

## Psalm 1 & 2 – Because I'm Happy: Clap Along if you Believe Jesus is the Truth

**Get on the Bus** – *What makes people happy? Why aren't more people happy? Here in this text today we will see where true blessings, where true happiness comes which is why I named the Sermon "Because I'm Happy... Clap along if you believe that Jesus is the truth!"* Ok now that I've got that song in your head...

- We turn now to a series through the Psalms – *the Songbook of the church* and we turn to the introductory Psalm that sets the stage for the rest of the Psalter w/ a Psalm that speaks of the path of true happiness!
- And don't be thrown off by the ordering we are going through b/c we are studying the Psalms in groups – Psalms of Ascent and then Historical Psalms for Advent from here forward!

**Pray** – *behold wonderful things... and delight in you Son!*

**Intro: Songs define us, they bring back memories, and they express human experience – we know this right as songs remind us of childhood:** who knows these lyrics – *"When I wake up in the morning And the alarm gives out a warning I don't think I'll ever make it on time By the time I grab my books, And I give myself a look, I'm at the corner just in time to see the bus fly by It's alright 'cause I'm saved by the bell"*

- Or who remembers songs from MS and HS dances? **Matt Sigmon favorite song to dance to was Rick Atsley's "Never Gonna Give You Up"** b/c he loved Rick's dance moves – *Confession time I was closet 'Nsync fan for a bit and in college during my basketball days I gravitated to 50 Cent*
- **Songs reflect a myriad of emotions, they make us remember and they reflect on the Human experience** – That's what we have in the Psalms but in the Psalms these human experiences are shaped and viewed by God's Revelation through His Word and His saving Acts

**Some Introductory notes as we come to this glorious book: (QUICKLY!!!)**

- Psalms is the bible's **Longest book** containing the most chapters while having both the longest and shortest chapters in the bible
- It is the **most quoted OT book** in the NT
- **The Greek word "Psalms" comes from the Hebrew word for Song** – *It is ultimately a book about praising God through song in the midst of everyday experience giving them words to express their emotions and experiences that range from human failing and suffering to God's faithfulness and saving acts* – so the Psalms do not just give expression to emotions but help shape them as this book like Proverbs gives a look at what covenant faithfulness looks like in everyday life
- **The Psalms were written and compiled over hundreds of years from Moses all the way to Post-Exile** – so the Israelites would have been singing these throughout the stages of Israel's life giving them something to sing about for what He had done and what He promised to do in the future
- **It is ultimately a book of Messianic expectation** – *Sailhamer argues the books Psalms are arranged intentionally with the underlying view that they are to be read pointing to the Messianic King (315).*

**Background of Psalm 1 and 2 – It appears these two Psalms were initially connected for several reasons – I will mention a few here and some throughout the text:**

1. The Hebrew word interplay between the 2 Chapters – particularly the bookending use of the Word Blessed
2. Neither Psalm has a superscription
3. Earliest Greek Manuscripts when quoting Psalm 2 in the NT would call it Psalm 1 as well as it being one Psalm in the Rabbinical Tradition

**Thus this combined Psalm is put at the doorway of the rest of the Psalter intentionally for the purpose of suggesting that those who would rightly worship (responding to God's Revelation) God must choose the path of Delighting (Meditation) in the Scriptures and the Son – One commentator argues that attaching 2<sup>nd</sup> Psalm to the 1<sup>st</sup> was to further qualify the central theme demonstrating that meditating on the scriptures leads one to trusting in the Messiah**

- *The Psalter thus begins with blessedness or happiness of those who delight in God and ends calling on all to Praise and delight Him!*

**Main Point: The Happy Man delights in the Scriptures and the Son**

- I. (Psalm 1) **Delight in the Scriptures**
  - a. **(READ 1-2) Because the counsel of God leads to happiness**

**This is a wisdom psalm in which we are confronted with 2 ways to live or 2 paths – *one is oriented to the Torah (God’s Law) and the other is oriented to the counsel of the ungodly* – which path will you choose is the question that begins to the Psalter and sets the stage for all that will follow!**

- *In setting this juxtaposition the hope is that the people who have come to worship would desire to be more and more those that love and delight in word of God that is to follow, believe it and do it so that they would be wise and counted among the righteous*

**Interestingly the Psalm starts out in the negative, what the Blessed man does not look like (certain things don’t characterize him) – *This is because we all start out on the path of the wicked (all sinners) and thus the psalmist starts where we are and shows the folly of the path we are on so as to highlight the path of the blessed man***

