

FAMILY LESSONS ON
THE ROOT OF PROSPERITY

Based on Psalm 1:2-3

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LESSON #3

APPLE PICKING

**“But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.
He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which
yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers.”**

Psalm 1:2-3 (NIV84)

Have you ever gone apple picking? There’s nothing quite like a sweet, juicy apple during apple season. When my children were young we often went apple picking; but we couldn’t just go whenever we wanted to. We had to pick them in season, in the early fall. David said that the “blessed” person is like a tree fruitful in season. That means there is some watering, pruning, cultivating and growing that has to happen first before that good fruit is ready. But once it is ready, it is a wonderful thing; beautiful, ripe, colorful fruit, ready to pick. Good fruit blesses the entire community that lives around a fruitful tree, not only with the benefit of nourishing food; but also with seed that can establish a whole new generation of fruit-bearing trees.

What is the real prosperity David talks about in Psalm 1:3? God’s word to us through David is powerful and extreme. It says that the “blessed” person is like a mature, fruitful tree that prospers in “**whatever he does.**” But what is that prosperity? David used the same Hebrew word Joshua used to talk about prosperity (Joshua 1:8). It’s a word that means “to make a success” or “be successful.” So what is this prosperity and success? Is it just money and possessions, power and prestige? Or is God telling us about prosperity and success of a different kind? Is He talking about the treasure of a different kingdom, an eternal kingdom that not only exists here, but extends beyond this world? Jesus said, do not give your life to treasures on earth that won’t last, but give yourself to treasures in heaven that are eternal (Matthew 6:19-20). I think the answer to our question about prosperity lies in the fruit; the good fruit of the mature tree; the fruit that blesses a whole community of people with treasure and prosperity that lasts forever.

What did the Apostle Paul say about fruit (Galatians 5:22-23)? How valuable do you think that fruit is for your prosperity and success?

For additional study materials on the Bonus Verse and a copy of the “Ten Step Bible Memory Method for Life,” go to www.icsva.org/student-life/bonus-verse on the Immanuel Christian School website.