

The Blessed-Happy Man

Psalm 1:1-6

Halifax: 14 August 2005

Introduction:

Last week in our regular preaching series from Matthew,

- we concluded the sub-section in Matthew 11-12 having to do with the negative responses of the covenant people to their Messiah, King Jesus.
- This brings us up to the great chapter on the parables, Matthew 13.
 - In this chapter, Matthew presents us with seven parables that our Lord told, all having to do with the Kingdom of Heaven.
 - One of the main things Jesus brings out in these parables is the fact that not everyone in the kingdom is blessed.
 - It is only those who truly hear His voice and receive His word with faith and continue in it that will prosper.
 - In the parable of the sower and the parable of the wheat and the tares, and the parable of the dragnet,
 - the entirely different ends of the righteous and the unrighteous is drawn.

According to our ordinary practice,

- I am suspending our Matthew series today in order that I might present to you a Psalm that corresponds to this new section.
- Today, we will hear the exposition of this Psalm, and then in future weeks, we will sing it in conjunction with our Matthew series.
 - The Psalm I have chosen is Psalm 1.

Psalm 1 also clearly sets forth the distinction between the blessed man and the ungodly man.

- The blessed man prospers in all his ways,
 - but the ungodly man and his way perishes.
- This Psalm is well placed at the beginning of the Psalter...
 - for this distinction is one that is emphasised throughout all the psalms.
 - It is a very important distinction we find in the whole Bible and one that is too often suppressed in our day.
 - As a pastor, I run into people all the time who want to assume that regardless of what a person is in this world, everything will turn out well in the end.

- But this notion is neither true nor safe—
 - It leads us into lies about the our desperate need of salvation...
 - And it grossly distorts the true character of God and the holiness of God...
 - And in fact, it even diminishes the very thing we are trying to emphasise-- the mercy of God.
 - If we were to build Noah’s ark today,
 - I fear that we would put a bumper sticker on it that said, “Smile, God loves you.”
 - Instead, we need to learn to tremble at the thought of God’s vindictive justice and to worship before Him...
 - God’s judicial wrath is no defect in Him—
 - it is part of His glorious excellence and perfection!
 - We are to honour Him for it.
 - And it is only when we do that we can really appreciate the marvellous blessing it is to be pardoned through Jesus Christ!

Psalm 1 opens with what is really an exclamation!

- “Blessed is the man!”
 - With these words we are called to take notice of the righteous man...
 - To take a good look at him and see how good he has it!
 - To marvel that there is such a blessed man in this fallen sin cursed world!
 - How the grace of God shines to see such a man here!
 - Look at Him—“Blessed is the man!”
- This opening declaration to the whole Psalter is very rich and full!
 - The translators have sometimes struggled with knowing just how to translate it...
 - First, they have been challenged because the Hebrew word we translate “blessed” could just as well be translated by the word “happy.”
 - It speaks of a man who is full of everything that is excellent!
 - It speaks of the excellence of his character as one who is pure and holy, a nobility and perfection of the one who has attained the ideal of what a person ought to be...
 - And at the same time, it speaks of the ultimate and lasting satisfaction he has as one who has found the fullness of life, a true utopia...
 - In other words, he is both perfected and pleased at the same time...
 - He is both sanctified and satisfied...

- He is full of both beauty and lasting gladness.
 - He is the ideal man—what everyone should want to be!
 - He is the blessed-happy man!
- And there is also another difficulty for those who must translate this exclamation into English...
 - The Hebrew word translated “blessed” or “happy” is plural.
 - By using the plural form, it seems that the original text is highlighting the greatness and the fullness of the blessing this man is brought out!
 - Our Psalter attempts to bring out the sense of the plural in two ways:
 - In Psalm 1-A, the sense of the plural is brought out by adding the word “greatly:”
 - “O greatly blessed is the man,” in Psalm 1-A.
 - This is helpful...
 - In Psalm 1-B, the word “how” is included to bring out the sense of the plural:
 - “How blessed is the man...”
 - This too helps us to get at the idea...

TRANS> So here in the introduction to all the songs of Praise, our attention is called to what God has done in His grace!

