

**Thursday, July 23, 2020**

**Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...**

**"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;  
but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.  
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.  
The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away."  
*(Psalm 1:1-4)***

There are two kinds of people in the world: those who drift and those who stand firm. Those who drift are those who are not grounded in their relationship with God. Whichever way the wind blows, that's the way they go. Or, to put it another way, those who are in a relationship with God do not "go with the flow" when it comes to morality or religious belief.

Every time I read this Psalm it makes me think of those old western movies that show tumbleweed blowing down the dirt streets of the town. The tumbleweed has no roots, at least not any more. Now it is just a dried-up shell of what it had been before. If the wind blows to the north, the tumbleweed travels north. If the wind blows to the east, the tumbleweed travels east. It has nothing to hold it down. It has no will of its own.

When I read this Psalm, I also think of a thick, strong Oak Tree, with massive deep roots that drink in all the water it needs to keep it alive and strong. If the wind blows to the north, it may lean that way just a little, but it stays where it is planted. It blooms in the Spring and withstands the Winter.

Psalm 1 is making such a distinction between those who "fear God" and those who do not. To "fear God" is to worship Him. It means that a person reveres Him as Lord of their life. They are not swayed by public opinion or the will of the masses. They stand firm in the midst of the changing currents of thought and modern-day interpretations of right and wrong.

Psalm 1 says that such a person of God is "blessed" and that "his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night." But the "wicked," those who do not "fear the Lord," are like "chaff that the wind drives away." How sad for the wicked. They believe they know the truth. But truth does not change over time. It will never be true that the Sun revolves around the Earth no matter how much the masses want that to be the case. Believing something to be true does not make it true, just as much as wanting something to be true does not make it true either.

Stay firm! Remain planted by the "streams of water" – the truth of God's Word. Then you will "yield (your) fruit in its season, and (your) leaf will not wither. In all that you do, you will prosper."

God's Peace!  
Pastor Jim