

## True Success Psalm 1

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

When we see old friends, they \_\_\_\_\_ us about our lives, our health, and our families. What if our old friends asked us about our \_\_\_\_\_ lives? What would you say? The Scriptures contain the \_\_\_\_\_ of life and godliness. David said this about the laws and teaching of God, “More to be \_\_\_\_\_ are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb” (Psalm 19:10). The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field and like a pearl of great price. To be in the kingdom of heaven will one day be the \_\_\_\_\_ important thing in your life. The Bible gives us God’s \_\_\_\_\_ to eternal life and an eternal home. Nothing else is so valuable.

Several years ago at breakfast, an old, dear friend and elder, Jerry Snyder, cited 3 John 2, which says, “Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your \_\_\_\_\_.” Then he asked me a question that I recall to this very day. He didn’t ask about my health, my family, or my ministry. He asked, “How is your soul doing?” That caught my attention! No one had ever asked me that before. Before anything else, my soul was what he was interested in; and so it is with God. How is your soul doing?

John prayed for Gaius, that his health and life would prosper, but that they would prosper to the \_\_\_\_\_ extent that his soul prospered. How would you be doing if your health and your prosperity were equivalent to your soul’s prosperity? Would you have good health, or would you be sick? Would you live in prosperity or would you be in poverty? You can lose your health and wealth; but if you lose your soul, you’ve lost all \_\_\_\_\_ of living with God eternally. How is your soul doing?

### **Our reading today comes from Psalm 1.**

Your spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ is in direct proportion to your relationship with God. Some are \_\_\_\_\_ to God and love Him with all their heart. Others \_\_\_\_\_ away from God and forget Him. Some have \_\_\_\_\_ come to know the Lord Himself or what He’s done for them. I fear our society so concentrates on what we \_\_\_\_\_ that we’ve forgotten God.

Moses warned Israel, “Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my \_\_\_\_\_ have gotten me this wealth.’ You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you \_\_\_\_\_ to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day. And if you \_\_\_\_\_ the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely \_\_\_\_\_. Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so shall you perish, because you would not \_\_\_\_\_ the voice of the LORD your God” (Deuteronomy 8:17-20).

When people forget God, they \_\_\_\_\_ self-centered and self-serving. Remember the Tower of Babel. The people \_\_\_\_\_ God's command to multiply and fill the earth but decided to remain where they were. Genesis 11:4 says, "Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a \_\_\_\_\_ for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.'" God confused their \_\_\_\_\_, and scattered the people abroad. They were not too great for God to \_\_\_\_\_.

I think of Nebuchadnezzar, the ruler of the world in the time of Daniel. Daniel 4 tells of this king's self-fulfilling \_\_\_\_\_. Nebuchadnezzar grew \_\_\_\_\_ of all his accomplishments and he forgot to give \_\_\_\_\_ to God. **Read Daniel 4:29-33.** At the end of the time prescribed, Nebuchadnezzar \_\_\_\_\_ to give glory to God and was restored to his place as king. We too must not think too highly of ourselves. First Corinthians 4:7 asks, "What do you have that you did not receive?"

I'm also reminded of the story of Herod in Acts 12. "On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an \_\_\_\_\_ to them. And the people were shouting, 'The voice of a \_\_\_\_\_, and not of a man!' Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the \_\_\_\_\_, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last" (Acts 12:20-23). God has a thousand ways to \_\_\_\_\_ a man or a woman who grows arrogant.

Then we ask, "What happens when people \_\_\_\_\_ in God and rely upon Him?" These are folks who know God's love and care. I am reminded of Joseph when he was \_\_\_\_\_ into slavery in Egypt by his brothers. Genesis 39:2-5 says, "The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a \_\_\_\_\_ man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in \_\_\_\_\_ of all that he had. From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD \_\_\_\_\_ the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field." Joseph was \_\_\_\_\_ to God, even as a slave.

Potiphar's wife \_\_\_\_\_ charged Joseph with sexual misconduct, and Potiphar had him thrown in prison. Here was a foreign slave thrown in prison on a false charge. You'd think God had \_\_\_\_\_ him. But Genesis 39:21-23 says, "But the LORD was \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in \_\_\_\_\_ of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed." When God is with us, He blesses us even in the harshest of times.

