



The Way - Trusting In God's Sovereignty

Key idea:

To walk in God's Way while surrounded by those who reject it, God's people must learn to trust in His Sovereignty, knowing He rules all things and will fulfill His Word.

Key text:

Psalm 1

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. ⁴ Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. ⁶ For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Psalm 2

Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? ² The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One. ³ "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters." ⁴ The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. ⁵ Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, ⁶ "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill." ⁷ I will proclaim the decree of the Lord: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father. ⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. ⁹ You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery." ¹⁰ Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. ¹¹ Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling. ¹² Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Key points:

1. Psalm 1 teaches God's people to expect opposition from the individuals around them who will exert peer pressure to get us to compromise.

2. Psalm 2 teaches God's people to expect opposition from those with authority who will use their power to get us to compromise.
3. Psalm 1 promises that God will bless me even when I am surrounded by those who mock Him and His way.
4. Psalm 2 promises me that God Sovereignly rules over the nations and history, and will accomplish all He has promised.
5. To faithfully walk in God's Way, we must learn to trust in God's Sovereignty.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. In my experience, do I feel like I am surrounded by those who encourage me to walk in the ways of God, by those who do not care, or those who pressure me to not walk faithfully in God's Way?
3. Can I think of specific instances where an individual or group attempted to get me to compromise my walk in the way? How did I respond?
4. Why is peer pressure such a temptation for me? Why do I want the approval of others? Why do I fear their disapproval?
5. What specific areas do I see the rulers of our nation trying to pressure me to abandon the Way and to embrace wickedness?
6. As I consider the future, do I think the government is more likely to become friendly God's Way or to increase pressure to not walk in God's Way? Why do I think this?
7. When I consider potential ways I might be penalized or persecuted for walking in the Way, which ones seem most likely? Which ones create the most anxiety and worry for me?
8. How can I prepare now for potential pressure so that I might walk faithfully before God?
9. Who will I call or see to encourage this week?

For Further Study:

[My Only Comfort - Part 2](#) (May 10, 2020)

[Every Square Inch](#) (September 26, 2010)

[God's Sovereignty Over Human History](#) (July 5, 2009)

[God's Eternal Plan](#) (March 4, 2007)

[In the Valley of Tears](#) (August 7, 2005)

Preview of next week: You Belong (1 Peter 2:9-10)