

Sunday Night Message

June 3, 2012

The Success System

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 1

Congregational Reading – Psalm 1

Introduction

Illustration – Mani in the lobby of the Ramada Inn reading “The Success System” – The thought immediately occurred to me that the Bible is the real success system. Psalm 1, in particular, is one of many places in the Word of God where a recipe, or a formula for success is given.

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." - (Joshua 1:8)

Psalm 1 is a miniature of the entire Book, and it God gives us the secret to success.

Do you want to be successful?

Do you want to be successful in the will of God?

Do you want your children to be successful?

God has a recipe for success contained here in Psalm 1.

Illustration - Explain my recipe for Mississippi Delta cathead biscuits.

I must warn you, however, that God's definition of success will be different than what this world may have told you.

Accumulation of Wealth

Acquisition of Toys

Achieving a prominent position or power

You may achieve all of these things, and they are not necessarily bad things; but they do not mean you are successful in God's eyes.

A guy who is truly successful in the eyes of the Lord may have had to sacrifice a better position at the job, because of his commitment to the Lord.

A truly successful person may be one who cannot afford all of the extras in life, but he doesn't rob God either in order to get them. He may not be able to afford the new car or a more expensive house, or a trip; but his tithe check is always there, and the missionaries are getting their promised offering.

Someone once said,

"There is something worse than failing before men, and that is succeeding in something that doesn't matter to God."

Webster says that success is favorable or prosperous termination of anything attempted – a termination which answers the purpose intended.

Well, if our intended purpose is to fulfill the will of God in our lives, then all we need to do is understand and obey the instructions contained here in Psalm 1.

What is the purpose of a Christian? What are you here for?

1 **To glorify God** – make God look good

This generation of man is certainly not glorifying God.

"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." - (Romans 1:21)

2 **To be Christ's ambassador to this lost world**

"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God

did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." - (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

3 To fulfill the Great Commission

Parents, your goal is to raise children that will do these three things.

By the way, this psalm will not just tell you how to be prosperous, it will tell you how to be happy. "Blessed" means – "O how happy"

Transition

So what does the recipe say about achieving real, eternal success and prosperity in the eyes of the only one that really matters.

I Detaching from the World

We start out negative.

We don't like to talk about separation anymore. It is almost a forgotten concept among many Christians and churches today. But God wants us to unplug from the influence that this world holds on us.

We are commanded to "love not the world", yet if we were to be really honest, we would have to admit that this world, and all of the dainties that it offers holds most of us spellbound. We are enamored by it. The world dictates the way we dress, and the things that we do. It determines what is acceptable, and what isn't.

Illustrate – Homosexuality – what the world thought twenty years ago, and what it thinks today.

The church is right behind the world.

Turn to:

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and

touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." - (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

Joshua said, Choose you this day whom ye will serve:

Moses said, Who is on the Lord's side?

Elijah said, How long halt ye between two opinions?

Either we are for God or not. Either we believe the Bible or we don't.

Jesus said He gets sick when we are luke-warm.

This world has turned us into a bunch of luke-warm Christians.

The world has so permeated our thinking that we filter the Bible through the philosophy of the world, instead of judging what the world teaches against the perfect law of liberty.

It's supposed to be the other way around:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." - (Romans 12:1-2)

"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God," - (Romans 1:1)

Regarding this matter of separation, God says here that a man that is to be blessed of God will refrain from these three progressions of carnality:

1 walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly

Counsel is advice, philosophy, or doctrine (teaching).

That is why I will not put my child in a public school.

You want to learn how to manage your finances? or raise your children? You want to learn how to be a better husband or a better wife? Don't go to the world – go to God.

2 nor standeth in the way of sinners

a way is like a road – a course of life. Now you are no longer just listening to their opinions, but you are following their examples. It has gone beyond mere thought, and extended into actions.

People who are standing in the way of sinners are have made a deliberate decision to rebel against the authority of God. They have excluded God from their life, and have chose to follow whatever may seem good unto them; but they no longer have any moral compass, other than self or peer pressure to guide them.

3 sitteth in the seat of the scornful

The scornful have taken it a step further. They are not only just doing their thing; they are openly attacking anyone who is trying to live for God. They are activists. They have become ambassadors for Satan. They are on a mission to get rid of God.

"A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth." - (Proverbs 14:6)

"Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease." - (Proverbs 22:10)

"The thought of foolishness is sin: and the scorner is an abomination to men." - (Proverbs 24:9)

II Delighting in the Word

He delights in it

Illustrate – my children

He meditates in it

Illustrate – also my family – I think about them all of the time.

Reading the Bible devotionally

Studying the Bible – *study to shew thyself approved unto God*

On your own and corporately

Memorizing the Bible

Family Devotions

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates." - (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

Preaching

Everything we know about God, we know from His Word. You cannot get close to God; you cannot understand His will unless you are in love with His Word.

Conclusion

You decide what is the best route to follow.

The godly man in v 3

Planted – rooted; firmly entrenched – not going anywhere

Fruitful – both kinds

His leaf shall not wither – he doesn't quit – he stays in the battle

Illustrate – weeds – grow like crazy, but die quickly

Prosperous – in all areas – in his Christian service; in his secular vocation; in his family

Blessed – very happy

The ungodly man vv 4 – 5

He will not last – His philosophies will fail – His life will ultimately be miserable.