**An Evolution of Ungodliness**

*Psalm 1:1*

**Introduction**

1. **Psalm 1** is a text which states a general rule of life – **(1)** This is the ***“blessed”*** man and how he benefits, **(2)** and this is the ***“ungodly”*** man, and his demise.
2. The primary focus is on the ***“blessed,”*** righteous man, with the description of the ***“ungodly”*** set as the antithesis of his way of life, and the result of his life.
3. As such, we can consider what the ***“ungodly”*** man is based on what the ***“blessed”*** godly man is not.
4. **Verse 1,** in discussing the blessed man, **considers three degrees of ungodliness in a natural progression.**
   1. Each of the 3 parts of the negative description of the ***“blessed”*** man consider association with sin and her participants.
   2. **The difference is the degree of the sin’s severity, and in the resolve of the one associated with those involved, and the sin itself.**
5. **We would do well to consider that the supremely happy man DOES NOT do these things, and we would do well to take heed of the progression of sin and ungodliness so as to avoid such.**
6. Walking in the Counsel of the Ungodly
7. ***“Walks not in the counsel of the ungodly”***
   1. **Walks** – manner of life; mode of thinking and conduct.
   2. **Counsel** – advice (way of thinking)
   3. **Ungodly** – *râshâ‛* – morally wrong. (STRONG)
      1. “the godless, whose moral condition is lax, devoid of stay, and as it were gone beyond the reasonable bounds of true unity (wanting in stability of character), so that they are like a tossed and stormy sea, Isa\_57:20.” (Keil & Delitzsch)
      2. **OF LESSER DEGREE THAN THE *“SINNERS”* OF THE NEXT PART.**
      3. **Cf. Isaiah 57:20** – There is no consistent moral compass. There is an instability, because they have NO PIETY FOR GOD, THUS DO NOT CONCERN THEMSELVES WITH PLEASING HIM. (No standard of living.) (**cf. James 1:6-7** – double-minded, unstable in all ways.)
   4. **Thus, the first evil discussed is appealing to the wisdom, and direction of life of those who are not concerned with spiritual matters, and pleasing God, thus have no standard of living themselves. THIS IS WRONG, AND WILL INEVITABLY PROGRESS TO FURTHER UNGODLINESS.**
8. Do not seek counsel from the ungodly.
   1. **Proverbs 1:1-14** – True wisdom begins with the fear of God, not the ungodly.
      1. **(vv. 1-6)** – value of wisdom and knowledge – DESIRE FOR IT – The one who wishes to be wise, and ultimately live life the way its Designer intended it to be lived ***will search for such among the impious in vain.***
      2. **(v. 7)** – the source of TRUE WISDOM. (**cf. Psalm 111:10** – beginning of wisdom.)
         1. Because purpose of life is found with God **– Ecclesiastes 12:13**
         2. When God is not in the picture – **cf. Romans 1:26-27** – what is wise about going against nature itself and receiving the penalty due?
      3. **(vv. 10-14)** – counsel of ungodly
      4. **There is little to nothing a man who is indifferent about God can offer.**
   2. ***“Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits’” (1 Corinthians 15:33).***
      1. **Psalm 1:1** not only considers the active seeking of counsel from those who do not fear God, **but the mere consistency of being in their presence.**
      2. *The more time spent with one who has no moral compass, the more your moral compass will diminish.*
9. Standing in the Path of Sinners
10. ***“Nor stands in the path of sinners”***
    1. **Stands** – deliberation; more fixed and decided.
    2. **Path** – mode of conduct; manner of life
    3. **Sinners** – *chaṭṭâ'* – a criminal, or one accounted guilty. (STRONG)
       1. “sinners, ἁμαρτωλοί, who pass their lives in sin, especially coarse and manifest sin.” (Keil & Delitzsch)
       2. “It is more specific than the former word rendered ‘ungodly,’ as denoting those who depart from the path of duty; who fail in regard to the great end of life; who violate positive and known obligations.” (Albert Barnes’ Notes on the Bible)
       3. **More than just indifference, and lack of moral compass, but decidedly wicked and sinful activity.**
    4. **The second evil is a progression from the first – more than the way of ungodly thinking and association with such wisdom. IT IS THE DELIBERATE PARTICIPATION IN THAT WHICH IS KNOWN TO BE SIN.**
    5. ***It is a standing firm in the place know to be sin, or to inhabit sin in order to participate in it.***