- It points, as it were, to this man and it says:
 - “O greatly blessed and happy is the man...”
- What a wonderful way our Lord has chosen to open the Psalter!
 - Here are the songs He has given us to praise Him with...
 - And right from the start, He calls us to remember how blessed and happy He has made His people!
 - Here we are in a fallen, ruined, miserable world—
 - Yet, we are blessed-happy people through His glorious redemption!
 - A people called out for blessing!
- What a wonderful way to open the book of praises!
 - How our Lord endears us to Himself!
 - It is the same way our Lord opens His great sermon on the Kingdom He came to establish in this sinful world:

- Pointing out the blessedness of those who are saved.
- The Lord would have us to understand that His calling for us—the call of His kingdom of righteousness—is a call to blessing and happiness!
 - His whole purpose for coming was that He might bless us by turning us away from our iniquities!
 - He came to bring us into the happy condition of His redeemed servants!

TRANS> Well then, let us look and see how Psalm 1 describes this blessed-happy man that we may see how he stands out in this fallen world and give glory to God's Son!

I. First of all, the blessed-happy man is the one who hears the voice of God!

- He stands out from all others as blessed and happy because He receives God's precious Word!
- That is the overall idea of verses 1-2...
 - Psalm 1:1-2: Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

A. You see that the negative is given first—

- The blessed-happy man is the one who refuses to go along with the ways of this world—
 - He stands out because he has broken out of the world's mould and refuses to follow its ways!

1. First, we are told that He does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly...

- a. The designation “ungodly” refers to those who are not connected with God.
 - 1) He is not necessarily one who given over to all sorts of vices, or one who is unkind to his neighbour—
 - The world may see him as a fine upstanding loving individual!
 - 2) It is just that he doesn't have much time for God...
 - He is unconcerned about religion and salvation and counsels those around him not to trouble themselves with prayer and bible reading or repentance.
 - “Just try to do the best you can, live an honest life and try not to hurt anyone. There is no need to make a fuss about religion.”
 - 3) He may even advocate saying your prayers and going to church,
 - but he will firmly advise you to not allow religion take over your life...

- He is ungodly—he is disconnected from the living God.
- b. Now you should see right away that this is precisely the counsel that Satan gave to Adam and Eve in the Garden...
 - “You can get along better without bothering so much about God.”
 - “You need to take control of your own life and not worry so much about what He has said.”
 - “Do what you think is best—what seems right to you...”
 - “You will get along better that way.”
 - c. Now sometimes it may seem that the ones who follow this counsel are blessed and happy...
 - They seem to have no worries...
 - they just do what seems best to them instead of following so closely what God has said.
 - But the truly blessed-happy man stands out because he has been delivered from this worldly counsel that led the human race to destruction.
 - He will not walk in it.
2. Next, we are told that the blessed-happy man does not stand in the path of sinners.
 - a. To stand in the path of sinners is to take ones stand in the path of sin—to indulge in it as a way of life...
 - The counsel of the ungodly involved a certain carelessness about God which is bad enough...
 - but now there is another step taken...
 - there is the taking up what God has forbidden as your way of life.
 - That is what it means here to stand in the way of sinners.
 - b. Each sinner has his own way of sinning...
 - One prides himself in honesty, but gives himself over to sexual immorality...
 - Another is a sexually pure, but despises covetousness and greed.
 - Still another is a drunkard, but would never steal!
 - The Bible calls each one to forsake **his** way...
 - The blessed-happy man does not stand in the way of sinners,
 - He stands out because he has repented—

- turned from his own ways and thoughts to stand in God's way.
 - He may fall into sin, but he will not take his stand there—
 - He will turn back to His Lord.
3. And finally, we are told that the blessed-happy man will not sit in the seat of the scornful.
- a. This is the worst condition of all!
- The scorner is the one who mocks at sin and at Jesus Christ.
 - He treats religion with contempt, and jeers at those follow it.
 - The fear of God has departed from the scornful man...
 - The sinner we just looked at may not necessarily be a scorner—
 - The sinner may still admit that he is wrong to do what he does,
 - He is not so brazen as to attack God and those who follow him...
 - But the scorner has no such restraint.
- b. This downward progression is very much what we saw a couple of weeks ago when we looked at the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit...
- First a person speaks idle words—they do not bother to consider if their words honour God—that is ungodliness...
 - Then they begin to curse or to speak deliberate lies or words of hatred—that is to stand in the way of the sinner...
 - And from there, they begin to curse God directly and to speak not only against His ways, but against Him!
 - That is to sit in the seat of the scorner!

