

IT'S NICE TO BE KNOWN

Psalm 1 (Part 5)

Sometimes, people may be hesitant when they come to understand that living a life according to God's Word requires sacrifice on their part. They are not sure they can go without certain self-centered, or possibly even sinful, practices to which they are accustomed. Or else, they enjoy those things too much and have no desire to quit.

To be sure, the Christian life is one that requires self sacrifice. Luke 9:23, *If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.* It also requires dedication above anything this world has. Matthew 10:37, *Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.*

God does not promise us that the Christian life will always be easy, but He does promise us **it will be worth it!** No one will stand before the Lord on the day of judgment and think, "I wish I would have used more profanity during my lifetime," or "I'm so glad I didn't waste my time with all that religious stuff."

Psalm 1:6, *for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.* We have looked at the person whom the LORD calls blessed and what that individual does not do in their life (v 1). We have seen what God's person focuses on in their life (v 2). We also noticed the definite differences in the lives of the Godly person and the wicked one (vv 3-4). Finally, we have seen the ultimate outcome of the wicked person - condemnation (v 5).

The psalmist ends with a contrast, one that is a great comfort to the person seeking to do God's will, and one that should cause a person who has no interest in God to tremble in fear. On that final day, to be known by the Lord will make all the sacrifice and dedication required by the Christian life very much worth it.

We will all stand before that great throne and hear our verdict announced. Matthew 25:34, *Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."* Matthew 25:41,46, *Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.*

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