- **The word here for Blessed means Happy – *Jesus uses this same word in the sermon on the Mount in the Beatitudes which also highlights the 2 Paths (2 gates, roads, types of fruit, foundations) – This word connotes the fullness of blessings that come to those who love God or a sense of joy and satisfaction in one’s circumstances because of trust in God***

**The Psalmists say true blessing/happiness is for the one who doesn’t get worldview or advice (doesn’t order his life and behavior) according to the wicked – *Psalmist even so far as the Scoffer who rejects God’s instruction so much that he is obstinate and mocking towards it (will see even more clearly in ch. 2 how far this scoffing goes)***

- **We see from the outset the Bible is clear that there is right and wrong – *but it is not always so discernable which path you are on as Proverbs says, “there is a way that seems right to a man that leads to destruction”* (SOMETIMES IT IS DISCERNABLE WHERE WE ARE GETTING COUNSEL FOM – FUNNY EXAMPLE OF FOOLISH COUNSEL?)**

**Something to Note – We are called to be in the World and not of it – *We are to hang out with sinners just as our Lord did – but this has more in mind that are not to gain our values and our values and worldview and get our counsel from them* (We aren’t to be shaped by the Kardashians? Or start to waffle on some issues because a TV show makes that issue funny and cute) – *We are to be friends with unbelievers but we are not to be shaped by them!***

**Now Psalmist shifts to what does characterize the Happy Man – *True happiness comes when one delights in the Law (the Law does not simply mean a collection of judicial decisions in the Scriptures but encompasses all of God’s INSTRUCTION to His people which is contained in all of the Scriptures)* – We are to thus saturate our minds and actions with His word getting counsel and guidance from it rather than those who reject it!**

- *Might be initially weird to say delight in the Law but this means delighting in our Father’s instructions and thoughts because we want to know our Father because He knows what is good for us – just as a good child we desire to hear from our dad and know his will and then do it in everyday life*

**We all know what it is like for sons to want to know and be like their Fathers – *My brother’s sons love to hear stories about us and we wanted to be like our dad – that’s why they would get us fake razors so we could npretend shave (cant believe I ever thought that was cool. that was the work of Adam) and npretend lawnmowers***

*that had little bubbles come out of them (manly), it was so bad for my youngest brother that he would see dad get home from work and WATCH HIM RUN....*

- **In a much more glorious way we know what our Father is like through the Scriptures – *you see it is easy to want to know the people we love and delight in them and thus we should delight in the scriptures because we love Him and want to be like Him – But do we?***

**The happy man immerses himself in the book** – *This doesn't mean we sit down reading the Bible 24/7 but it means constant reflection on the Scriptures throughout the day so that our lives are oriented toward God and His ways – so as we go into meetings the scriptures are on our minds and as we have convos through the day the Scriptures are on our minds and tongues*

**(QUICKLY!!!) Some questions to consider:**

- **Where makes you happy and in what do you delight?** *Hamburgers? New Job? New relationship? New House? Money? Power? Perfect Family Christmas Pic?*
- **Do you delight in the Scriptures until they mess with your “happiness?”** *Saying “I believe the Scriptures until they tell you that you cannot be in that relationship or do this or that?”*
- **Is your authority the Scriptures because you treasure God and believe He knows what is best for you or is your authority what makes you Happy and feel good?** *God's Word alone is a firm foundation!*

**The Irony is that if you seek happiness from anything other than God, saying “I will be happy if I just get this”** you will never be happy because it will never satisfy and those things could be taken away – *and if you come to God simply for happiness because you think He can give you what you want (and you can somehow put him in your debt) you aren't coming to God but a butler and it shows what you truly delight in*

- **The great Irony is if you come to God just to get God and desirous of His glory then your happiness will be a byproduct** – *In the story of the PRODIGAL SON, the Son uses the Father for what he thinks will make him happy taking his inheritance and blowing it all on wild living and when he finally comes to his senses he returns home so wanting the father that he is now willing to be a servant and the irony is that the father receives him as a Son!*

***Delight in God day and night through His Scriptures that teach us that we are sons and daughters through faith; recipients of amazing Grace and you will have Joy***

**B. (READ 3-4) Because they lead to fruitfulness**

**The Result of this Delighting you will be a fruitful tree** – *In order to understand this we must have a proper view of blessing and prosperity – we often misunderstand prosperity because the word carries bad connotations because of the nonsense of prosperity preachers (who see this merely as financial)*

