



# The Biblical Priorities of Life

"Is nothing here worth saving,  
Is no one here at all?  
Is there any net left that could break our fall?  
It'll be a day like this one  
When the sky falls down and the hungry and  
poor and deserted are found."  
—Switchfoot, "The Blues"

## Part 1 — "A Well-Watered & Fruitful Life"— 8/8/21

### Introduction

"The disease of the modern character is specialization...The beneficiary of this regime of specialists ought to be the happiest of mortals – or so we are expected to believe...The fact is, however, that this is probably the most unhappy average citizen in the history of the world. He has not the power to provide himself with anything but money, and his money is inflating like a balloon and drifting away, subject to historical circumstances and the power of other people. From morning to night he does not touch anything that he has produced himself, in which he can take pride."

—Wendell Berry, The Unsettling of America (1977)

- The day in which we live is characterized by an increase both in decadence and anxiety. Our culture's response to this has been a turn towards the therapeutic, or a focus on the inner life of the individual and their pursuit of their own well-being. Any and all external constraints or duties are to be rejected if they are not desired and chosen by the individual. Rather than calling us to create a vision for our own lives and determine our own individual priorities, Scripture calls us to look to God in order that we might live properly for His glory in the world that He has made.

**Key Point:** Scripture contains both a \_\_\_\_\_ for how to rightly order our relationships and responsibilities, as well as \_\_\_\_\_ that helps us to understand what it means to flourish within them.

### A Creational Theology of Life

- God is both the Creator and \_\_\_\_\_ of His creation (forming & filling).
- As God's \_\_\_\_\_-bearers, we ourselves have been given both the ability and the authority to create and cultivate.  
Gen. 1:28a—*And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion*
  - \* The Cultural Mandate involves personal \_\_\_\_\_.  
*With God:* Gen. 1:28-29; 2:16; 3:8      *With Others:* Gen. 2:23; 4:1-2
  - \* The Cultural Mandate involves personal \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Towards God:* Gen. 2:15-17      *Towards Others:* Gen. 1:28; 2:24
- Sin brings \_\_\_\_\_ our relationships and into the exercise of our personal responsibilities.  
Gen. 3:8-9—<sup>8</sup>*And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.* <sup>9</sup>*But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"*

**Key Point:** A biblical understanding of life recognizes God's original \_\_\_\_\_ and its ongoing implications, as well as the reality that the world in which we live is \_\_\_\_\_.

### Living Faithfully in a Fallen World

The \_\_\_\_\_: "Fruitfulness"— Psalm 1

#### Observations

(1) The one who is "blessed" by God or "happy" in Him has rightly ordered relationships.

⇒ They \_\_\_\_\_ in God and commune with Him by His \_\_\_\_\_!

Psa. 1:2—*but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.*

⇒ They are of one spirit with God's \_\_\_\_\_ rather than the wicked.

Psa. 1:5-6—<sup>5</sup>*Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;* <sup>6</sup>*for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.*

(2) The one who is "blessed" by God should understand themselves and their life in terms of the imagery of cultivation.



⇒ Because they are rightly related to God, they are cultivated by God in order that they might be \_\_\_\_\_ to His glory in all that they do.

Psa. 1:3—*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 prospers.*

**Key Point:** The imagery of cultivation provides a \_\_\_\_\_ for us to embrace as we consider the nature and purpose of our lives in the world.

The \_\_\_\_\_: “Our Relationships & Responsibilities”

1. \_\_\_\_\_

John 15:1, 4-5—<sup>1</sup> “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser...<sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Psa. 128:3a—*Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;*

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Psa. 128:3b—*your children will be like olive shoots around your table.*

4. \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

Eph. 4:15-16—<sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Gen. 1:17b-19—*cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”*

**Key Point:** This framework is given to us by God in order that we might \_\_\_\_\_ these areas of our lives accordingly for His glory, our good, and the good of others.

The \_\_\_\_\_: “Refuge in the Son”— Psalm 2

#### Observations

(1) The wicked are ultimately characterized by rebellion.

⇒ They refuse to accept the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and of His Messiah!

Psa. 2:2—*The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed,*

(2) The hope of the righteous is not found within themselves, in being rightly related to God.

⇒ Being rightly related to Him means being rightly related to His \_\_\_\_\_!

Psa. 2:12—*Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.*

**Key Point:** The one who is blessed by God is the one who receives His provision of a Savior by \_\_\_\_\_ and is thereby joined to Him.

## Concluding Thought

- The Lord has made provision for us in Christ in order that we might be fruitful in the areas of our lives where He has called us to do the work of cultivation.

John 7:37-39—<sup>37</sup> On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.

<sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” <sup>39</sup> Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.