

Today's Theme

“God's View Of Success”

Series Title

“Success God's Style” Part 1

April 11, 2021

How People Define Success

1. We allow *culture* to define success.

Problems of This View

- (1) Culture tends to be a *moving* target.
- (2) Cultures are generally based on *image*.
- (3) Any culture can become *evil*.

2. We allow *others* to define our success.

Problems of This View

- (1) Who knows *what* the expectations really are?
- (2) Who determines if they are *reasonable*?
- (3) What if I *can't* fulfill those expectations?
- (4) What about those who are *impossible* to please?

3. We allow *Jesus* to define our success.

Benefits of This View

- (1) It *avoids* the problems of other approaches.
- (2) It's *objective* and can be understood.
- (3) It's *possible* to accomplish.
- (4) Jesus *partners* with us as we pursue Him.

God's Picture Of A Successful Person

1. They are not afraid to be *different*.

Smart Choices That Produce Success

Ps 1:1 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,

- (1) They resist *crowd* & *peer* pressure.
- (2) They *refuse* to *accept* the culture's values.

2. They build their lives on *listening* to God.

What It Means to Listen To God

Ps 1:2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. 3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.

- (1) They *value* listening & following God's Word.
- (2) They *pattern* their lives after God's word.
- (3) They *experience* a life blessed by God.

3. They've *settled* the issue of eternity.

The Biggest Blessing of All

Ps 1:4 Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

Mark 8:35 For whoever wants to save their life[a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

- (1) To be successful eternity must be *dealt* with.
- (2) Successful people live with the *end* in mind.
- (3) There is *no* success without a successful *ending*.

4. They experience *closeness* with God.

Results of Being Close

Ps 1:6 For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction. Ja 4:8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. John 15:15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends,

- (1) Righteousness is doing the *right* thing = success.
- (2) Successful people have lives *guided* by God.
- (3) Successful people are *protected* by The Lord.