

Psalm 119:3

ESV  
who also do no wrong,  
but walk in his ways!

NASB  
They also do no unrighteousness;  
They walk in His ways.

NIV  
They do nothing wrong;  
they walk in his ways.

KJV  
They also do not iniquity:  
they walk in his ways.

I. History

Thomas Manton (1620–1677): To sin is one thing, but to make sin our work is another.

Failings and infirmities, they are not determined either by the smallness or by the greatness of the act,...there is as much treason in coining pence as shillings and pounds.

What a strange Christ will you fold forth to the world; when his name is upon you, will you give way to sin and folly?...Consider the nature of sin; if you give way to it, it will encroach further.

Charles Spurgeon (1834–1892): See how a whole heart leads to the avoidance of evil, for the Psalmist says, "That seek him with the whole heart. They also do no iniquity." We fear that no man can claim to be absolutely without sin, and yet we trust there are many who do not designedly, wilfully, knowingly, and continuously do anything that is wicked, ungodly, or unjust. Grace keeps the life righteous as to act even when the Christian has to bemoan the transgressions of the heart.

II. They also do no unrighteousness

Unrighteousness: badness, malice, injustice

1) Related to the injustice of bloodshed:

Habakuk 2:12 builds a town w/ blood; founds city on iniquity

see also Micah 3:10, Is 59:3

2) translated directly as injustice or as the opposite of injustice

Hos 10:13: plowed iniquity, reaped injustice

Is 61:8: love justice; hate robbery and wrong

It is used almost exclusively in poetry

exceptions: 2 Chron. 19:7, 2 Sam 7:10

The Greek translation of the OT uses the word anomia, which means lawlessness.

Verse 1 dealt with actions; verse 2 with a heart toward God.

Now in verse three it seems to deal with a heart toward people.

In other words our relationship w/ God has a community effect.

The blessed man, then, is one who lives a life of integrity, who walk in YHWH's law, who keeps his testimonies, who seeks him w/ all the heart, who does no injustice, and walks in God's ways. Is this impossible?

III. they walk in his ways

This seems to be a repetition (summary?) of v. 1, repeating a word from line 1 and 2 of verse 1.

In other words, the blessed walk as God walks. When we do that we are blessed, happy, life generally goes the way it should.

That does not mean bad things don't happen. Look at the Israelites.

The issue, then becomes, in the middle of those bad things, are we able to continue to be content, knowing that this is our calling. When our focus is God, happiness comes from somewhere besides the circumstances we find ourselves in.

But imitation but not just for the sake of imitation.

Moses asked God to know his ways...so that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight.