

THE WORD OF GOD, Part 2 - October 18, 2020

There are all kinds of thoughts and ideas in the world. It may be that you hear something in a conversation, on a TV show, a news show, on You-tube, on a podcast, or it may be the words of a song. It may be something you read in a book or on the internet, or something you learn in school. Or it may be the words of two men debating to be President. But what's most important is learning and knowing God's word, which is God's truth, for God's word is far more important, in fact, infinitely more important than man's words.

We talked a couple of weeks ago about God's word. We said that it's inerrant, it's true, it's precise, it's understandable, it's complete, it's sufficient, it's consistent, it's historical, it's prophetic, and finally, it's relevant, for it tells you how you're to live your life, whether that relates to family, work, church, or even personal issues or struggles you may have.

Today, I want to look at some passages in Psalm 119. There are two things I want you to know about these vss., and what's true with regards to many of the verses in Psalm 119.

1. It's always important to look at the verbs, for they usually refer to action, to what you need to do, and in this case to how you need to respond to God's word.
2. Many of these verses have two lines in them with two points, and these two points are usually related, are usually connected to one another.

Psalm 119:1-8. Vss. 1-4. This tells us that God will bless our lives when we walk in the law of the Lord, when our daily life is led by God's word, when we obey God. This blessing relates to living a holy life, which means we're not to do what is wrong, to disobey God - and it's God's word that helps us to live a holy and obedient life. We also see that we need to seek the Lord, and one of the main ways to seek the Lord is by studying His word, and by learning what He wants us to know and do. Prov. 2:1-6

Vss. 5-6. This should be our prayer, that we do what God wants us to do - and we're not to pick and choose what we want to do, but we're to do everything He wants us to do. The word "way" is stated 3 times in these 8 vss. - and it means the course, the direction of your life, what you're doing and where you're going. Now this word "way" means that your whole day, your whole life, is to be led and directed by God and His word.

This word "way" speaks of how God wants you to walk with Him all day long. And God's word enables you to walk with Him. Without God's word you won't be on the road He wants you to travel on. You'll be lost, you'll get hurt, and you won't be blessed. Eph. 4:1, 22-24 Now when you drive down a road, you need to drive in accordance with the signs, the stop signs, yield signs, speed signs, street signs, and the signs that tell you your location. And so too, God's words are the signs you need to have to travel down the road of life.

Vss. 7-8. This should be our response, that we give thanks to God as we learn His word. And we should be committed to obey God, to do all He wants us to do. And finally, there is this prayer - *"God, don't forsake me utterly"*, don't leave me by myself, stay with me.

Psalm 119:9-16. This starts with a question: how do you live a pure life? The 2nd line gives the answer - it's by God's word. His word is the way to live a holy and pure life. John 17:17 This says the same thing we saw in vs 1, that the way to be pure and blameless is by keeping God's law, which results in being blessed. God wants to bless your life, and it's by being holy, by being pure, and this only happens when we are keeping and obeying God's word. - Now the verses in Psalm 119:10-16 all have different instructions about God's word, and for the most part, they all have distinct thoughts. But I believe they relate to the main theme, that we're to be holy, and the following 7 vss. give specific instructions about keeping God's word so we can be holy, and so we can be blessed.

Psalm 119:10. We're to wholeheartedly be seeking God, and one aspect of that is searching and studying His word. A person can't say he's seeking God if he doesn't read and study His word. And a result of seeking God is that you won't wander from His commandments. It's easy to wander from God, to go astray from God and His word, and seeking God, and especially reading and studying His word, will keep you from wandering away.

Psalm 119:11. We are to treasure God's word, to spiritually hide God's word in our hearts. And when the Christian loves God's word, and keeps it in his heart, then he won't let it go, but he will think about it. And if we don't treasure God's word, then there's usually something else we're treasuring, and hiding in our heart, something that's not usually good.

Psalm 119:12. Here we learn that we're to ask God to teach us His word. And of course, God is our Teacher, and we need Him to be our Teacher, for we can't learn God's word on our own. And as we humble ourselves before God and ask Him to teach us, then He will do that, and He will teach us what we need to know, and we should then bless the Lord and praise the Lord that He does in fact teach us.

Psalm 119:13. Here we see that we are to be teachers, that we are to be telling others God's word. And the person who does this well is one who loves God's word, is obeying God's word, and is being blessed, and therefore, wants others to know His word. The Christian who is applying God's word to his life, and then sharing it with others is a godly Christian, a mature Christian, and a blessed Christian.

