

## **Selected Reformation Readings**

“Abel’s sacrifice was for no other reason preferable to that of his brother, except that it was sanctified by faith: for surely the fat of brute animals did not smell so sweetly, that it could, by its odour, pacify God. The Scripture indeed shews plainly, why God accepted his sacrifice, for Moses’s words were these, ‘God had respect to Abel, and to his gifts.’ It is hence obvious to conclude, that his sacrifice was accepted, because he himself was graciously accepted. But how did he obtain his favour, except that his heart was purified by faith.

‘God testifying...’ He confirms what I have already stated, that no works, coming from us, can please God, until we ourselves are received into favour, or to speak more briefly, that no works are deemed just before God, but those of a just man: for he reasons thus,—God bore a testimony to Abel’s gifts; then he had obtained the praise of being just before God.

This doctrine is useful, and ought especially to be noticed, as we are not easily convinced of its truth; for when in any work, anything splendid appears, we are immediately rapt in admiration, and we think that it cannot possibly be disapproved of by God: but God, who regards only the inward purity of the heart, heeds not the outwards masks of works. Let us then learn, that no right or good work can proceed from us, until we are justified before God.”

~ Excerpt from *Calvin’s Commentaries (Hebrews 11:4)*

by John Calvin (1509-1564)

# Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, July 19, 2020

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

## Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Psalm 40:1-5

Song #98 ~ I Waited Patiently for God (Psalm 40)

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Leviticus 20:1-27

Song #119 ~ I Hear the Words of Love

Prayer

Sermon ~ Psalm 1:1-3

Prayer

Lord’s Supper

Song ~ The Look

Jeremiah 14:22

Are there any among the idols of the nations who give rain?  
Or can the heavens grant showers? Is it not You, O Lord our  
God? Therefore, we hope in You, for You are the One who  
has done all these things.

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# Text: Psalm 1:1-3

Theme: The blessed person.

Introduction: Notice the comparison between Psalm 1 & Rom. 12:2.

## Psalm 1:1-3

Not walking with the wicked

Delights in God's Law

Result: Like a tree by the rivers

## Romans 12:2

Not conformed to this world

Renews the mind

Result: Proves God's will

I) The blessed life is available for every Christian.

To be blessed is to be satisfied with God's presence (cf. Psalm 65:4).

A. The blessed person refrains from the wicked (1:1; 40:4).

1. Psalm 1 identifies a natural movement towards sin (i.e. walking, standing, sitting). If you desire the blessing in Psalm 1, you cannot reject the holy living.
2. Blessing cannot be separated from holiness.
3. Prior to salvation, this wicked lifestyle described each of us (Psalm 32:1-2; cf. Eph. 2:1).

B. The blessed person delights in the Law of the Lord (1:2).

1. The Law of the Lord is broad (Psalm 19:7-10).
2. The Law of the Lord is contrasted with walking, standing, and sitting with the wicked.
3. When you change your delight, there is a natural change that takes place. Holy living cannot be separated from a delight in God's Word.

4. Do you delight in God's Law? This sort of delight cannot be fabricated. You can only delight in God's Law when you taste and see that He is good (Psalm 34:8). Only when you understand the "mercies of God" from Romans 1-11 and understand that you have been forgiven (Psalm 32:1), can you delight in His Law.

C. The blessed person meditates on God's Law (1:2).

1. When you compare Psalm 1:2-3 with Jeremiah 17:7-8, there is a close connection with trusting and delighting or meditating. To meditate on God's Law is to take those truths and trust.

2. To meditate is to repeat these truths day and night.

3. What truths are you meditating on? Do you find yourself enraptured with a truth from God's Word? In order for this to happen, you must study His Word. And when you do, you will find yourself delighting in the truths about God, and about His salvation.

D. The blessed person is like a fruitful tree (1:3).

1. The fruit he produces is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). When the difficulties come, this is the fruit of the blessed person. Does this resemble the fruit in your life? If not, you are not the blessed person. You are not delighting in His Law.

2. It may seem like the wicked prosper (Psalm 37:7-9), but in the end the righteous prosper (Romans 8:32-39).