- **True Prosperity is spiritual and eternal in nature** – *This is a wisdom Psalm so it might be physical or monetary in this life (certainly God has ordered the world so that generally those that work hard prosper financially, etc) – But it will certainly be in the age to come as we will be blessed in a way that makes the prosperity preachers not prosperity enough, but we are not promised that now!*

**But this the idea of Spiritual blessing as we grow in the Fruit of the Spirit** – *And we are fruitful (just like trees) not for ourselves but for the good of others as we carry out the one another's!*

- **And as with anything we plant don't be discouraged if you cant discern immediate results** – *As it is with Gardening so I am told (you cant garden cattle so I think what's the point, maybe in new creation we will have meat trees where you can just walk over and pull off a chicken wing!) – but it takes time to get the nutrients of the soil and water to become fruitful and so it is with the Christian life*
- ***But over time as we persevere we are able to look back down the hallway of history and note, “you know I don't get road rage like I used too. my eyes don't wander like they used too” and so on!***

The result of this life of delight and prayerful thought in the Word results not in a puny, dying tree but a beastly tree – *I kept thinking of an Oak (and then it made me think of the Tombstone line, “Wyatt you’re an OAK!” – but you get this picture of this massive tree with ripe –* **DAILY DELIGHT IN THE WORD MAKES YOU A BEEFY SHEEP!**

In contrast the wicked are not strong and sturdy but are blown away by the wind – *Instead of being Oaks they are Dandelions easily moved!*

- **The one who holds firm to the trustworthy word is not easily moved by the opinions of whatever crowd they run with at that moment but are rooted convictional people** – *Christian are you easily swayed or are you a Berean? Are you an Oak or Dandelion?*

### C. (READ 5-6) Because they make one wise unto salvation

We are brought face to face with the end of these two contrasting lives – *Those that love the Lord and delight in His Word will be counted among the community of the righteous as the people whom God Knows (Prefers/Protects) – And those that reject His word (and as we will see His Son to whom His word points) will not even be able to stand under the weight of His judgment as God forever draws a clear distinction between these two paths!*

- This most certainly could entail temporal judgments (loss of Job for laziness, losing a family for adultery, prison for anger) for the unwise – *Though for a season it could look like the wicked prosper, they wont forever – But this certainly has in mind ultimate judgment in an act of finality from the one they reject so harsh they wont even be able to stand* – **Thomas Vincent** describes that judgment like this: *“The torments of hell will not in one part only, but in every part; not in a weaker degree, but in the greatest extremity; not for a day, or a month, or a year, but forever: the wicked will be always dying, never dead...if they could die, they would think themselves happy; they will...never breathe out their last...always burning in those flames, and never consumed; the eternity of hell will be the hell of hell.”*

Want to know if you are on this path? *You are on the path not if it is getting harder to look at pornography but if it is getting easier, not if it is getting harder to lie but easier... and so on!*

- Oh but hear me it does not have to be so – for those that delight in the Lord and His word it says **He knows them** – *The idea that he knows them with affection and approval it is the same verb used in other places to describe the intimate relationship between a husband and a wife* – This is God’s love for His children!
- *So unbeliever delight in the Scriptures they are able to make you wise unto salvation by pointing you to His Son and we turn to Him now!*

**(QUICKLY!!!)** Just a note as we transition Psalms: Because of Psalms place in the Canon (at the beginning of the writings) and its eerily similar wording to Joshua (the beginning of the prophets) – *we see amazing similarities between the Man and Son of Psalm 1 and 2 and Joshua who are both told to meditate on the Law Day and Night and that it will prosper them* – Prosper them particularly in battle against the enemies of God as it is said to Joshua that His enemies will not stand against him, similar language to ch. 2

- And thus Psalms is portraying a Joshua-like figure (royal figure) who is prosperous in battle (PS. 2) through His devotion to the Torah – *so these Psalms shouldn’t be seen as two distinct Psalms but ONE setting the tone for the Psalter to be a book about Messianic expectation of a new Joshua who will be loyal to the Law and victorious for the nation!*
- **(READ!!!)** *Interestingly God’s Words to Moses about the future King (Deut. 17:18-19 – a King who is to write out and obey the Torah), God’s charge to Joshua as he takes the Promise Land (Josh. 1:7-8), and David’s final words to Solomon (1 Kings 2:2-4) are all reminiscent of the description of the Blessed man in Psalms 1 – Thus the combining of these Psalms is presenting to Israel (and us) the ideal. new Joshua (and David) should look like who is faithful to the law and thus prosperous and*