TRANS> The blessed-happy man stand out because he is free of all these ways.

- He has turned from the world and its ways to follow the Lord.
- He is like the sheep Jesus speaks about in John 10 who hear their shepherd's voice and follow him, but will not follow the voice of a stranger.
- The blessed-happy man recognises the word of God for what it is...
 - the word of the living God!
 - And for him, there is no other voice that carries such power, such authority, such comfort!
 - And so he has rejected the voice of this world to follow the Lord.
 - And that brings us to verse 2...

B. The blessed-happy man stands because he is one who delights in the law of the Lord.

1. It doesn't simply say that he hears the word or even just that he follows it...

- It says that he **delights** in the Law of the Lord!

- It is something he cherishes and chooses.

a. But what is the "Law of the Lord?"

- In short, it is God's instruction to us, given to us in the Bible.

- In His word, He tells us that He is our creator and judge,

- He reveals to us His holy and righteous character,

- His mercy and His love, His wrath and justice.

- And He tells us how we are to live—

- loving Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength,

- and loving our neighbour as ourselves...

- And He tells us what is wrong with us—

- how we are fallen into sin and need to be redeemed—

- And he tells us how He sent His only Son Jesus to accomplish that redemption—

- promising life and forgiveness to all who will trust in Him.

b. Now I say that no fallen human being can delight in the Law of God until He has learned of God's mercy in that Law.

- Until then, you don't want to hear what God has to say because it condemns you.

- You don't want to learn about His righteousness because His righteousness is against you!

- But once you learn about His mercy in Jesus Christ—

- Then you love His law!

- You see that the very same righteousness that condemned you now saves you!

- Now you can glory in God and His righteousness because the gospel teaches you that God's righteous Son has met all the righteous requirements of God's law for you!

- Now you can honour God and delight in His perfection rather than running from it and despising it!

c. And what a blessed thing it is now to have this instruction from God!

- Who wants to go in the way of the world when there is this marvellous way of redemption in Jesus Christ?
 - The blessed-happy man is not interested in the way of the world!
 - He delights in the Law of God that shows Him the way back to God in Jesus Christ!
2. And so, because he delights in the Law of God, verse 2 says that he meditates on it day and night.
- a. In Psalm 119:97, David also connects meditating on God's law with delighting in it. He says:
- Psalm 119:97: "Oh, how I love Your Law! It is my meditation all the day."
- 1) You will always meditate on the things that you love.
- If a person loves to watch hockey,
 - he will keep thinking about it and it won't be long until he knows all the teams and all the players and something about their strengths and weaknesses.
 - If a woman loves gossip,
 - she will keep repeating stories in her own mind and then to others.. she will remember all the details because she is really into it.
 - If a man loves to feel sorry himself,
 - he will run all the troubles he has had in life over and over in his mind—he will have a remarkable ability to remember the smallest details!
- 2) It is not that the memory of these persons is so remarkable—
- it is more that they remembers because they meditates.
 - What you love, you will meditate on, and what you mediate on you will remember.
- b. Now this is what meditation on the Bible is all about.
- 1) It is not all like Transcendental Meditation where you try to empty your mind, mystical meditation where you try to hear God's voice...
- It is rather where you keep thinking about God's word—
 - where you look at it in connection with other scriptures...
 - where you look at how it applies to this circumstance or that circumstance.
- 2) But there is one matter of great importance about proper meditation.

