

Sermon Series: “Songs for the Seasons of Life”– Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN— 4/20/2008 (Confirmation)

Title: “The Song of Single-mindedness”

Text: Psalm 1

Intro: *Ills.: Why do we sing school fight songs? Expression of our devotion and single-mindedness*

Theme: Singing the daily song of faith in Jesus is practiced in concrete ways when we intentionally choose to devote ourselves to allowing Him to direct our life purpose and our daily priorities and choices.

Knowing what daily life in Christ looks like it

- Knowing what a believer’s life is not
 1. David says, “These are three things that the child of God “***never begins to do***” (**vs. 1**)
 2. ***Does not walk in the counsel of the wicked*** (*Bad company corrupts good character. 1 Cor. 15: 33*)
 3. ***Does not stand in the way of sinners*** – not “loitering” in a way of life inconsistent (***missing the mark***) w/Christ
 - a. **Ills.: Friends Can Cause Obesity**
 4. ***Does not sit in the seat of scoffers*** – not talking about healthy questions, but not dwelling in cynicism/skepticism
 - a. Counter-culture agents to a present culture around us majoring in cynical skepticism of all truth and authority
 - b. *He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. James 1:18*
- Knowing what a believer’s life is
 1. ***Favorably inclined to listen to God’s will*** (*delight- vs. 2a*) (*Grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Ps 51:12b*)
 - a. **Ills.: Bending a board for a curved sidewalk**
 2. ***Produces fruits of faith*** (*good works*) (**vs. 3**)
 - a. Pretty easy to judge a good tree from a bad tree . . . what kind of fruits of faith is your life producing?
 - b. *Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit . . .thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. Matthew 7:17, 20*
 - c. *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Gal 5: 22-23*
 3. ***Dwells among the assembly of the righteous*** (**vs. 5**)
 - a. One of God’s people among Gods people (*I was glad when they said to me ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord. Ps122:1*
 - b. Finding spiritual safety there (*My feet stand on level ground; in the great assembly I will praise the Lord Ps 26:12*)

Choosing to live life in Christ, daily

- Blessed to be a blessing (**vs. 1**)
 1. Like Abraham’s call to faith, God has a bigger purpose for you than just you
 - a. *I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed." Genesis 12:3*
 2. Living out your faith on God’s dime, not yours
 - a. *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, Ephes. 1:3*
- Reflect on and reflect back God’s word (**vs. 2**)
 3. Dwelling in Jesus’ word to keep growing (***meditate*** = more than a speed reading course on God’s word)
 - a. **Ills. Have you read the card**
 4. By placing his word in your heart/head so that in dark times you can ***reflect back*** the light of God
 - a. *If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night," Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You. Psalm 139:11-12*
- Walk the path of righteousness (**vs. 6**)
 1. By believing in Jesus’ substitution
 - a. *But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe. Rom 3: 21-22*
 - b. Not living in a self-deceived self-righteousness or crushed by self-imposed guilt/regret
 2. By choosing a simple “***WWJD***” template for your life
 - a. *Do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. Rom 6:13*
 - b. Empowered by the life and power of Christ in your baptism which you ***reconfirm***, today
 - c. *For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. Galatians 3:27*

Why do we sing school fight songs?

01 - University Of Michigan Fight Song.mp3

Friends Can Cause Obesity

The *New England Journal of Medicine* recently exposed another factor that contributes to obesity: a person's circle of friends. Statistics say it isn't long before a person of stronger discipline and a smaller waistline soon matches a larger friend's desire for food. In fact, the study found that the threat of obesity increases 57 percent if a person's friends are overweight. **Brian Lowery, associate editor, PreachingToday.com; source: Steve Rushin, "How Friends Make You Fat," TIME (8-13-07), p. 68**

Have you read the card?

Being a frequent flyer makes it possible for me to get a seat in the exit row on most airline flights. Great leg room. But with privilege comes responsibility. The flight attendant comes up, kneels by my aisle seat and says, "Have you read the instruction card that tells you how to open the door in the case of emergency? I need a verbal answer." I fudge the truth a bit and say yes when the truthful answer is no. I mean, does it take a rocket scientist to know that you simply swivel the handle and push the door out and to the side? So I tell her yes, I've read the card. But she's smart. She says, "If an emergency happens, I'll be depending on you to open that door. Dozens of other people will also be relying on you, too. So are you sure you know what's on that card?" Suddenly, she has my attention. It occurs to me in that insightful moment that this is not unlike the way some people respond to sermons (mine anyway)...I really do read those cards now. **Gordon MacDonald, "On Making It to the Hall of Fame, Gleanings from The MacDonald Files," Leadership Weekly (1-06-04)**

Psalm 1:1-6

¹How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

²But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.

³He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

⁴The wicked are not so, But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.

⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

⁶For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will perish. [NASB]