*able to overcome both internal enemies (sin and ambition) and external enemies (Plotting Rulers) on behalf of the people*

## II. (Psalm 2) Delight in the Son

### a. (READ 1-3) Because setting yourself against Him is folly

In chapter 2 we particularly get a warning to Kings that we get to listen in on – but if this is true of Kings how much more so for us? Our happiness depends on delighting in the Son and accepting His Lordship

- **This is a royal Psalm (ascribed to David by Peter and John in Acts 4) connected to God's promise to David in 2 Samuel 7** – That the Davidic dynasty would be everlasting and accomplish the covenant promise to Abraham of blessing all nations through his seed
- **So put yourself in the place of the Israelites (in all eras as rulers opposed God and His people) – *And they would be singing this Psalm in Exile and Post-Exile (when the Kingdom was a shell of its former self) with no son on David's Throne but with hope in the promises of God that a Son would soon sit on the throne and make things right!***

The Psalmist reminds them that the nations rage ultimately in vain – *The psalmists does so by an ironic question of why do they do this? – Why would you do something so foolish as to set yourself up God and His anointed one (His Messiah – Messiah – you see David's Sons were little "m" messiahs called to be representatives of God as ruler over the people)*

- **These rulers have gone so far as to counsel (PS 1) together to take set themselves (military term) against God – *The word for plot here is the same word for meditate in Ch. 1 so instead of meditating on God's instruction they meditate (and take counsel) on how to oppose God and His rule as they play out the role of the wicked, sinner, and scoffer of Psalm 1***

(V. 3) This is because instead of Delighting the in Law of the Lord and His kindly rule they see it as slavery to be thrown off – *They desire to be autonomous from God and see His rule as restraints to be freed from (hardly a better way to picture sin in our culture)*

- **Recalled a comedy once in which one of the characters wanted to be unfaithful to his GF and his friend said, *"You know, the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche believed that morality is just a fiction used by the herd of inferior human beings to hold back the few superior men. It's worth noting that he died of a venereal disease."***
- **Why? Because we want autonomy from God and we see His instructions and rules for us not for our good (like a parent telling us not to touch a stove) but we see it as slavery – *This is our first parents in the Garden – Lucifer calls into question God's goodness and portrays it as God's harm – this is what sin is repudiating God's rule in favor of our own rule and it has disastrous consequences, instead lets delight in it because it is for our BEST!***

## B. (READ 4-6) Because His Father is all-powerful

We see that the plotting of these Kings is hilarious to God – He is not at all bothered by it demonstrating its folly and futility – **This would be like if James Merida text me and told me was going to beat me up – *I'd have a simple response "LOL" or "ROFL" – it'd be the first time I wrote that BTW'S***

- **God is not fretting in the face of this and so His people shouldn't either – *He knows His might and their puniness and they aren't even enough threat for Him to get out of His seat (He is in control!)***

His laughter will quickly turn to speaking to them in Wrath at this act of Treason which will terrify them (*wait till your dad gets home but infinitely so!*) – **God is loving not willing that any should perish, slow to anger and abounding in Steadfast love... but He will in now way clear the guilty**

- Imagine the just fury you feel at news of the abuse of children – *now multiply that infinitely and you see fury that comes from a Holy God toward those whom He has created and yet set themselves in opposition to Him either actively or passively!*
- How does specifically does He deal with these rebelling rulers? *To the ones that set themselves against Him, He will set His King (anointed one) against them*

### C. (READ 7-9) Because He will establish a global reign

Text goes further as now the Son-King speaks recalling what God has promised to Him and recalling the Davidic Covenant – *That this Son-King acting on God's behalf will establish a global Kingdom that is unrivaled*

- **What is His inheritance, well what does the Father own?** *The ends of the earth as His rule will extend as far as God's rule which means His inheritance will be the very nations raging against Him*

And his victory over the rebellious rulers will be so devastating it will be like a piece of pottery being slammed to the ground or being smashed with a rod of Iron – **(ILLUSTRATION)** *I made some pottery once for school, I made a Beaver (thought it was easiest cause flat tail in all), I sure would have liked to smash that thing but I gave it as a present to my mom!*

- This shattering recalls images from Genesis where the same term for rod of Iron here is used in Genesis 49:10 Judah's Scepter – *The "SCEPTER shall not depart from Judah... until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples" – This is how devastating this ruler of Judah's victory over those that opposed God and His anointed one – Crushing!*

