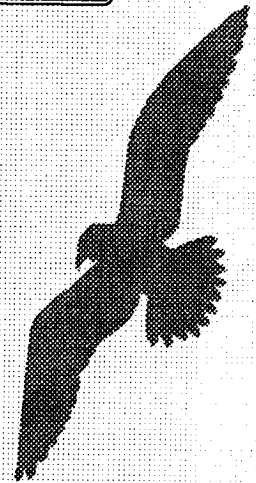


*"They shall  
mount up..."*

# ON EAGLES' WINGS

*... with wings  
as eagles."  
Isaiah 40:31*



## AERY NUGGETS

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."  
Psalm 1: 1-3.

### Word of the Ever-Living God!

"Word of the ever-living God!  
Will of His glorious Son!  
Without Thee how could earth be trod,  
Or heav'n it-self be known?  
Lamp of our feet, whereby we trace  
Our path when wont to stray!  
Stream from the Fount of heav'nly grace!  
Brook by the trav'ler's way!  
Bread of our souls whereon we feed!  
True manna from on high!  
Our guide and chart, whereon we read  
Of realms beyond the sky!  
Lord, grant us all aright to learn  
The wisdom it imparts,  
And to its heavenly teaching turn  
With simple, child-like hearts!

—Bernard Barton

Dear Friends,

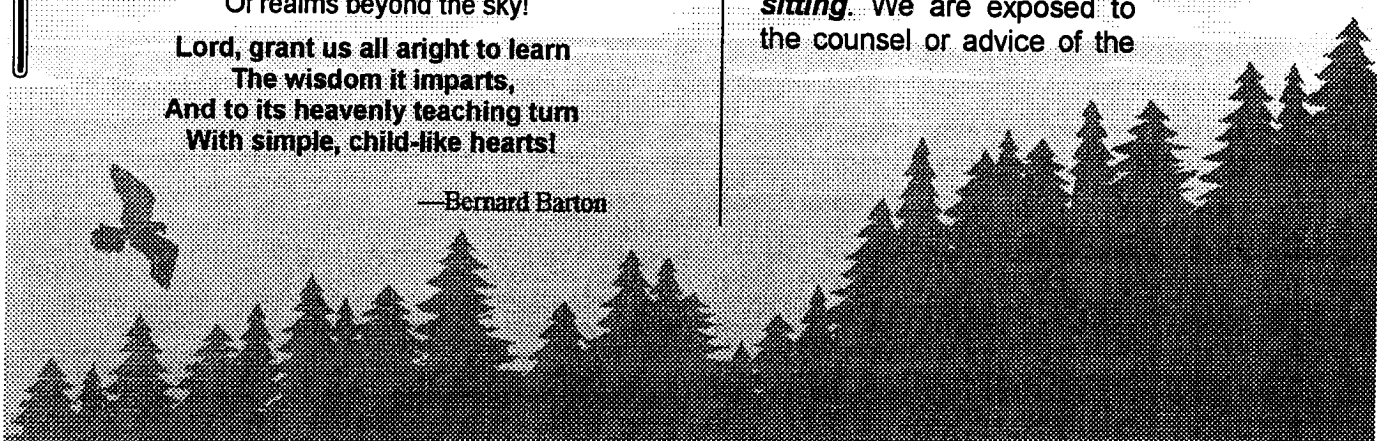
Recently in reading Psalm 1 my attention was called to the fact that "blessed" is the first word in that Psalm. It is used 25 times in the Psalms. The word blessed can also be translated "Happy." Certainly to be blessed is to be happy. If we are going to experience true joy and happiness in our lives we are reminded of three things.

First of all we must have put our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ who died for our sins on the cross of Calvary. "Happy is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." Psalm 32:1.

Secondly, as the writer of psalm one tells us we must not.

1. walk according to the counsel of the ungodly nor
2. stand in the way of sinners nor
3. sit in the seat of the scornful.

Notice the progression: **Walking** then **standing** then **sitting**. We are exposed to the counsel or advice of the



ungodly through our newspapers, television and advertising every day. If we continue to listen to that counsel we can become so affected by it that we begin to start walking according to that counsel. Soon we may find ourselves *standing* in the path where sinners walk, submissive and inactive. Finally the third step is to be so affected spiritually by some of the things that we hear and see that we lose our spiritual discernment. We may find ourselves *sitting* or becoming comfortable with those who do not love the Lord Jesus.

Abraham's nephew, Lot, is an example of one who settled in with the ungodly, sinners and the scornors. He vexed his righteous soul from day to day with the filthy conversation of the wicked. See 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:7,8.

**Thirdly** if we are to experience God's blessing and happiness in our lives we need to find delight or joy in God's Word. **"But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night."** Here truly is the secret of happiness in our lives. It really begins with salvation but is maintained by a consistent reading and meditation upon God's Word. How can we do this? We must determine that with the Lord's help we will set aside some time each day, preferably in the morning, to read the Bible and to meditate upon what we have read.

*What is meditation?* It is much more than just reading God's word. It means that we focus our thoughts on what God is saying in His Word. We may memorize a portion of it and roll it around in our minds. We may ask ourselves some questions about it. What is God saying in this verse? To whom is He saying it? How does it apply to me? We need to pray about it and ask God to give us the wisdom to apply it in our life. A good time to meditate upon His Word is when we have trouble going to sleep.

God told Joshua that he was to meditate upon His Word day and night in order that he would obey it and then he would make his way prosperous and experience good success. See Joshua 1:8. The apostle Paul wrote to his son in the faith, Timothy, these words: **"Study (endeavor or use diligence) to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth."** 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:15.

*What blessing will result from meditation upon God's Word?*

**And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."** Psalm 1: 1-3. The

one who meditates upon God's Word will be like a tree planted by the streams of water. "Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and *that* spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit." Jeremiah 17:7,8.

Real blessing will result not only in the life of the believer but will also result in fruit for the Lord Jesus. Our Lord reminds us of this in His final words to His disciples before He went to the cross. "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abides in Me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing." John 15:5.

As we think about these scriptures may our God help each of us to find our delight in God's Holy Word and to take time daily to meditate upon it.

### Abide in Thee!

Abide in Thee! in that deep love of Thine,  
My Jesus, Lord, Thou Lamb of God divine,  
Down, closely down, as living branch with tree,  
I would abide, my Lord, my Christ, in Thee.

Abide in Thee! my Savior God, I know  
How love of Thine so vast in me may flow,  
My empty vessel, running o'er with joy,  
Must overflow to Thee, without alloy.

Abide in Thee! nor doubt, nor self, nor sin,  
Can e'er prevail with Thy blest life within;  
Joined to Thyself, communing deep, my soul  
Knows nought besides its motions to control.

Abide in Thee! 'tis thus I only know  
The secrets of Thy mind e'en while below--  
All joy and peace, and knowledge of Thy Word,  
All pow'r and fruit, and service for the Lord.

—J. Denham Smith

Affectionately in Him,

*John D. McNeil*

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write to:

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