrive like a flourishing tree. v. 3 Jer. 17:5-8 Ps. 92:12-14

1. You will be stable and secure. v. 3ac Ezek. 17:8 Mt. 15:13 Phil. 1:6 Jer. 17:5-8
John 10:28-29 7:37-39 Hab. 3:17-18
2. You will be fruitful. v. 3b Ps. 92:12-14 Isa. 5:1-7 Mt. 21:33-44 Ga. 5:22f
Heb. 13:15 John 15:16,8 2 Ti. 3:17 Pr. 11:30 Eph. 2:10
3. Your life is characterized by blessing, happiness, and prosperity. v. 3d Mt. 5:5
Ps. 90:10-12 128:1-6 Mark 10:28-29 2 Chron. 32:30 16:9 Isa. 64:4 Josh. 1:8

D. Are you thriving spiritually?

III. The wicked do not prosper. v. 4-5

A. His life is the opposite of the righteous man. v. 4a

B. He is like chaff. v. 4b

1. Why doesn't the Psalmist continue with the figure of trees? Jer. 17:5-6
2. The wicked man is unstable. Js. 1:6,11 Eph. 5:14
3. He is useless. John 15:6

C. His end is destruction. v. 5 Ps. 35:5 Mt. 3:12

1. He will be toppled in the day of judgment. v. 5a Isa. 2:10f Mt. 3:12 Ps. 73:16ff
2. He will be excluded from the assembly of the righteous. Ps. 24:3 35:18 130:3

IV. Concluding applications.

A. Where is Christ in this Psalm?

1. None of us is righteous. Ps. 14:1-3 Ro. 3:10f
2. Christ is the Righteous Man. Ps. 15:1-5 24:3-5
 - a. He is separate from sin. I Pe. 1:19 2:22 II Co. 5:21 John 8:46
 - b. He delights in God's law. John 17:4 6:38 Mt. 5:17-19
 - c. He is stable, fruitful, and prosperous. Mt. 4:1-11 John 17:4 Isa. 53:10-12
3. Christ makes us righteous.
 - a. He endured the judgment (separation) we deserved for our sin. II Co. 5:21 I Pe. 3:18
 - b. We receive His righteousness by faith. Isa. 53:11 Gen. 15:6
 - c. We stand in Him. Ps. 130:3-4 I Co. 6:9-11
4. He is the Living Water who nourishes and strengthens us. John 4:14 7:37-39
5. Begin the blessed life by turning to Christ: receive His righteousness.
6. *Then* Psalm 1 teaches us how to live in relationship to Him so that we can enjoy true happiness and prosperity.

B. Which way will you choose? v. 6 Mt. 25:31ff II Ti. 2:19

1. Will you pursue righteousness and enjoy God's protection and approval?
2. Or will you perish with the wicked?
3. There is no other way to know happiness and prosperity! Rev. 22:14

Discussion Questions

1. What ungodly counselors are trying to influence you?
2. What worldly attitudes and beliefs are most dangerous to Christians?
3. What is a scoffer? Give an example.
4. What does it mean to meditate on God's Word?
5. What should you do if you don't have much of an appetite for God's Word?
6. What is the result of the righteous life?
7. What characterizes the wicked? Why doesn't the Psalmist say much about him?
8. What is the result of the wicked life?
9. Where is Christ in this Psalm?
10. Where are you in this Psalm? Which choice have you made?

George Mueller's method of Scripture meditation

1. Is there any example for me to follow?
2. Is there any command for me to obey?
3. Is there any error for me to avoid?
4. Is there any sin for me to forsake?
5. Is there any promise for me to claim?
6. Is there any new thought about God Himself?

Tim Keller's questions for meditation

1. What does this text show me about God for which I should praise or thank Him?
2. What does the text show me about my sin that I should confess and repent of?
3. What does the text show me about a need that I have?
4. How is Jesus Christ or the grace that I have in Him crucial to helping me to overcome the sin I have confessed or to answering the need that I have?
5. How would this change my life if I took it seriously?