



The Caller

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Confidence Corner

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we want to look at the phrase "O the happiness of that one." Of course, that phrase is Young's Literal translation of Psalm 1:1a. In most standard translations we read, "Blessed is the man." The happiness of the man, as we read verses one and two, is found in both not following the ways of the wicked as well as in having his delight in the law of the LORD in which he meditates day and night.

The Hebrew noun, *אֲשֶׁר* is an abstract plural. The word often refers by metonymy to the happiness that God-given security and prosperity produce (see v. 3; Psalm 2:12; 34:9; 41:1; 65:4; 84:12; 89:15; 106:3; 112:1; 127:5; 128:1; 144:15). Such happiness is the result of the man's continued decision to make these good choices. The three perfect verbal forms in v. 1 translated as "walk stand and sit" envisions a person who does not identify with the sinners wholly or even casually.

This happy man does not take the advice of the wicked. He does not associate with them in their sinful behavior. The happy man does not gather or associate with the arrogant who love conflict and argument. He understands there is no value in such vain efforts. He is wise in each of these choices.

Are we happy today? If not, why are we not happy? Could it be we are not separating ourselves enough from sin? Do we enjoy conflict? The arrogant will always bring us down. Meditation upon the Word of God will always bring us delight. I pray for your happiness at this time especially. May you find it in God.

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At the Thirteenth of Matthew's Gospel, the Savior related a parable of a man whose enemy sowed tares in his wheat field. The cruelty of such a thing lies in the fact that tares resemble wheat early in their growth, and it is not until they have matured that their true nature is known. Their ingestion can result in lethargy, illness, or death. The man did well to sow the good wheat but failed to protect it from an enemy's attack. Though, ultimately, the wheat would be harvested while the tares would be destroyed, a man does well to not only start his work, but to finish it, and to never regard previous accomplishments to suffice for the present. It should be noted that the tares were sown while the men slept.

David Hayes Prophater at GBN

What Does This Shelter in Place Mean to You

My heart breaks for those greatly impacted by the coronavirus itself or by the decisions that have been made in an effort to fend off the coronavirus. We have loved ones (brothers and sisters in Christ) who have contracted the virus (Russell and Tracy Kline and others). We have had those who dream of their wedding day facing sadness and some even postponement. We have had many significantly impacted by the loss of jobs and incomes. For all of these people, I have shed tears while praying.

There are others who are impacted in other ways. Their plight brings me great sorrow. Many of those who long for the weather to break so that they may safely travel about have found their winter hibernation extended. Their health is too much at risk to ignore the potential illness that could bring their death. Because they are unable to move about, discouragement begins to take hold of their minds.

I think of the medical personnel coming in contact with those who may or may not have the disease and then returning home to their little ones at home. There are workers in essential stores who are placing themselves at risk because it is near impossible to know if those who are in their places of work might be carriers of Covid 19. These are many of, but not close to all, the ways people are suffering mentally and physically from the coronavirus.

Consider just a few of the ways this virus has also impacted the Church. Elders have had to pray and struggle with decisions they never envisioned when they agreed to their labor of love. For them, they probably have a greater understanding of Paul's comment regarding the suffering that one has over the daily concern for the Church. Who knows how all the pressure is impacting our spiritual leaders.

In a time when emotions run high many have taken to the pages of social media. Some seem to indicate they have all the answers yet few seem to agree. The anger that seems to spew in some of the writings seems unlikely...unlikely until we realize we don't really know how we will react when we are facing the unknown. I do think what Matt Cook said one time is fitting to consider right now...sometimes those who are unloving right now are the ones who need love and mercy extended to them the most. Many are simply searching and are genuinely concerned. I watch and I wonder, how we will come out of this pandemic...not physically so much as spiritually. Will there be hurts that carry over after the threat is gone?

I know this article is mainly just a string of thoughts but I hope you will allow me this bit of therapy. I needed someone with which to share these thoughts. I share them with God daily but wanted a place where at least some of my random thoughts were recorded so that when I look back on 2020, I will remember what I actually felt, not simply what I think I remember thinking. My most comforting thought that reigns during all this time is the gratitude I feel when I know The LORD is my Shepherd.

John F Board

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