

TRUE SIGNIFICANCE

Psalm 1

*His delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.*

—Ps. 1:2

If my life is going to count, if I'm to make a difference in my world, then I'll walk with those who can build up my faith. I'll concentrate on the law of God—all His precepts.

If you're at all like me, you can do without the distraction of critical, negative, or indifferent people in your life. You don't need to listen to those who try to persuade you with every new intellectual fad or spiritual philosophy that comes along. Life is challenging—and so “daily,” as some put it—that sometimes it's only because of the grounding I receive in God's Word and the delight that comes to me through His promises that I'm able to make it at all! Sound familiar?

Today we begin a trek through the ancient Book of Psalms, Israel's original hymn book and the world's greatest worship treasury. The Psalms open with a benediction and the word “blessed.” The actual Hebrew word used here for “blessed” is *'asher*. It indicates happiness sort of as an exclamation, as in “How happy!” It implies happiness that bubbles over into every aspect of life, so much so that others can't help but notice. Interestingly, this word is closely related to and is actually derived from another Hebrew word, *'ashar*, meaning “to be straight or level; to go forward; to be honest—to prosper.”

I would like to think my life is marked by some type of significance—in my work, my relationships, and my family. We probably all yearn for happiness and for prosperity, but deep inside, don't you long for life to really count for something? I'm finding that happiness and prosperity are the inevitable byproducts of a life rooted and established in God's Word—not happiness and prosperi-

ty as the world defines them, but characteristics that grow in us as God orders our attitudes and increases our hunger not only for His Word but also for Him. And in Him is our true significance.

Prayer: *God, please fill me fresh again with your Spirit, and plant me firm in your Word. Help my relationships be significant and my worship authentic. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.*

Thought for the Day: We will be called truly blessed when we've drunk from the "fount of every blessing."