“Allegiance to the King: Happiness in Holiness”

**Ps. 1:1-6**

(notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 1/16/22)

How is it that so many people living in the wealthiest, healthiest, most technologically advanced society are so unhappy? The truth is, our circumstances are not sufficient sources of happiness. True happiness comes from a right relationship with God. True happiness is living out the life He means for you to live. True happiness is marked by an affection for God’s Word and allegiance to God’s anointed King, Jesus Christ.

As we see from Ps. 1:1-6, there are only two kinds of people: the blessed and the perishing. The blessed are those that God **plants, prospers, and preserves.** The blessed live with hopefulness (not worry), courage (not fear), perseverance (not apathy), and peace (not anxiety).

Water brings life, even in a desert. Living in this fallen world is like living in a spiritual desert. But God’s people know a hidden oasis that helps them thrive, be strong, endure, and lead lives of significance. The supply of this oasis may be hidden, but the fruit is apparent (Gal. 5:22-23). Are people asking about the hope that is in you (1Pet. 3:15)? God planted you right now right where you are. Why? What is your purpose in this season of your life? You are an oasis to those around you! You are meant to bear fruit right where you are planted. Don’t grumble **or** gloat- God Himself planted you there! (Q1)

WHY He planted you in your particular spot is equally important: God plants people for His glory (Isa. 61:3). (Q2) Jesus was planted by God to do for you that which you cannot do for yourself- satisfy the wrath of God, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. The Old Testament saints were not saved by law-keeping. The blood of all those sacrifices was not the answer. It was a picture of what God would do through Christ. Jesus imparts life (strength, perseverance, peace, hope, courage) to us. Are you bearing the fruit of this attachment to your Savior? (John 15:5)

God prospers His people. I’m not talking about the false gospel of “name it, claim it”. If you are a planting of God, you produce godliness and holiness. You are planted where you are planted TO REFLECT GOD’S NATURE. Your success is measured by your obedience to God. Only through attachment to Jesus can we bear fruit for His glory. God plants His people and provides everything necessary for their growth (Q3) There are seasons when it doesn’t feel like that, but it’s really not about feelings. Our “leaf doesn’t wither”- we continue to grow in holiness even when it is hard, even in circumstances not of our choosing. Ask yourself: what fruit is God looking to grow in you in this season of your life? How can God be glorified in this season of your life? This world is not your home. Be the best ambassador you can be in the spot He has planted you! (2Cor. 5:20-21)

God preserves His people- their “leaf shall not wither.” But it is not so with the ungodly. They don’t live in allegiance to the King. They ignore His ways. We share the same planet right now, but one day the righteous and the ungodly will never be seen together again! With this truth in mind, do you really believe that the mission of sharing the gospel is important? Read Ps. 1:5-6, Matt. 15:13, and John 3:16-19. You see, the promise and the warning go together. God calls us to forsake our own way because it really is all about Him (Rom. 11:36).

God plants, prospers, and preserves His people. Our purpose is to LIVE as those who are the planting of the Lord for His glory. May we prosper and grow to make the work of Christ known to all the world around us. Amen. (Q4)

**QUESTIONS**:

1. Read Ps. 1:3-6 and Jer. 17:5-8. Specifically, what should we do to live? Specifically, what should we not do?
2. (personal question) How do your priorities this year bring glory to God?
3. What do we need to grow as a Christians?
4. How does Psalm 1 point to Jesus?

“I Know Whom I Have Believed” (Whittle)

1. I know not why God’s wondrous grace  
   To me He hath made known,  
   Nor why, unworthy, Christ in love  
   Redeemed me for His own.
   * Refrain:  
     But “I know Whom I have believed,  
     And am persuaded that He is able  
     To keep that which I’ve committed  
     Unto Him against that day.”
2. I know not how the Spirit moves,  
   Convincing men of sin,  
   Revealing Jesus through the Word,  
   Creating faith in Him.
3. I know not what of good or ill  
   May be reserved for me,  
   Of weary ways or golden days,  
   Before His face I see.
4. I know not when my Lord may come,  
   At night or noonday fair,  
   Nor if I walk the vale with Him,  
   Or meet Him in the air.