

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, and Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about God?

- a. *The blessed way is the joyful condition of those who are right with God and the satisfaction that comes from that reality. It is not earned, but it is a gift from God.* How does this definition reshape your view of God's blessings or even prosperity?
- b. *God will hold everyone accountable.* How does that influence/impact your view of God's instruction?
- c. *The Lord knows us deeply and intimately.* How does that shape your view of God's character?

2. What does this passage teach about us?

- a. *The wicked live as if there is no God, set themselves up as their own god, assume there is no ultimate judgment, and reject God's grace.* How does that reframe your view of wickedness?
- b. *To **walk** in counsel of wickedness is when we are influenced to make sin normal, while making righteousness strange and uncool.* What influences are forming your lifestyles and habits, and how are they leading you toward the blessed way or toward wickedness?
- c. *To **stand** in wickedness is a condition in which sin becomes a pattern, and acts of wickedness are imitated.* What developed habits and lifestyle of the blessed way or of wickedness can you trace back to influences?
- d. *To **sit** in wickedness is to become comfortable with sin, treating righteousness lightly and mocking others who practice righteousness.* Think through your words and deeds: What sinful habits have you normalized? What sinful patterns have you accepted in your life because of the pressure or need to fit in? Where do you find yourself trivializing or unenthusiastic about others' righteous deeds?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

- a. *Jesus came near to sinners without joining them in sin. He never walked, stood, or sat in the way of the wicked, yet he was counted among sinners and died in their place for the forgiveness of their sins.* How should this gospel reshape our hearts, so that obedience to Christ flows less from burden and more from delight in him and his word?
- b. *If you are in Christ, God knows you intimately, and Jesus is more invested in keeping you in His blessed way through all the defeats, victories, trials, guilt, and shame.* How should that influence our delight in walking in the blessed way rather than wickedness?

APPLICATION

a) Discuss any that resonate with you as you think through the following application.

- Are you finding yourself being nourished through God's word and the gospel of Christ? What accountability, influences, or habits would help get you into studying, meditating, and finding delight in His word?
- Are you finding yourself rooted in God's word and the gospel of Christ? Where has suffering shaken your trust in the Lord, and what truth from God's Word/gospel do you need to meditate on so your heart can delight in God's work in us through suffering?
- Where are you tempted to envy the wicked's success/prosperity, and how does your future in Christ encourage you to see it differently?

PRAYER

- Praise the Father because He is full of goodness and He delights in setting His goodness on us.
- Confess ways you are walking, standing, and sitting in wickedness.
- Thank Christ that through Him, you are forgiven, and Christ is tirelessly invested in making you find the Father more precious than all.
- Ask God for strength to study and obey his word delightfully.