

Psalm 106:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times.

Analysis

This verse presents a beatitude defining the blessed life through two parallel actions: keeping judgment and doing righteousness. The word 'Blessed' (Hebrew 'ashrei') indicates deep happiness and divine favor. 'Keep judgment' suggests maintaining justice and right discernment in all circumstances, implying consistency rather than momentary action. 'Doeth righteousness at all times' emphasizes continuous moral action aligned with God's standards. The phrase 'at all times' is particularly significant - it removes any temporal exceptions or situational ethics. This verse establishes that true blessedness comes not from external circumstances but from consistent alignment with God's righteous character. It serves as a stark contrast to Israel's pattern of intermittent obedience described throughout the psalm.

Historical Context

This verse appears in the context of Israel's historical pattern of obedience and rebellion. In the ancient Near Eastern context, kings were expected to 'keep judgment' as administrators of justice. However, this psalm democratizes the responsibility - all who follow the LORD are called to maintain justice. The concept of doing righteousness 'at all times' would have resonated with post-exilic Jews who were rebuilding their identity around covenant faithfulness. The verse echoes themes from Deuteronomy 6:4-9, where obedience to God's commands was to be constant - when sitting, walking, lying down, and rising up. This consistent

righteousness was Israel's calling as a holy nation, though the psalm honestly acknowledges their failure to maintain it.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What is the relationship between 'keeping judgment' (discernment/justice) and 'doing righteousness' (moral action)?
2. How is it possible for fallen humans to 'do righteousness at all times,' and what role does God's grace play?
3. Why does the psalmist place this beatitude immediately after acknowledging God's eternal mercy in the opening verses?
4. In what practical ways does keeping judgment 'at all times' challenge our tendency toward situational ethics?
5. How does this standard of continuous righteousness point to humanity's need for a perfect mediator?

Interlinear Text

בָּכֶל	צַדְקָה	הַ	עִשְׂה	הָ	מִשְׁפָּט	שְׁמַרְתָּ	אַשְׁרִי			
Blessed	are	they	that	keep	judgment	and	he	that	doeth	righteousness
H835				H8104	H4941		H6213		H6666	H3605

בָּכֶל
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הַ
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שְׁמַרְתָּ
אַשְׁרִי¹
at all times
H6256

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 15:2 (Righteousness): He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

James 1:25 (Blessing): But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

John 15:14 (Parallel theme): Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

John 13:17 (Parallel theme): If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

Galatians 6:9 (Parallel theme): And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Revelation 22:14 (Blessing): Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Psalms 119:112 (Parallel theme): I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes alway, even unto the end.

Psalms 119:106 (Righteousness): I have sworn, and I will perform it, that I will keep thy righteous judgments.

Psalms 119:44 (Parallel theme): So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever.

Psalms 119:20 (Judgment): My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto thy judgments at all times.