

Introduction

In Paul’s introduction to his letter to the Galatians, he speaks of “the present evil age.” The age in which we live is not “evil” in the sense that everything this life is vile or terrible. Rather, Paul is referring to the fact that the default mode of sinful humanity is to live in the world as those who either ignore or directly deny God, our Creator. What this means is that we tend to pursue the good things of life for selfish ends and without reference to Him (Rom. 1:21). But the good things in life find lasting meaning when they are pursued for God’s glory and in accordance with His purposes.

Main Point: It is possible for us to thrive and flourish as God’s people living in an evil age when we rightly order the _____ of life God has entrusted to us.

A Vision for Flourishing**Psalm 1**

- The one who is “blessed” by the Lord or is “happy” in Him has rightly ordered _____.

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

➤ They _____ in God and _____ with Him by His Word!

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

➤ They are of one spirit with God’s _____ rather than the wicked.

- The one who is blessed by the Lord understands themselves and their lives in terms of _____.

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.

➤ Because they are rightly related to God, they are cultivated by Him in order that they might be _____ for His glory in all they do.

Psalm 127

- The one who is blessed by the Lord can delight in their _____.

Psa. 128:1-2—1 Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways! 2 You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.

➤ They recognize that every aspect of their life is to be characterized by _____.

- The one who is blessed by the Lord has a fruitful _____ life.

Psa. 128:3-4—3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. 4 Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.

Key Point: Our lives, like a garden, flourish through _____ work and _____ care.

The Biblical Priorities of Life

1. _____

Matt. 22:37-38— 37 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment.

2 Cor. 5:14-15—14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all... 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

“...if the Creator is truly loved, that is, if He Himself is loved and not another thing in His stead, He cannot be evilly loved; for love itself is to be [rightly ordered] love, because we do well to love that which, when we love it, makes us live well and virtuously. So that it seems to me that it is a brief but true definition of virtue to say, it is the order of love.”

–Augustine of Hippo (AD 5th c.)

2. _____

Gen. 2:24—Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Eph. 5:22,25,33—²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord... ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... ³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

- A wife rightly prioritizes her husband by arranging her life _____ and orienting it _____ his.

Key Word: “_____”

- A husband rightly prioritizes his wife by _____ her and _____ for her needs.

Key Word: “_____”

“I thought love meant equality,” she said [...]. “I thought it was in their souls that people were equal.” “You were mistaken,” said he gravely; “that is the last place where they are equal. Equality before the law, equality of incomes—that is very well. Equality guards life; it doesn’t make it. It is medicine, not food. [...] Those who are enjoying something, or suffering something together, are companions. Those who enjoy or suffer one another, are not. [...] It is not your fault. [...] No one has ever told you that obedience—humility—is an erotic necessity.” – C.S. Lewis, *That Hideous Strength*

3. _____

Deut. 6:6-7—⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Eph. 6:4—Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

“No home can be built without that love of detail which is the hallmark of care, yet we seem to be getting less and less able to bother. People cannot be fed without detail, children cannot be taught manners without detail...But in our superspirituality, we expect a handful good intentions and a headful of bright ideas are quite enough to make a home.” –Robert Capon, *Bed & Board*

4. _____

Eph. 4:15-16—¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ 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.

Heb. 10:24-25—²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

5. _____

Col. 3:24-25—²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

1 Thess. 4:11-12—¹¹ and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, ¹² so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

Concluding Thoughts

1. In His Word, God gives us a _____ for a faithful life of flourishing to capture our minds and hearts.

2. In His Word, God gives us a _____ in which to rightly order our priorities as we seek to love Him and others.

Introduction

In Paul’s introduction to his letter to the Galatians, he speaks of “the present evil age.” The age in which we live is not “evil” in the sense that everything this life is vile or terrible. Rather, Paul is referring to the fact that the default mode of sinful humanity is to live in the world as those who either ignore or directly deny God, our Creator. What this means is that we tend to pursue the good things of life for selfish ends and without reference to Him (Rom. 1:21). But the good things in life find lasting meaning when they are pursued for God’s glory and in accordance with His purposes.

Main Point: It is possible for us to thrive and flourish as God’s people living in an evil age when we rightly order the priorities of life God has entrusted to us.

A Vision for Flourishing**Psalm 1**

- The one who is “blessed” by the Lord or is “happy” in Him has rightly ordered relationships.

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

➤ They delight in God and commune with Him by His Word!

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

➤ They are of one spirit with God’s people rather than the wicked.

- The one who is blessed by the Lord understands themselves and their lives in terms of cultivation.

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.

➤ Because they are rightly related to God, they are cultivated by Him in order that they might be fruitful for His glory in all they do.

Psalm 127

- The one who is blessed by the Lord can delight in their work.

Psa. 128:1-2—1 Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways! 2 You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.

➤ They recognize that every aspect of their life is to be characterized by worship.

- The one who is blessed by the Lord has a fruitful family life.

Psa. 128:3-4—3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. 4 Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.

Key Point: Our lives, like a garden, flourish through intentional work and ongoing care.

The Biblical Priorities of Life**1. Jesus Christ**

Matt. 22:37-38— 37 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment.

2 Cor. 5:14-15—14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all... 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

“...if the Creator is truly loved, that is, if He Himself is loved and not another thing in His stead, He cannot be evilly loved; for love itself is to be [rightly ordered] love, because we do well to love that which, when we love it, makes us live well and virtuously. So that it seems to me that it is a brief but true definition of virtue to say, it is the order of love.”

–Augustine of Hippo (AD 5th c.)

2. Marriage Partner

Gen. 2:24—Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Eph. 5:22,25,33—²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord... ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... ³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

- A wife rightly prioritizes her husband by arranging her life under and orienting it around his.

Key Word: “Helper”

- A husband rightly prioritizes his wife by loving her and caring for her needs.

Key Word: “Leader”

“I thought love meant equality,” she said [...]. “I thought it was in their souls that people were equal.” “You were mistaken,” said he gravely; “that is the last place where they are equal. Equality before the law, equality of incomes—that is very well. Equality guards life; it doesn’t make it. It is medicine, not food. [...] Those who are enjoying something, or suffering something together, are companions. Those who enjoy or suffer one another, are not. [...] It is not your fault. [...] No one has ever told you that obedience—humility—is an erotic necessity.” – C.S. Lewis, *That Hideous Strength*

3. Children

Deut. 6:6-7—⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Eph. 6:4—Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

“No home can be built without that love of detail which is the hallmark of care, yet we seem to be getting less and less able to bother. People cannot be fed without detail, children cannot be taught manners without detail...But in our superspirituality, we expect a handful good intentions and a headful of bright ideas are quite enough to make a home.” –Robert Capon, *Bed & Board*

4. The Church

Eph. 4:15-16—¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ 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.

Heb. 10:24-25—²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

5. Work

Col. 3:24-25—²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

1 Thess. 4:11-12—¹¹ and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, ¹² so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

Concluding Thoughts

1. In His Word, God gives us a vision for a faithful life of flourishing to capture our minds and hearts.
2. In His Word, God gives us a framework in which to rightly order our priorities as we seek to love Him and others.