11. Do not stand in the path of sinners.
    1. **Proverbs 1:15-19** – Such know that what they are doing is wrong (perhaps even in the mind of the ungodly without moral direction) **but deliberately participate in sin to pleasure themselves.**
       1. **(v. 15)** – Do not give in to the temptation! DO NOT PARTICIPATE!
       2. **(vv. 17-19)** – They do it ultimately to their own destruction. (NOT TRUE WISDOM – **Proverbs 12:1; 14:12** – it is stupid to ignore the warning of true wisdom)
    2. **1 John 1:5-8** – In order to be with God we cannot be participating with sinners in sin.
       1. **(vv. 5-6)** – We cannot have ANYTHING to do with sin.
       2. **(v. 8)** – If we stand in the path of sinners, we ARE in sin. This will cause us to lose our souls.
       3. **We need to beware lest we deceive ourselves into thinking we can maintain fellowship with God while in sin**. (**cf. 2 Corinthians 6:14-16** – diametrically opposed)
12. Sitting in the Seat of the Scornful
13. ***“Nor sits in the seat of the scornful”***
    1. **Sits** – further deliberation; making a home, a permanent dwelling. (***Sometimes we tell a guest, “Come in! Sit! Stay awile!”)***
    2. **Seat** – assembling; abode; presence of.
    3. **Scornful** – *lûts* – properly to make mouths at, that is, to scoff. (STRONG)
       1. “scoffers, who make that which is divine, holy, and true a subject of frivolous jesting.” (Keil & Delitzsch)
       2. Mockery.
       3. “This word properly means those who mock, deride, scoff; those who treat virtue and religion with contempt and scorn.” (Albert Barnes’ Notes on the Bible)
       4. **Not only living without spiritual/moral direction, being indifferent about God. Not only deliberately participating in sin. BUT TO SUCH A DEGREE OF DEPRAVITY THAT YOU ACTIVELY MOCK, MAKE FUN OF, TAKE LIGHTLY THINGS OF TRUE VALUE, ESPECIALLY THINGS OF GOD.**
    4. **The third evil in the ungodly progression is not only tolerating blasphemy and mockery from others, but it does not bother you to be in the presence of such, AND YOU JOIN IN WITH THEM IN THE SCORN! *(God has become of so little concern that you say His name in vain, speak lightly of His will and purposes, and scorn the lives and values of those who fear Him.)***
14. Do not sit in the seat of the scornful.
    1. **Proverbs 1:20-33** – Wisdom calls for us to turn away from scorn, and the like.
       1. **(v. 22b)** – Those who MOCK do so in pleasure 🡪
       2. **Like the blasphemy seen on TV these days – JOKES MADE ABOUT GOD, ETC.**
       3. One should not “delight in the company of those who scoff at religion” (Keil & Delitzsch on sitting in the seat of the scornful).
       4. **(vv. 28-33)** – they have refused wisdom for so long to the point of scorn and mockery, and wisdom is no longer found. (LIKE GOD GIVING MEN OVER TO A DEBASED MIND)
       5. **(v. 26)** – the scornful will be the ones scorned in the end…
    2. **Proverbs 3:31-35** – Those who scorn God will be scorned in the end.
       1. The scornful joke about that which is holy, and God Himself now.
       2. They laugh at God, and all things that are of value to God.
       3. **THEY WON’T BE LAUGHING IN THE END!**
    3. **Psalm 1:4-6** – Those who scorn God will be punished.
    4. ***“FEAR GOD and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all”* (Ecclesiastes 12:13).**

**Conclusion**

1. We would do well to heed the first Psalm – There is no true happiness in the end for the man who is characterized by the negatives in the first verse.
2. We must understand that sin is progressive!
3. **(1)** Do not seek wisdom and counsel from those who do not value God, and spiritual things; **(2)** Do not associate with and participate with sinners in sin**; (3)** Do not mock God, and delight in the presence of those who do.
4. **Each former with the lesser degree naturally leads to the next with greater degree.**
5. Instead, seek the opposite:
   1. Walking in counsel of God’s word – **(v. 2)** – seeking instruction on how to live from God instead of the ungodly.
   2. Standing in the path of righteousness – **(v. 3)** – standing firm as a tree and watered by God’s word to prosper in all efforts of righteousness – active in righteousness, steadfast.
   3. Sitting in the seat of the pious and worshipful – **(v. 5)** – the congregation ***(“assembly” – NASB***) of the righteous – ultimately in the judgment assembled by God in heaven to worship Him for eternity.