

June 9, 1994, Evening Sacrifice Boston
The Upright & The Underground

Have you ever read Psalm 1? We're going to talk about the two different ways of people who live in the Community. This Psalm is not talking about Christianity and sinners or the Philistines and Israel — but it is talking about us (Israel). In verse 5 — the Congregation is the Edah (712 in the Hebrew text = Community or Church).

This Psalm talks about two contrasting ways — the way of the upright and the way of those who have an underground. The underground are those who say, "Don't tell on me — Don't get me in trouble — Don't even say anything about this!" This is a wicked person in the Edah.

Verse 1 — is speaking about the wicked, the underground ("*Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of those who don't live by the spirit.*") They have the law, but don't live by it. They are lawless, wicked, the underground, sinners — those who know what to do and don't do it — not walking according to the Spirit. This is a sinner — one who is not walking according to the Spirit. This is a sinner — one who is not in fellowship. Do not sit in the seat of mockers. A SEAT — a place, to associate with, to take company with. A mocker is one who makes fun of other foolish people. If you associate with such people you are no better than they are. This is the way of the first person, spoken of in verse 4-6.

But the way of the second man (verse 1-3) is that his delight is in the instruction (the word) of our Master. He meditates on it day and night. TO MEDITATE — to go over and over something, to understand what something is saying. He is like a tree planted by a stream — he prospers in whatever he does. This is an amazing and wonderful thing. I want to be that kind of person — who prospers in whatever he does. The tree's roots go deep down into good soil. The water comes up and nourishes the tree, causing it to produce luscious fruit. If the tree is not planted in the good soil, it will dry up and produce nothing.

I'm so thankful that I see that in my own personal life that I could actually be one who prospers in everything I do! That I can be full of sap and very green — one who keeps on producing life like a 100 year old tree.

This is not so with the wicked who live in the Edah — they go another way. The lawless are like chaff that the wind blows away (verse 4). Chaff is the useless part of the wheat. It doesn't mean they are chaff, but they are like chaff — like those they associate with — not those who walk and live according to the Holy Spirit (the wind that blows the chaff). They are under control of the prince of the air — they have no weight or glory, and what they say is foolishness — they are not connected.

Open Lifestyle vs. The Underground

Therefore the wicked won't stand in the day of judgment — they won't be able to stand without their knees buckling, fear gripping them, — they will melt like wax. They will shrink back from Him 1 John 2:28. Pray or beg that you'll be able to stand in that day of judgment with confidence Luke 21:36. We will stand if our hearts are towards Him. Paul had confidence. We can have this confidence too if there is nothing hidden (unconfessed) in our lives. Some people's sin will follow them to judgment — their sin will find them out. We should rather expose our sin now, but some will wait until the judgment — living in fear of this exposure.

The wicked (in the Edah) will not stand in the assembly of the congregation (which translated means Community). In verse 5 it talks about the wicked who are in the Community, but who will not be able to be a part of the assembly of the righteous. For in verse 6 — it says that Yahweh watches over the way of the righteous (he prospers in everything he does), but the way of the wicked will perish.

Mt 7:13,14 — These verses are instruction for us in the Community — how to enter the Kingdom. Strive to enter by the narrow gate Lk 13:23-24. These verses are not talking about people in the world — but in the community. In the Bible everything talks about the Kingdom — the broad and the narrow way. Many will try, but will not enter. We have to strive to enter — if we merely try, we won't do it! But we have to exert everything in us to do it. Our Father wants to find out those who love Him and those who don't. He already knows, but He wants to prove it. The way of the wicked will perish (Psalm 1:6).

The righteous — Those who honor Him and in all their ways walk upright — in walking, speaking, dealing — in all their ways in every human relationship they have. They are loving and faithfully fulfilling the law of God — If we meditate on His Word, we will do that. Psalm 1 talks about 2 kinds of life-styles in the Body. Those who walk in one way (the righteous) are destined for the Kingdom, and the other way (of the underground, the wicked) will cause those people to be turned over to corrective punishment until they can be willing to do His will because we have His Spirit, and even if it takes 1,000 years for some of us to come to that place — He'll do it. If we can't judge ourselves, we'll get sick and die. We have to be careful — live by the spirit, working out your salvation with fear and trembling — having self mistrust — checking yourself — praying for grace. We say, "Father, am I in Your will? Am I walking in Your way? Am I pleasing You?" When temptation comes we pray for grace and don't wait until we fall — because He loves us and wants to help us — we just have to ask for His grace.

It's wonderful that Psalm 1 starts this way — "*Blessed is the man . . .*" — these things are written for His people. It is so clear, and we see it aimed at ourselves. Christians say, "Those sinners!" They are deceitful in how they translate the Scriptures — don't see it talking about them. We are not supposed to stand in the way of sinners, but have salt. Say, "Okay brothers, that's enough Godless chatter — it will only lead to further ungodliness."

Psalm 2 — talks about us — in this time, this century — what will happen to us when the nations will rage against us. It is written for our instruction (not old Israel) on whom the ends of the ages will be fulfilled. Those who fall deserve the 9 million hours of discipline. It's not His fault, but ours, because we don't pay attention or listen — we walk in the way of sinners. You'll either be in the Kingdom or be separated from Him depending on the choices you made. Rev 22:14 — We'll be in the holy city because we washed our robes. Rev 19:7-8 — If we don't wash our robes, we won't be ready or worthy then to be the bride of the Lamb. If you're lawless, you won't walk in the works prepared for you (because you're fooling around — not being prepared). In Dan 12:2,3,10 — We see ourselves (not talking about the world) — this is a picture of the Edah.

EVERLASTING — means age lasting — life or shame — we will go to age-lasting contempt or

life. At the 1st resurrection we'll be judged (not Hitler, but us) — everyone whose name is written in the Lamb's book of life. In that day many will be found purified and made ready for Him having been refined.

The Wise and The Wicked

If we are wise we will walk in His ways and we will shine as the firmament (have glory). But the wicked will do wicked things and won't understand. They're not acutely aware of what's going on in the Body. Mal 3:3 — Talks about acceptable offerings. He can't receive deeds done in the flesh — lawless deeds. We are offering our bodies — our deeds done in righteousness. Our robes will be made white by our righteous deeds — by our wanting to do His will.

It is so wonderful that our Father can reveal these things to us so we won't have to go to death.

When we feel bad we can go to the throne of grace. It's good we can feel guilt — it's like death.

We must learn to avoid it at all cost (if we don't it will only get worse).

His Word is a light to our feet. We don't have to listen to the devil — and go in his strength. Tell him to go — tell him he's a liar! Go to your Father and tell Him you want Him and want to stand with Him.