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Men of God

PSALM 1:1-6

Introduction

1. Last month on the day set aside in our country to honor Mothers, we looked at what God had to say in His Word concerning godly women.
2. You may remember that we noted several women who served as examples of the traits which any woman who seeks to be faithful before God should seek to emulate in her life.
3. Today, as our country honors Fathers, I would like to do something similar with the men of this congregation and those who may be watching our worship virtually from afar.
4. There are a number of men who stand out in Scripture for their godly character.

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5. I would like to share them with you:
 - a. Genesis 5:22 shares an important truth with us about the man, Enoch, who was the father of Methuselah — “Then Enoch walked with God three hundred years after he became the father of Methuselah . . .”

2a

- b. Noah is another man who stands out in the records of God’s Word:

“Noah found favor [grace] in the eyes of the Lord” (Genesis 6:8)

“Noah did according to all that the Lord had commanded him” (Genesis 6:22; 7:5)

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- c. Abraham, who is often referred to as the father of the faithful, is another one of those men known for their godly character:

- 1) Following God's promise to Abraham that his descendants would be more numerous than the stars of the heavens (Genesis 15:5), we find this statement, "Then he [Abraham] believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness" (Genesis 15:6).
- 2) This statement is referenced three times in the N.T., twice by the apostle Paul (Romans 4:3; Galatians 3:6) and once by James (James 2:23).
- 3) Another title given to Abraham by God Himself is found in Isaiah 41:8, where God calls Abraham, "My friend."

3a

- d. David was a man whom God through His prophet Samuel referred to as "a man after His own heart" (1 Samuel 13:14; cf. Acts 13:22).
6. The purpose of our lesson this morning is to encourage each of you men here today, myself included, to be "men of God."
7. By this phrase, "men of God," I mean men who make it their goal in life, whether fathers or not, to be men who seek to live faithfully before God all the days of your lives . . .
 - a. Men who walk with God on a daily basis.
 - b. Men who strive to do all that God commands you, because this is the way we demonstrate our love for Him — "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments" (John 14:15).
 - c. Men, like Abraham, who truly believe in the Lord and trust in Him to guide your footsteps throughout life.
 - d. Men like David, who are men after God's "own heart."
8. Why is this so important?
9. This is a question we will answer as we look more in-depth at the passage read for us just a moment ago — Psalm 1:1-6.

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I. There Is A Certain Blessedness To Godly Life

A. AS A RESULT OF WHAT WE REFUSE

“How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked.”

(Psalm 1:1a, NASB95)

1. The counsel (advice) of the ungodly
 - a. As men who seek to live our lives in keeping with God’s Word, we do not determine the course of our life on the basis of bad advice from ungodly people.
 - b. Sadly, there are people who have no room for God, but who are ready to give advice to you as to how you should live.
 - 1) David: “There is nothing reliable in what they say” (Psalm 5:9).
 - 2) “For the wicked boasts of his heart’s desire, and the greedy man curses and spurns the Lord” (Psalm 10:3)
 - c. You may encounter this advice in a personal conversation, a magazine or newspaper article, a movie or television show, even on Facebook or Tik Tok.
 - d. They keep advising you to live a certain way because “It’s fun!” and “You’ll be glad you did.”
 - e. When you or I listen to such advice, we do so to our own hurt.
 - f. If we are truly seeking God’s kingdom and His righteousness, we will inevitably see that our wholeness is directly tied to our wholehearted devotion to our Lord.

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2. The lifestyle of sinners

“How blessed is the man who does not . . . stand in the path of sinners.”

(Psalm 1:1b, NASB95)

- a. Why? Because it is a lifestyle that does not conform to the teachings of God.

- 1) In the beginning of the Book of Proverbs, we find Solomon advising his son . . .
 - 2) “My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent” (Proverbs 1:10).
 - 3) “My son, do not walk in the way with them.
Keep your feet from their path,
For their feet run to evil
And they hasten to shed blood” (Proverbs 1:15-16).
- b. Men, when God tells us that we should not “stand in the path of sinners,” He isn’t saying that we should avoid all contact with such a person, but that we should make a conscious decision not to adopt their lifestyle.

