

PSALM 1

So great and numerous are our spiritual enemies that no precautions of our own, unassisted by divine grace, are sufficient to guard us against their assaults. But this psalm begins with an assurance that God's blessing will attend those steps which a wise person takes to avoid temptation. Among the precautions that lie within our power is that of avoiding evil company. Such company erases all good impressions from the mind and leads to hardness of heart, misery in this world, and everlasting punishment in the next. He who now shudders at the thought of persisting in sin and bringing down upon himself the eternal wrath of the Almighty, should have no fellowship with evil men; for it is impossible for him to know how far he may wander from the right path. Those who through the grace of God have attained a firm conviction that no happiness enjoyed in the present life can be compared with a state of never-ending bliss in the world to come, will take delight in those Scriptures that assure them of salvation. They will meditate on them day and night, and will look to them for guidance when in prosperity and for comfort when in adversity. By such meditation a person improves and advances in holy disposition as naturally as a tree thrives and flourishes in a kindly and well-watered soil. And while the ungodly drift to and fro due to all kinds of lusts and passions, the one who is influenced by Christian principles will maintain consistency of conduct and stability of character.

- 1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
- 2 but his delight is in the law of YAHWEH, and on his law he meditates day and night.

- 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.
- 4 The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

- 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation
of the righteous;
- 6 for YAHWEH knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

PRAYER

O Holy Lord God, fountain of all blessing, be pleased to sow the good seed of your Word in our hearts and water it with the dew of your Spirit, that while we meditate on it day and night we may be like a tree planted by the waterside, bringing forth at all times and in all seasons the fruit of a holy conversation. Suffer us not to walk in the way of sinners nor to have fellowship with those who make a mock of sin, lest we be partakers in their calamity; but guide us in the straight and narrow way that leads to life eternal. Then in the last great day we shall be found among those who inherit the

promises of the Gospel. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Advocate. Amen.