

Eleutheros Newsletter

June 2020

News of Interest

The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is now available on [Amazon Kindle](#).

God willing, a Spanish translation of *The Ramifications of Our Salvation* will be printed and distributed in a number of churches in Honduras in the next few months.

Eleutheros Books is working on a church history book which will be entitled “*19th Century Influences on 21st Century Christianity*”. Many factors were in force in the 19th century that are still having effects in our modern world. Details will be made as progress on this book is made.

Check out the offerings of Eleutheros Books (in both eBook and paperback format) at the website: www.eleutherosbooks.com

[The Ramifications of our Salvation](#)

[Bible Translations: A Closer Look](#)

[Spiritual Gifts Verse by Verse: A Commentary on I Corinthians 12-14](#)

[A Portrait of Jesus](#)

[The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ](#) (eBook only)

Studies in the Psalms

[Psalm 1](#)

1. Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.
2. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night.
3. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his life also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.
4. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.
5. Therefore, the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
6. For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

The first verse of this Psalm outlines *important decisions in the life of a believer*.

Notice that it is good to “avoid walking in the counsel of the ungodly.” There is no way we can deny that our world is full of evil things: oppressive governments, terrorism, greed, abortion, and murder dominate the news we read or hear about every day.

We cannot totally eliminate some kind of exposure to all of these things! What should be our response? When we see people, who are involved in promoting/practicing ungodliness, we should say a kind word to them, BUT we should not start walking along with them!

Not only should we not walk with ungodliness, but David is inspired to write that we should not “stand in the way of sinners.” It is one thing to walk along for a time and have a discussion; it is quite another thing to stop walking and take more time to stand and continue the discourse!

This verse goes further. We should not “sit in the seat of the scornful.” This describes how a poor choice of friends can degenerate into actually sitting down and becoming a part of the sinful association!

Notice two more things about verse 1: a. The initial choice to begin to walk along has the potential to become much worse in time. Sin spreads like leaven in a lump (see [Matthew 16:6-12](#); [Mark 8:15](#); [Luke 12:1](#); and [1 Corinthians 5:6-8](#)). b. The person who makes the choice to avoid such a relationship is “blessed!”

The second verse of this Psalm explains *the spiritual appetite of a godly believer*.

Such a person DELIGHTS in the Word and MEDITATES in it all day long. Oh that we would enjoy hearing and reading the Bible! Further, we surely should take the time and make the effort to ponder its meaning and how to apply it throughout every day! Meditation is not an emptying of our mind, but rather a mental/spiritual effort that requires considerable effort. God wants us to make His Word the main focus of our lives.

The third verse of this Psalm explains *how the godly will live in this present evil world*.

By saying “he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water” he is indicating that the godly person has stability in his life. Have you ever looked at the trees which stand by a riverbank? Its many roots are thick, grow in different directions, and run deep! Trees like that will not fall down easily, and lives that are grounded in God’s Word are able to deal with difficult times successfully because of a good working knowledge of the truth and faith in God!

By saying “that bringeth forth his fruit in his season” he is indicating that the godly person will experience the joy of seeing God’s work for good through their efforts at the appropriate time (see [Galatians 6:8-10](#)).

By saying “his leaf will not wither” he is indicating that there will be no signs of decay in the spiritual life of a godly believer.

By saying “whatsoever he doeth shall prosper” he is indicating that God knows the way and the ultimate goal of godly people and they will ultimately succeed! This is true in spite of all the tribulations, frustrations, and limitations that we often face in this life (see [Romans 5:3-5](#); [Matthew 5:11](#)).

The fourth verse in this Psalm *contrasts the life and ultimate fate of the ungodly with that of those who “delight in the law of the Lord”* (verse 2). By saying they “are like the chaff which the wind driveth away” he is indicating instability in the lives of those who reject God and His Word. Their feelings and conclusions about things are based on circumstances, not on absolute truth, and their influence is only temporary. “The wind driveth away” their ways! How weak and sad!

The fifth verse of this Psalm continues the explanation of *the ultimate outcome for the ungodly*. First, by saying “the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment” he is indicating that God’s sovereign holiness will punish those who have ignored His truth and His will.

Second, by saying they shall not “sit in the congregation of the righteous” he is indicating that there is no fellowship for them with those who are godly in this world or in the eternal state! Note how this contrasts the associations of the godly in verse 1 of this Psalm!

The sixth verse of this Psalm reminds all that *God knows all things and is just*.

God’s Word guides the life of believers and the blessings for them are great. God’s knowledge of the ways of those who ignore/reject Him is true and based on His holiness, resulting in eternal destruction: *the way of the ungodly shall perish*.

May God help us to make good decisions in our relationships! May God help us to make His Word the focus of our lives! May God help us to believe that He will bless us for remaining true to Him! May God help us to have emotional and spiritual stability in our lives! May God help us to see the fate of those who reject Him and give us an opportunity to present the Gospel message to them without becoming involved in their wicked ways! May God give us the assurance that “He knoweth the way of the righteous” (verse 6).

We will look at another Psalm in next month’s newsletter.