Psalm 119:14. We continue to look at the verbs, and here's the word rejoice, and we are to rejoice, not just in God's testimonies, but in the ways of His testimonies, in how God's word leads our lives and makes a spiritual roadway, a spiritual path for our lives. The word rejoice means to exult, to be excited, and we're to rejoice in God's word more than riches. Infinitely more important than having money is having God's word, for unlike money, it has spiritual and eternal value. What you really need is God's word, not money.

Psalm 119:15. This tells us two things: first, we're to meditate on God's precepts, on His word. Meditate means to think about, to muse, to consider, to ponder. One of the most important things in life is to meditate on God's word. Pr. 23:7 says, "*As a man thinks, so he is.*" What you think about affects what you say, what you do, how you live your life. And it's God's word that most dramatically and positively affects your life.

The 2nd part of the verse says you're to regard God's ways. That is, you need to also be thinking about, be meditating upon God's ways, how He's working in your life and in the lives of others, in the world around you. You will be encouraged when you do this. Psalm 77:11-13 Now unlike all the other verbs in this passage so far, this verb is in the future tense. It says, "*I will meditate,*" which means it's what you're committing to doing, what you are planning to do no matter what. And a mature Christian is one who does this, who commits himself to do what God wants him to do, and then does it.

Psalm 119:16. Similar to the previous verse, the writer is committed to doing something, and in particular, he will delight in God's statutes, will be excited about His word. And this is so important, for if you are not excited about God's word, if you don't love His word, then you won't read it and mediate on it and treasure it and do what it says. Finally, don't forget God's word, which means being committed to remembering it, which means writing it down, memorizing it, or daily reading over verses that God has given you.

- James 1:21-25. Again, we see that we need to remember God's word, and if you don't, you'll be deceived, which means you're thinking you're doing good when in fact you're not.
- Psalm 119:9. Now all these thoughts we talked about in these eight verses are necessary and important if you are to be living a holy and pure life.

Psalm 119:25-32. These verses are about the Psalmist who sins, and how God's word helps him get back on the right track. Now the first five verses all contain a prayer, and four of these make some statement about his sins. And the last three verses are his commitment to do what is right in accordance with God's word.

- Psalm 119:25. Clearly the Psalmist is out of it, and he lets us know how he is doing, and spiritually speaking, he is cleaving to the dust, his face is in the dirt, and he's really hurting. And so he prays to God for he knows that only God can help him, and can revive him, and that being revived can only take place by the truth of God's word.

Psalm 119:26. Here the Psalmist confesses his sin to God and it's not necessarily one sin, but a continued sin or sins that has resulted in sinful ways, in a sinful pattern in his life. That's not good. It's like a worn path or a rut in a road. And so the Psalmist prays to God, and asks God to teach him His word, to get him out of this rut and on the right road.

- Psalm 119:27. It's clear that the Psalmist knows his way is wrong and so he prays that he understands God's way, for he knows that going God's way will result in God's work being done, and God's wonders being seen, with the result that he'll meditate on God's wonders.

Psalm 119:28. The Psalmist is truly broken and repentant, and he's literally weeping because of his sin. But he knows that true spiritual strength comes as a result of knowing God's word. And he prays that that would happen, and this is such a good prayer for each of us, and it's one of my favorites thru the years. *"Strengthen me according to Your word."*

- Psalm 119:29. The Psalmist is tired of his sin and wants the false way, the wrong way, to be gone from his life, and he prays this would happen, knowing it'd only happen by living according to God's word, which would result in God's ways being established in his life.

Psalm 119:30-32. Clearly God answered this person's prayer, for you can see from what the Psalmist says that he really understands God's words and way, and that his false way has been removed, and that he has been revived and strengthened by God's word.

- Verse 30. 1st, there's the past, for he had just made a decision, a choice, and he had chosen the faithful way, and it's God's ordinances, God's word that is affecting and leading his life.

Verse 31. 2nd, there's the present, for we see that he's clinging to God's word, which means he is consciously hanging on to it. As we go through the day, it's easy to let go of God's word, to forget it. And we need to cling to it, we need to hang on to it with all with all we've got – we need to keep believing it, and then we won't be put to shame.

- Verse 32. 3rd, we read about the future, and we see that he'll not walk, but run the way of God's commandments. He's really committed to doing what God wants him to do, knowing that God will enlarge his heart, will help Him to do what God wants him to do.

Well, there's much more to say about how God's word relates to our lives, and so we will continue to look at Psalm 119 next week.