God also blessed King Hezekiah because He \_\_\_\_\_ God. Second Kings 18:3-7 says, "And he (speaking of Hezekiah) did what was \_\_\_\_\_ in the eyes of the LORD, according to

all that David his father had done. He removed the high places and broke the pillars and cut down the Asherah. And he broke in pieces the bronze \_\_\_\_\_ that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it. He trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel, so that there was \_\_\_\_\_ like him among all the kings of Judah after him, nor among those who were before him. For he held fast to the LORD. He did not \_\_\_\_\_ from following him, but kept the commandments that the LORD commanded Moses. And the LORD was with him; wherever he went out, he \_\_\_\_\_.” God was with him and God blesses those who \_\_\_\_\_ Him with all their heart, those who will put away \_\_\_\_\_, and those who will keep His commandments. True success \_\_\_\_\_ with true commitment to the Lord.

We need to consider some \_\_\_\_\_ taught in Scripture. Galatians 6:7-8 says, “Do not be deceived: God is not \_\_\_\_\_, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap \_\_\_\_\_ life.” If we sow spiritually, we’ll reap spiritually; but if we sow to the flesh, we’ll face all kinds of fleshly \_\_\_\_\_.

Moses once cried out from his heart what he wished for Israel. He said, “Oh that they had such a heart as this always, to fear me and to keep all my commandments, that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever!” (Deuteronomy 5:29). Moses wanted the people to be \_\_\_\_\_ committed to the Lord. So he wrote, “Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by \_\_\_\_\_ keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, then your heart (will) be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery” (Deuteronomy 8:11-14).

We must place our trust and our focus on \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord. Psalm 127:1-2 says, “Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in \_\_\_\_\_. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.” It matters whether the Lord is \_\_\_\_\_ us or not, whether the Lord is \_\_\_\_\_ us or not. God says, “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be \_\_\_\_\_ us? He who did not \_\_\_\_\_ his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him (that is, with Jesus) graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:31-32). When God is with us, He graciously \_\_\_\_\_ our prayers and watches over our souls. I don’t want to lose that grace and favor even for a moment.

If I want God to be with me, then I must \_\_\_\_\_ to serve him. Second Chronicles 15:1-2 says, “The Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded, and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, ‘Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: The LORD is with you while you are with him. If you \_\_\_\_\_ him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.’” This was true in the days of Israel, and it’s true today!

Solomon pleaded with his son, “My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart \_\_\_\_\_

my commandments, for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good success in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and man” (Proverbs 3:1-4). We have the \_\_\_\_\_ of God in the words of Scripture. Let’s bind them around our neck and write them in the tablets of our hearts.

Solomon continues in Proverbs 3:5-8, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not \_\_\_\_\_ on your own understanding. In all your \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not \_\_\_\_\_ in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.” When the Lord is with us, we can have confidence that He will work for our \_\_\_\_\_ interests. Romans 8:28 says, “And we know (not we think, we know) that for those who love God all things work together for \_\_\_\_\_, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

You might say, “I’m doing my best to serve the Lord, but my life is certainly not \_\_\_\_\_.” One’s bank account and physical health don’t necessarily \_\_\_\_\_ one’s spiritual health. You can be strong and you can be rich in \_\_\_\_\_ whether you have good health and financial prosperity or not. In Revelation 2, the church in Smyrna had tribulation and poverty, but Jesus called them \_\_\_\_\_. The Lord told the church in Laodicea, “For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I \_\_\_\_\_ nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked” (Revelation 3:17). True success can include good health and wealth, but the \_\_\_\_\_ rich person is one who places his hope and his trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Have you? Psalm 1:1-6 says, “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his \_\_\_\_\_ is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he \_\_\_\_\_. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.”

Some follow the way of sin, thinking it will give them pleasure. They listen to the counsel of the wicked, take their place among the sinners, and ultimately scoff at God. The truly successful person delights in God and in His teaching; he meditates on it day and night. This person prospers and flourishes rather than withers because he stays close to the giver of life, God Himself. Are you close to God? Do you delight in God’s word? How is your soul prospering?

If you wish to be right with God, you must first \_\_\_\_\_ to His Word and believe what He teaches. Faith in and love for Jesus Christ will lead you to \_\_\_\_\_ in the truth. A person who loves Him will \_\_\_\_\_ of sin and change his heart and he’ll want to follow the Lord. He’ll gladly \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ is the Son of God to anyone and everyone. He will lovingly put the Lord on in baptism. When a person baptized into Christ he \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ’s authority by being immersed in water for the forgiveness of his sins. Oh, I hope you’ll do that today!