**Delighting in Scripture (Psalms 1:1-3)**

 Your true joy is found in living according to the Law of God. God had gotten His people used to understanding the indispensability of His messages in their lives. For God, life is very simple, as it should be with us as well. Either you live according to God’s Law, or you live outside of God’s Law. Those considered righteous belong to the first group, and the wicked – the second group. Today, as we experience a taste of the first chapter of the Psalms, which itself is an introduction to the whole book of Psalms (or Psalter), we are going to see just how important it is for a person to follow God’s path. Therefore, we are going to examine the text to see what results are brought about by following God’s Law in our lives. Your true joy is found in living according to the Law of God. Let us speak, therefore, about this joy…

 Live a blessed life! Do not stray from the Bible! As we were mentioning above, God had trained the people into understanding the secret of living a holy life in a simple manner. Either they were going to walk with God or walk with the false idols. Following God’s Word entailed that they stayed apart from evil people. It meant that they were not to work with those that were willingly surrendered to a lifestyle of sin. Especially, and this is the worst scenario of them all, they were not to have anything to do with those who were directly enemies with God, those who were scoffers of God and His people.

 Those who find their joy in the Law of God had and have today a totally different life. They are not only like the average tree that is planted by streams, but more specifically, they’re like the Tree of Life that we find in the Garden of Eden, as well as the book of Revelation. This tree gives its fruit at the right times, and it gives them for the benefit of the many peoples all around, according to Revelation. That tree’s nutrient receiving system, its leaves, which convert light into sugar and receives its strength from that process, do not dry out, and for that reason are always helping its surrounding peoples and creatures. Similarly, the human being who is planted by waters, in other words the Word of God, just like the Tree of Life is, will always find and cause success, blessing, emancipation, victory over evil and benefit for him or herself and the surrounding peoples.

 Let us remember for a moment the heroes of the Bible who remained faithful to God and His Word: For example, Joseph stayed faithful to God and became the means of salvation and survival for his people (in Egypt). Let us remember David, who even after he sinned, was called a man after God’s own heart by God Himself. Let us remember King Josiah, who, upon hearing the Word of God read to him, called the entire Kingdom to repentance unto God. Or, let us remember the Prophet Daniel, who did not stray even a little bit from his prayer life when a law was established in the land that opposed and threatened his faith expression. Or, how about we remember John the Baptist who was so obedient to the Lord that when his time of ministry had been fulfilled, he expressed a desire for Jesus to grow in reputation and for him to diminish… Again, I remind you: Your true joy is found in living according to the Law of God.

 Today, God wants to call us as well to order our life according to His Word. If we have not separated ourselves from evil people and workers of evil, now is the time. If we are still hanging out with unrepentant and unbelieving people and they refuse to change their ways, we are called to be led prayerfully and consider those people as needing salvation, and not as friends with whom spending time is in any way good for us. If there are those who mock our faith around us, let us clarify our faith and our stance to them, as well as call them to repentance. Not only that but let us make sure that our spiritual nourishment comes from the Bible! Let God’s Law be our most important law – this is because it is only with God that we will grow spiritually, and only through Him that we will find meaning and the optimal fruits of our lives. By living according to God’s Word, we will see the blessings of His salvation and the blessings and fruits of His Presence. Your true joy is found in living according to the Law of God.

 If you receive your information through reading, or listening to the radio, or watching television, or through using other means, make sure that what you hear, read, or see are consistent with the messages contained within the Bible. May our nourishment come from God’s Law, His Holy Law. Live a blessed life! Do not stray from the Bible!

 Therefore, be separate from sources that cause you to sin – especially do not befriend the unrepentant and those who oppose God. Rather, be serious and dedicated to Jesus in your spiritual life and serve all according to that holy lifestyle and be a blessing to your circles. Your true joy is found in living according to the Law of God.

 The Word of God is a source of blessing – if you follow it, your life will be fruitful.

 The Lord bless you all. Amen.