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3. The company of scoffers

“How blessed is the man who does not . . . sit in the seat of scoffers.”
(Psalm 1:1c, NASB95)

- a. Scoffers hold nothing sacred.
- b. They scoff at God and all that is associated with Him.
- c. For you or I to sit with such individuals is to abide with them and enjoy their company.
- d. A godly man always feels out of place and unhappy when around those who ridicule or mock God.
- e. This was true of Lot while he was living in Sodom just before God destroyed it.

“(For by what he saw and heard that righteous man [Lot], while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds)” (2 Peter 2:8, NASB95)

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B. AS A RESULT OF WHAT WE CHOOSE

“But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.” (*Psalm 1:2, NASB95*)

1. We “delight in the law of the Lord” (v. 2a).
 - a. The “law of the Lord” is more than the law which God gave to Israel at Mount Sinai.
 - b. It is the totality of God’s teaching, instruction and direction for our lives.
 - c. As those who seek to be godly men, we should take our counsel from God’s Word.
 - d. It should be our delight. Why?
 - 1) Not only because it is interesting and relevant to everything we encounter in life.
 - 2) But also because we find great joy and satisfaction within it.

“The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul;
The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.
The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.”
(*Psalm 19:7–8, NASB95*)
2. We “meditate” upon it “day and night”
 - a. Not only do we read it on a daily basis, we reflect upon and contemplate its message to us.
 - b. The Word of God is never far from our thoughts.
 - c. When we are depressed or distressed, we call to mind its promises (cf. *Psalm 23*).

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C. BECAUSE OF ITS OUTCOME

“He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,
Which yields its fruit in its season

And its leaf does not wither;
And in whatever he does, he prospers.”

(Psalm 1:3, NASB95)

1. This tree didn't just happen to grow up by these streams of water.
2. No. It was planted there.
3. This tree, because of where it is located, is strong, stable and fruitful.
4. It is a majestic tree that provides shade to all who come near.
5. This is true of the man who delights in the Word of God.
6. The degree to which any of us men delight in God's Word is the degree to which these things are found in our lives.
7. There is within you a strength and stability which comes from God, able to withstand the storms of life.
8. Our lives also manifest what Scripture calls the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

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II. There Is A Certain Wretchedness To An Ungodly Life

A. HE IS LIKE CHAFF

“The wicked are not so,
But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.”

(Psalm 1:4, NASB95)

1. In the days of the psalmist, farmers would place the wheat they harvested on a stone threshing floor.
2. They would then drive their oxen around the threshing floor so that their hooves would separate the grain from the husks.
3. This mixture would be thrown up into the air using a pitchfork or shovel.
 - a. The grain would fall back to the floor and be preserved.
 - b. The chaff would be blown away by the wind.

4. The chaff represents those whose lives are not rooted in the Word of God.
5. They have no permanence, no staying power.

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B. HE WILL NOT STAND IN THE JUDGMENT

“Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.”

(Psalm 1:5, NASB95)

1. God’s Word tells us that a day of separation is coming.
2. Just as in the beginning, God separated the light from the darkness (Genesis 1:4), so there will come a day when he will separate the righteous from the wicked.
3. Jesus compared it to a shepherd separating “the sheep from the goats” (Matthew 25:32)
 - a. “Then the King will say to on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world’ (Matthew 25:34).
 - b. “Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels’ (Matthew 25:41).
4. In His parable of the Dragnet, Matthew 13:47-50, Jesus said, “at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous.”
5. In his second letter to the church at Corinth, the apostle Paul wrote, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil” (2 Corinthians 5:10, ESV).

Conclusion

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1. The psalmist concludes with these words . . .

“For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.” (Psalm 1:6, NASB95)

2. Men, the lives you and I live are the result of the choices we make.
3. Just before his death, Moses stood before the Israelites and said, “I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants,” (Deuteronomy 30:19, NASB95)
4. Likewise, at the end of his life, Joshua stood before them and said, “choose for yourselves today whom you will serve” (Joshua 24:15).
5. Jesus sets before us two gates:
 - a. One gate is wide and the path to which it opens is broad, but it leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13b).
 - b. The other gate is small and it opens to a narrow way. That way leads to life, but Jesus said “there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:14).
6. If you and I are to become men of God, we must choose the right path and the right influences in our lives.
7. You cannot go wrong if you commit yourself to God and His Word.
8. Not only will it bless your life, but it will bless the lives of all those around you.