For they that work iniquity have not walked in His ways. Psalm 118:03

1. Blessed are the blameless in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord. 2. Blessed are they that search out His testimonies; with their whole heart shall they seek after Him. 3. For they that work iniquity have not walked in His ways. 4. Thou hast enjoined Thy commandments, that we should keep them most diligently. 5. Would that my ways were directed to keep Thy statutes. 6. Then shall I not be ashamed, when I look on all Thy commandments. 7. I will confess Thee with uprightness of heart, when I have learned the judgments of Thy righteousness. 8.I will keep thy statutes; do not utterly forsake me.

First octave Vs 1-8 - All vs begin with "Aleph" - leader, or science

Principles of a God-pleasing life.

1-3 degrees of attainment of perfection

4-5 productive powers of such a life

6-8 conditions necessary for such a life.

What are "His ways"? - the way of life, knowledge, purity, happiness, peace. Our example - Christ - 1Pe 2:21

If lacking ANY of these things, there IS SIN.

Blame sin for your misfortunes, unhappiness, lack of peace, difficulties Rather: **blame that you are a sinner**.

"Walk in His ways' - implies intimacy, of long duration, commitment.

Walking can be difficult - in the rain, cold, steep hills, etc. It is not a passive act, but an act of the will, of ongoing duration.

OBVIOUSLY, THIS IS A (LIFELONG) PROCESS -- walking a long distance

The contra-positive is also true: Those who walk in his ways do not sin! (1 Jn 2:3-6)

1Jn 1:6-7 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness [work iniquity], we lie, and do not the truth: (7) But if we walk in the light, [walk inHis ways] as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

1Jn 2:3-6 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. (4) He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. (5) But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. (6) He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

How to walk in His ways? Love not the world

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1Jn 2:15-16 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

1Pe 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, **that ye should follow his steps**:

Eph 2:8-10 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them

Priest Seraphim Holland 2012

This and other Orthodox materials are available in from: St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, McKinney, Texas

- Mailing Address: Box 37, McKinney, TX 75070
- Rectory Phone: 972/529-2754
- Email: <u>seraphim@orthodox.net</u>
- Web Page: <u>http://www.orthodox.net</u>
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