*One day a Son of David will require the obedience of all the peoples/nations but it will be for their blessing but only in so far as they willingly submit to His kindly rule and stop shaking their finger in His face – that is for Kings and Men!*

### D. (READ 10-12) Because in Him is the only safe place

So rulers be wise and submit to this King – stop rebelling and conspiring and seeking to be autonomous and recognize Him and serve Him and Fear Him and Honor Him and rejoice at Him and Delight (KISS) in Him – *understand that to reject Him is to reject God*

- **How gracious is this and How patient?** *Rebels against the one that Created them can turn back to Him in reverential awe and cry for His mercy that His son might be their refuge/protection – Do this realizing it is for your good and happiness not your slavery – DELIGHT IN THAT!*
  - o **Praise God for His grace and Patience, He is slow to Anger** – *But be warned His wrath and anger do not delay forever and can be quickly kindled, today is the day of Salvation*

And so this Psalm ends where the first one began Happy (Blessed) is the one who flees to the Son for refuge – and in His refuge there is even a promise of redemption from the grave (PS. 49:15)

**Conclusion** – *There is a problem unfortunately all the sons of David fail (and so do we) because we are sinners who cannot live up to the command of Ps. 1 and we like the Israelites are left looking for another King, another Joshua, another from David's line*

- *And then in the 1<sup>st</sup> century there comes another son of David who alone truly meditates on the Law day and Night who would constantly say **my work is to do the will of the one who sent me***
- *Another in the line of Adam who would not be moved by Lucifer but instead would tell Him man does not live by bread alone **but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God** succeeding where both Adam and Israel failed*

- *Another who not only delighted in the Law but also fulfilled the Law – Behold one greater than Moses is here!*
- *Another who was likened to a prosperous Tree (A Vine) that if you are found in Him you will be fruitful*
- *There would be another who was the begotten Son, begotten before the foundation of the World – who was God Himself becoming everything that it meant to be human so that He could become their refuge!*

And in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century the nations took their stand against the anointed one so much so that even Israel herself lined up with the nations against Him – *And they lead the only truly righteous one who would then as the only Law keeper stand in the place of Law breakers as hour after hour He would take the chastisement and punishment that departing from the Law required dying under the weight of God's wrath...*

- **And yet on a Sunday morning like this one that dead King's eyes opened and His heart started beating again and He walked out – Paul says of Him that on that day He was coronated as the rightful King to a global throne as the Firstborn from the DEAD!**

The blessed man of Psalm 1 is the only begotten Son of God in Psalm 2 – Jesus of Nazareth of whom Psalm 2 is applied to over and over again in the NT – And Revelation tells applying this text that soon He will return to rule with a rod of Iron as earthen pots are broken to pieces and Rev. 11:18 says, “*The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants (SERVE), the prophets and saints, and those who fear (FEAR) your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth!*”

- **We read Psalm 2 now realizing the final heir to the throne of David has arrived, the New Joshua is here and He has taken His rightful seat on the global Throne – so be warned Kings and Men, Jesus will either be your refuge or your judgment!**

#### Response:

- **Unbeliever – He is good and He is a refuge and ever present help in troubles – *turn to Him by repentance and faith and take refuge in Him from the wrath to come!* We tell you this because we believe the bible is true and we love you and desire for you to know Him and delight in him as we do!**

**Believer – Oh lets delight in the Son who has imputed His righteous Law-Delighting to us – *Lets want to know Him by delighting in the Scriptures that testify about Him***

- ***And lets carry this message everywhere because He is a global King worthy of Global Praise and Song!!***

It's no wonder the apostles quoted Ps. 2 so much living under Roman rule and to see from Pharaoh on down to Caesar even to present day Isis, rulers have set themselves against God and against His anointed – *that all the plotting against Him in the past and in the future is ultimately folly and lets remind ourselves in a world of hostility where our brothers are being beheaded that there is a day of judgment coming...*

- **A day at which in judgment Pharaoh stands there previously mummified, Caesar stands there previously anointed, and Lucifer stands there previously luminous in all of the throng of judgment – *And just imagine what they will be thinking as they wait and look at the throne possibly thinking to themselves, “you know that king up there looks kind of Jewish.”* And God turns through this one that they raged against and gives Him the right to smash them to pieces!**
- **Oh brothers and sisters the war goes on... but not for Long and that is why we Sing!**

**We sing things like: *At the Cross, at the Cross, where I first saw the light and the burden of my heart rolled away, it was there by faith I received my sight and now I am happy all the day!***