- a) There are some people who love to meditate on God's word as a theme of speculation and study only,
 - but who do not delight in the word.
 - They have taken an interest in doctrine and in searching out theology,
 - and they do indeed meditate day and night, but to no profit.
 - b) The right kind of meditation is the meditation that grows out of hunger for implementing God's instruction!
 - For getting it into your heart and life!
- 1) It is the kind of thing that you do when you are at work and somebody makes a snarky comment...
 - Instead of meditating on some nasty come back that you have heard, you will meditate on what God's word says about the way you should respond...
 - and there is not just one answer... it depends on the situation and your relationship to that person at work.
 - You will consider all that the scripture has to say about it.
 - Oh that you husbands and wives and parents and children would love God's word enough to mediate about how you ought to respond to one another in the various circumstances of the day!
 - 2) This meditation is likewise the kind of thing you do when you get a bad report from the doctor—and find out you are very sick...
 - Rather than turning to all sorts of fretful thoughts or despairing thoughts...
 - you will meditate on what God says about it.
 - You will entrust yourself to God's sovereign care and ask Him to cultivate patience in you and teach you the lessons you need to learn and to make you an example for his glory.
 - 3) Again, this meditation is what you do when you are unsettled by guilt...
 - Rather than turning to the counsel of the ungodly which will teach you to make excuses or blame someone else...
 - You will look to word which teaches you to confess your sin and look to God for deliverance.

TRANS> And of course, the more you love God's law, the more you will meditate on it...

- c. Here we are told that the blessed-happy man is the one who meditates on it night and day.
 - This means that you will do it at all times and in all ways...
 - You will set aside time to study God's word apart by yourself...
 - You will meditate on it with your family each day to consider how it applies...
 - You will meditate on it in the assembly of God's people each Lord's Day...
 - You will meditate on it at work, as Joshua was instructed to do when he went to battle—looking to be informed about how to do your work and how to respond to those you work with...
 - You will look to it in times of adversity for your help and comfort...
 - And you will look to it in times of prosperity to show you how to use your prosperity.
 - You will yearn for the Lord to speak into every aspect of your life, not just to your time at church.

TRANS> So you see that the blessed happy man stands out as the man who tunes out the world and tunes in God.

- He is reconnected with the counsel of the almighty!
- And this leads to the next thing that makes Him stand out from others...

II. The blessed happy man is like a tree planted by the rivers of water.

- This is what it says in verse 3, and there are several things that are developed out of this picture...

A. First, consider that he is planted.

1. He did not just grow up naturally in the wild, but he has planted by God.
 - a. The Bible often speaks of God's people in this way.
 - 1) In the parable of the wheat and the tares, God plants the wheat and the enemy plants the tares.
 - 2) Psalm 80:8 speaks of Israel as a vine that God brought out of Egypt—it says,
 - “you have cast out nations and planted it.”
 - 3) Isa 60:21 says:

- “Also your people shall be righteous; they shall inherit the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of My hands, that I may be glorified.”
- 4) And in Matthew 15:13, Jesus distinguishes between the elect as those that were planted by His Father and others who were not planted by Him...
- He says,
 - “Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.”
2. So you see that the blessed-happy man is blessed and happy because he has been planted by God.
- a. This means that he is the Lord’s plant, elect, chosen of the Lord and precious...
 - Chosen to bring forth fruit for God
 - Cared for by Him...
 - A vessel of honour in His house.
 - b. Now I want you to understand that Jesus Christ Himself is **the elect** of God, chosen by Him and planted in the world to bring forth fruit!
 - He is the tree in whom the Father delights...
 - And all of God’s other elect are said to be chosen in Him... in Jesus Christ.
 - He is the vine and we are the branches...
 - We have no life in ourselves, but only as we are planted in Jesus Christ, the tree that God planted in this world for His glory!
 - God takes us when we are dead and plants us in Christ where we come alive!
 - c. To change the figure, Christ is the chief cornerstone, and there is no other name given among whereby we must be saved...
 - We must be established on Him, engrafted into Him, or we are totally lost and without hope.

TRANS> And so you see that the blessed happy man is the man who is planted by God in Jesus Christ.

- B. And because he is planted by God, it only follow that God takes special care of him...
1. He is planted by the waters—by streams of irrigation which the Father provides to His trees...
 - God supplies His trees with everything thing they need to grow and bring forth fruit...
 - The scripture teaches us that the trees the Lord are all watered well...

