



Blessed is the one who isn't wicked...

Read

"Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.." (Psalm 1:4)

Consider

We have just spent some time in Psalm 1:1-3, where we have seen that the blessed ones are those that God has planted in his family. These people don't share the same desires for the world as the "wicked sinners" do. Instead, the central source and focus of their joy is God, and he has made it all happen by sending Jesus to suffer and die in our place on the cross. God made the way for his Blessed One (Jesus), to make *us* blessed ones too.

That's all good stuff! But now Verse Four comes along with a strong statement: "not so the wicked!". Ummm..not so...what? Remember that 1:1-3 unpacked the benefits and delights of being in God's family, and now here our verse is making it clear that the wicked aren't invited. They are excluded. Why's that? Firstly, it's because for everything that's been said about the blessed ones, the wicked are the opposite.

Being planted in God's family is the last thing they want! Our verse says they are like **chaff**. What does that mean? It's a harvesting term from the Old Testament that refers to something useless/of no value/only good for the trash. This is how God sees the wicked. All the things that the wicked are busy doing will amount to nothing. While the blessed one is *planted*, the wicked one is *blown away by the wind*. The blessed one is secure, while the wicked one has no security at all.

Notice that the wicked and the blessed are busy, but only the blessed ones are *fruitful*. But before the Christian starts to think themselves to have better hearts than the wicked, let's not forget that we were *dead in our transgressions* and also, speaking of the wicked Paul says that we were *like them in nature!* (Ephesians 1:1-3. By God's mercy, he has *made us alive with Christ* (transplanted us) and this means that the only thing we have to boast about is Jesus (Ephesians 1:-5). Jesus is the only **one who isn't wicked!**

What does this have to do with Psalm 1:4? For us, we can only live fruitful and blessed lives if we stick with Jesus. The wicked don't understand this, and they find meaning for their lives by getting busy. The challenge for the Christian is threefold: (1) Consider whether we are maturing (being fruitful) or not, and (2) Pray for those stuck in their wickedness, that God may save them like he saved you. Lastly, (3) Bring the gospel to people - there are people all around you who don't know Jesus, so practice telling them!

Pray

This verse, together with the challenges may mean that you need to be honest with God about areas that need growth. Spend some time in prayer highlighting these things, and know that doing this enables you to grow strong in God!