

BOOK OF THE PSALMS
THE SUCCESS OF THE BLESSED
PT 2a–HIS COUNSEL
PSALMS 1:1a-2

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INTRODUCTION

Do you know someone that you would deem **SUCCESSFUL** in this life? In this world, we know that there are different yardsticks by which men **MEASURE** someone being a **SUCCESS** in this life.

LAST TIME WE TALKED ABOUT HOW THE WORLD MEASURES SUCCESS!

- I. *SOME ASSOCIATE SUCCESS WITH ONE HAVING ATTAINED POWER OR POSITION IN THE WORLD!*
- II. *SOME ASSOCIATE SUCCESS WITH HAVING ATTAINED PRESTIGE IN THE WORLD!*
- III. *SOME ASSOCIATE SUCCESS WITH ATTAINING POSSESSIONS! (POSSESSIONS – Money or the things that money can buy!)*

TONIGHT, LET’S BEGIN TO LOOK AT GOD’S MEASURE OF SUCCESS!

The very first thing that the **PSALMIST** writes here is that the **BLESSED** are those that **DO NOT WALK** in the **COUNSEL** of the **UNGODLY!**

*“Blessed is the man that **walketh not** in the **counsel** of the ungodly...”*

That word **COUNSEL** is what I want us to focus on this evening!

There are two **HEBREW** words that are most frequently translated as **“COUNSEL”** in the **OLD TESTAMENT**. Both of the these words are derived from the same **HEBREW** roots and mean the same thing.

MOSES’ father-in-law used one of those words in *Exodus 18:19– “Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee **counsel**, and God shall be with thee:...”*

MOSES’ used the other in his song in *Deuteronomy 32:28– “For they are a nation void of **counsel**, Neither is there any understanding in them.”*

Both of the **HEBREW** words used are also translated in other ways as well...

1. **“ADVISE”**
*1 Kings 12:6– “And king Rehoboam **consulted** with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye **advise** that I may answer this people?”*
2. **“DETERMINED”**
Used of the **LORD’S COUNSEL** by an unnamed **PROPHET** sent by the **LORD** to rebuke king **AMAZIAH** of **JUDAH**.
*2 Chronicles 25:16– “And it came to pass, as he talked with him, that the king said unto him, Art thou made of the king’s **counsel**? forbear; why shouldst thou be smitten? Then the prophet forbare, and said, I know that God hath **determined** to destroy thee, because thou hast done this, and hast not hearkened unto my **counsel**.”*
3. **“PURPOSED”**
*Isaiah 14:24– “The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; And as I have **purposed**, so shall it stand:”*

*Isaiah 14:26– “This is the **purpose** that is **purposed** upon the whole earth: And this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations.”*
4. **“CONSULT”**
HABAKKUK records the **LORD’S** words against the **CHALDEANS** who mistreated **GOD’S PEOPLE** as well as other nations.
*Habakkuk 2:10– “Thou hast **consulted** shame to thy house By cutting off many people, And hast sinned against thy soul.”*

Let’s consider some things that the **BIBLE** says about **COUNSEL!**

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I. WE SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF RIGHT COUNSEL!

None of us have the ability to properly direct our own steps:

Jeremiah 10:23– “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

The reason for that is because of our fallen nature:

The world may say “*follow your heart*” but the BIBLE says, *Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”*

To accept WISE COUNSEL is a mark of WISDOM:

Proverbs 1:5– “A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; And a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:”

The one who walks in his own way without proper COUNSEL is called a FOOL:

Proverbs 12:15– “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: But he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.”

PURPOSES are established by right COUNSEL!

Proverbs 15:22– “Without counsel purposes are disappointed: But in the multitude of counsellors they are established.”

Proverbs 20:18– “Every purpose is established by counsel: And with good advice make war.”

Proverbs 24:6– “For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: And in multitude of counsellors there is safety.”

Proverbs 11:14– “Where no counsel is, the people fall: But in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.”

WE SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF RIGHT COUNSEL!

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II. WE SEE THE WARNINGS AGAINST WRONG COUNSEL!

(Psalm 1:1)

Numbers 31:16– “Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.”

KING REHOBOAM...2 Chronicles 10:8– “But he forsook the counsel which the old men gave him, and took counsel with the young men that were brought up with him, that stood before him.”

KING AHAZIAH OF JUDAH...2 Chronicles 22:3-5

Job 5:13– “He taketh the wise in their own craftiness: And the counsel of the froward is carried headlong.”

Psalm 33:10– “The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: He maketh the devices of the people of none effect.”

III. WE SEE THE RIGHT KIND OF COUNSEL DESCRIBED!

A. **Right Counsel Is WISE COUNSEL!**

Proverbs 1:5– “A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; And a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:”

B. **Right Counsel Is GOOD ADVICE!**

Proverbs 20:18– “Every purpose is established by counsel: And with good advice make war.”

C. **Right Counsel Is EXCELLENT and RIGHT THINGS!**

Proverbs 22:20– “Have not I written to thee excellent things In counsels and knowledge,”

Proverbs 8:6– “Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; And the opening of my lips shall be right things.”

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D. Right Counsel Is THE COUNSEL OF THE LORD!

Proverbs 19:21– “There are many devices in a man’s heart; Nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.”

Psalm 33:11–“The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, The thoughts of his heart to all generations.”

Jeremiah 23:22–“But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.”

Jeremiah 32:18–19– “18...: the Great, the Mighty God, the LORD of hosts, is his name, 19 Great in counsel, and mighty in work:...”

III. WE SEE THE SOURCE OF RIGHT COUNSEL!

A. RIGHT COUNSEL Is Found In GOD’S WORD! (Vs 2)

Psalm 1:2– “But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night”

Proverbs 2:6–7– “For the LORD giveth wisdom: Out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. 7 He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: He is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.”

Proverbs 22:17-21

Psalm 16:7–8–“7 I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel: My reins also instruct me in the night seasons. 8 I have set the LORD always before me: Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Psalm 119:24–“Thy testimonies also are my delight And my counsellors.”

Psalm 73:24–25–“24 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, And afterward receive me to glory. 25 Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.”

Isaiah 28:29–“This also cometh forth from the LORD of hosts, Which is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working.

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B. RIGHT COUNSEL Is Found In WISE MEN Who Have Immersed Themselves In GOD’S WORD!

Our COUNSEL should come from the GODLY SOURCES of those who are aligned with GOD’S WORD!

Proverbs 1:5–“A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; And a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:”

Proverbs 13:20– “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: But a companion of fools shall be destroyed.”

2 Timothy 2:22–“Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

Conclusion

We don’t BELIEVE like the UNGODLY!

So, accordingly, we should NOT seek out their COUNSEL!

Psalm 33:10-11–“10 The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: He maketh the devices of the people of none effect. 11 The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, The thoughts of his heart to all generations.”