- They have everything they need for life and godliness!
 - They are full of the blessing of the Lord and of happiness!
2. And I would suggest to you that the rivers of water by which God plants His trees refers to the Holy Spirit....
- a. Jesus Christ, the branch of the Lord's planting, is the anointed one...
- The name Christ means "the anointed one"
 - He was anointed to be our prophet, priest and king,
 - but it was not just with oil that He was anointed to his office!
 - He was given the Holy Spirit without measure!
 - The Spirit descended from heaven like a dove and rested upon Him.
- b. And it is because of this fullness of the Spirit that Jesus is said to baptise with the Holy and to give the Holy Spirit to all who belong to Him...
- 1) You remember how Jesus told the woman at the well that He was the one who had the living water, and all who drank of this water would never thirst...
- And you remember how He promised the Spirit to His disciples and how He then poured out the Spirit on them on the day of Pentecost...
 - And how He promised that the Spirit would be like a river of water flowing out of the belly of all who believe in Him!
- 2) God has planted Jesus in the Holy Spirit, and Jesus supplies all of us who are engrafted into Him with the Spirit.
- As our prophet, Jesus not only gives us God's word, but also the Spirit of God to open our understanding...
 - As our priest, Jesus not only intercedes for us and offers Himself a sacrifice to God for us,
 - but He also applies those sacrifices to us so that we are brought into living connection with Him by faith and receive all the benefits of His sacrifice.
 - And as our King, Jesus not only rules us with a rod of iron,
 - but He also rules in our hearts by the Holy Spirit so that we are brought to serve God and to delight in Him.

TRANS> God provides the Spirit to all His trees so that they might bear fruit...

C. Of course the result of this is that they do bear fruit! much fruit! fruit for eternal life!

- The blessed-happy man stands out as one who bears fruit for God!
1. This fruit is the new life that is produced by the Spirit of God.
 - It is fruit that is pleasing to God!
 - It is the fruits of repentance and faith!
 - It is the fruit of beautiful worship
 - It is the fruit of loving deeds to our neighbour.
 - It is the fruit of words that are pleasing to God.
 2. And though this fruit is all in conformity with God's Word,
 - It is not the same in any two of God's people...
 - Each one brings forth fruit in accordance with his or her own calling—
 - each according to his or her own personality...
 - and each according to his or her own situation in life.
 - There is a ruling elder bearing fruit as an elder...
 - There is a mother bearing fruit as she cares for her children...
 - And there is a child honouring God by submitting to her parents...
 - There is one gifted with hospitality honouring the Lord with the fruits of service to the saints
 - and there is one bringing forth the fruit of exhortation!
 - and there is one honouring the Lord with faithful prayer and intercession for the saints...
 - perhaps causing the word to be blessed to us on this Lord's Day!
 3. And not only that, but each one brings forth fruit in season...
 - a. God designs the seasons of our lives to produce the fruits of His choosing!
 - b. There is one who is suffering bodily pain, bringing forth the fruits of patience and humility...
 - There is one who is prospering in this world, bearing the rich fruits of sincere gratitude and using his success to honour the Lord...
 - There is one suffering persecution, testifying to the Lord in his affliction.

TRANS> The blessed-happy man is full of the life God in all seasons because he has been planted by God by the water of life.

- And so we have seen first that the blessed-happy man receives God's word...
- And secondly that he has been planted by God to bring forth much fruit...

- And thirdly I want you to see that...

III. The blessed-happy man stands out from all others as blessed and happy because he whatever he does prospers.

A. That is just what it says at the end of verse 3!

- “Whatever he does shall prosper!”

1. Nothing goes wrong for him!

a. Everything turns out right for him!

- Now that is surely something to be desired!
- How happy you would be if someone told you that from now, everything you do will turn out right...
 - that nothing will ever go wrong for you!

b. Well I am here to tell you that that is true for you if you are the called of the Lord!

- And I do not tell you that on my own authority, but on the authority of the word of God!
- It is right here in our text!
 - “And whatever he does shall prosper!”
 - It is also in Romans 8:28:
 - “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.”

2. Now I suppose that some of you are thinking...

a. Well that’s certainly not the way it is for me!

- It seems to me like most things in my life don’t turn out very well at all.
- Instead of prospering, I often fail.

b. Well yes, of course that is so...

- You are being delivered from sin and death...
 - You must enter into much tribulation—and that means that a lot of things will go wrong for you in this world...
 - You have to be torn out of all your former associations and that involves death and pain...
- God’s promise here is much bigger than this world...

