

THE BLESSED MAN

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful: But his delight is in the law of the Lord. And in His law he meditates day and night”. (Psalm 1: 1-2)

It is significant that this book of blessed meditations, many of which are set to music and sung, begins with a contrast between the two men who comprise the whole of humanity. While there is an infinite variety in the human race, the contrast set forth here are the only ones that matter after all is said and done. Every person fits in one of the two categories: the godly or the ungodly. While we may not consider ourselves overly religious or religious at all, we cannot escape the fact that we are either godly or ungodly. If I am not a God-fearing man, I am an ungodly one. One cannot be a “good” man and an ungodly one, for the word “good” is derived from the word “God”. None is good but God, and nothing can make us good other than God. If we are uncomfortable with the category of the ungodly, then we must flee to God, and look to Him to make us godly.

The first thing God does for a person who comes to him is framed in the negative sense. God subtracts something from that seeker which must utterly change him from the inside out. Although these changes shake out as externals, they reflect what a person is, and they must be ordered by the inner man. Three things are unfailing indicators of any person: His walk, his stand, and his seat.

The godly man declines to walk in the counsel of the ungodly. This is the ungodly counsel walked in by most of the human race. The sources of ungodly counsel vastly outnumber that of the godly. Godly parents are rare. Godly schools and universities are virtually non-existent. Landscapes of villages and cities are adorned with church steeples, and ornate religious architecture, but the flocks of the living God are small, unimpressive and often in obscure places. If I have been privileged to be counseled and taught by the godly, I am unspeakably blessed above the multitudes who have not.

The godly man will not be found taking his stand in the paths of sinners. We chart our courses and take our stands according to what we have learned from whom we have been counseled. If our light is darkness, then we shall walk in darkness. God’s people are called children of light, and they walk in the Light of the world which is Christ.

We must ultimately take our rest, be seated, in what we have learned and where we have walked. They who have been taught and counseled by the ungodly and, consequently, have taken their stand in the paths of the sinners of this world, will occupy the seat of scorners. Scorners have never been humbled. All they have encountered by their choices has done nothing to humble them.

How blessed then is the life and the fruit of the godly! He has been planted in the soil nourished by rivers of living waters flowing from the throne of the Almighty. The sweet fragrance of Christ wafts from the blossoms of humility and grace rising up in his soul. The chill winds of autumn will not find his leaf withering in old age. His will have been a prosperous life.

– C. M.