- And he is telling you here that all those things that go wrong as far as this world is concerned for you—if you belong to Christ—will turn out right!
- Brothers and sisters, it is just like the cross of Christ!
 - When Jesus was on the cross, it seemed like everything had gone wrong, but it had not!
 - The cross was the very thing God was using to redeem the world!
 - It all turned out right!
 - God knew exactly what He was doing!
 - And you can be sure that He knows exactly what He is doing in you!
 - He has planted you and He will see to it that in the end you bring forth the fruit that pleasing to Him!
 - He knows how to care for you!
 - He knows how to discipline you and how to comfort you and how to stretch you and how to supply you.
 - Job got it right when he testified:
 - Job 23:9-10: When He works on the left hand, I cannot behold *Him*; When He turns to the right hand, I cannot see *Him*. But He knows the way that I take; *When* He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.

B. To drive home just how blessed-happy you are in Jesus Christ,

- verse 4 compares the ungodly to you.

1. He is just the opposite—

- For the blessed-happy man—everything he does shall prosper...
- For the ungodly man—nothing will go right!
 - It simply says, “The ungodly are not so.”

2. The ungodly are the ones, as we have seen, who are disconnected from God...

- Not all who are ungodly stand in the way of sinners, nor do they all sit in the seat of the scornful...
 - Some of them would never blaspheme God or give themselves up to vicious habits...
 - But they simply don't have time for God,
 - They are disassociated from Him by the fall.
 - They don't delight in His law or meditate on it day and night.

- They have no use for the gospel!
3. Here we are told that they are the chaff that the wind drives away!
 - a. The chaff is the material that is separated from the grain at harvest...
 - Once it is separated from the grain, by threshing,
 - It is no use!
 - The farmer, after beating out the grain to separate it, would throw everything up into the wind with a winnowing fork...
 - And the chaff was all blown away because it was light...
 - but the precious grain would fall on the threshing floor, finally separated for use.
 - b. The ungodly may feel themselves to be quite wise and quite useful,
 - and the world may believe the same about them...
 - but in God's eyes, they are worthless...
 - They are devoid of all life and fruit...
 - And so verse 5 declares that they will not stand in the day of judgement.
 - That is, they will not stand up to God's test...
 - He will show them to be worthless...
 - He will show them to have no fruit that is pleasing to Him.
 - They will not stand, but God's judgement against them will stand!
 - For He has the final word and He will confine them to the flames.
 - And of course if this is true of the ungodly, how much more of sinners and scoffers!
 - They will be eternally separated from the congregation of the righteous—
 - that is, from Jesus Christ and all who are found in Him...
 - having His righteousness and Spirit by which they bring forth the fruits of eternal life!
- C. The great difference will appear at the end!
1. God does not know the ungodly man...
 - a. He is not one of the trees that God has planted, but is still in Adam, separated from the life of God...

- b. He has not received the word of life from God, but has walked according to his own counsel—which counsel is folly...
 - c. And his fruit is not any such fruit as God recognises...
 - No, it is fruit that is contrary to God’s nature!
 - It is not delicious to Him, but abhorred and rejected!
 - All of the ungodly man’s ways will perish because they are not God’s ways—they are not known to Him or recognised by Him.
2. But the righteous man is known to God!
- a. God looks at Him and He says,
 - “I know this tree—this is the tree that I planted for my own glory...”
 - “This is the tree I planted in that fallen sinful world to bring forth the fruits of eternal life in the midst of death.”
 - b. And He looks at this man and He says...
 - Here is the one who has followed my counsel, who has loved my word...
 - Here is the one who delighted in my Son and laid hold on Him for eternal life.
 - Here is the one who has been washed in His blood, purified from all defilement and sin.
 - c. And again He looks at Him and declares...
 - This one has the fruit I recognise!
 - He has fruit that is reflection of my glory, produced by my Spirit!
 - He is delicious and well pleasing to me.

Conclusion

And so you see that the blessed-happy man stands out in this world as the one that God delights in!

- He is that blessed-happy man according to the final judge who alone knows what good fruit is!
- And because he is pleasing to God, he is cherished and kept by Him as a vessel of honour to live with joy in the courts of the Lord forever and ever.

It behoves each one of you to forsake the world’s way and embrace the way of Jesus Christ!

- It is those who abide in Him, and those only, who bring forth the fruits of eternal life.
- All others will be rejected.