

**Psalm 119: 105-112; “Your Word is a Lamp to my Feet”, A sermon prepared  
for those gathered at the Premier Estates Nursing Home on  
January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015, by Pastor Paul Rendall.**

I would like to exhort each one of you who is a Christian here today, to begin to take the time to memorize small portions of the Word of God. When the Word of God is there in your mind and heart, God can use it to do a gracious work in you. I memorized Psalm 23 when I was a young child. I cannot remember whether it was during the times when my dear father would have me kneel down with him by the bed and he would have me repeat after him portions like the 23<sup>rd</sup> psalm and the 1<sup>st</sup> and greatest commandment of Deuteronomy 6, and other portions of Scripture. It was truly an amazing thing because neither he nor I knew the Lord at that time. Still, it was very profitable and good. It may also have been later when as a young adult I was asked to read my Bible and pray by some of my teachers at First Presbyterian Church. God first began to impress the words of the blessed 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm upon me, somewhere back then. “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.” “He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.” “He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.”

Sometimes we memorize but we do not meditate upon what we have memorized. Sometimes we don’t understand what we have memorized. But we need very much to remember the faithfulness of our God to lead his dear people into all the truth. He leads them in the paths of righteousness. He leads them to trust in His promises and to do what He commands. That is what the verses that we are studying this afternoon from Psalm 119 are all about. I think that if we look carefully at the words of this Psalm that we can see that there are 3 things that God teaches the believer to do in order to persevere in his faith and grow in his relationship of obedience to Christ and His Word.

**1<sup>st</sup> of all – God leads the true believer in Jesus Christ to see His Word as the spiritual light for their life.** (Verse 106)

“Your word is lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” God’s Word the Bible is what is given to all people in order that they might know how to come to know Him, and how they should live their life. The picture here in verse 106 is that of a person walking in darkness; the darkness of this fallen world. We are very much living in spiritual darkness before we come to know God through Jesus Christ. “The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light and upon those who sat in the region and shadow death, Light has dawned upon them.” That verse is found in Matthew 4: 16, and it is speaking of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the spiritual Light of the World coming into the world and preaching by the sea of Galilee. Darkness is a picture of sin and ignorance. This is what each of us walks in continually, in a spiritual sense, in our heart, if we do not have the Word of God residing there by the Holy Spirit shining into our heart. We walk in darkness, we live in darkness, we are darkness as unbelievers. We are people who are living our lives to ourselves and satisfying ourselves with selfish and sinful desires rather than doing what God would have us to do.

But the Word of God, we are told here, is a lamp; it illumines our darkness when we hear it, or when we read it. Light is a metaphorical word picture for truth and righteousness. “If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1st John 1: 7) Verse 6, the verse before this says: “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness we lie and do not practice the truth.” So, an unbeliever is walking in the darkness, according to John, and must have the light of the truth of how they can be saved, shine into their heart. Once God shines His spiritual light into the heart, illumining the darkness, the unbeliever has the responsibility to act upon what he

now sees to be the truth. They should believe in the Lord Jesus Christ who the Light of the World. He is the light of life. He is truth and righteousness personified. When a person does this, they shall be saved. Their mind and their heart are opened by God alone to respond to the gospel, but once opened, their mind and their heart are filled with spiritual light, and this becomes to them as the light of the dawn, shining brighter and brighter until the full day of their complete redemption. As long as you are upon the earth, you are not to the full Day yet. There are many spiritual miles to walk, and many steps to take. The believer should walk in the light, even as Christ is in the light.” The way that a believer walks in the light is by using the Bible to direct their path; that is, the way that they will live. Before a person is converted to Christ they are ignorant of how much darkness is in their hearts, and also ignorant of what they should do about it. But after the light has savingly shined, we come to realize that there is much good work that God needs to do in our heart to bring us to maturity in regard to our faith. There is much that we need to do in learning His good way of how to live our life so that it will be glorifying to Him. We come to see the great value of the Word of God, for it is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. The Scriptures show us more about God and His ways, and more about ourselves and how we need to change to walk in a way that is pleasing to Him. Therefore, you should read them often, meditate upon them deeply, and put the truth that find there, into practice in your life.

**2<sup>nd</sup> - We find here, in these verses, that the Lord leads an afflicted believer to pray that they might be revived.** (Verses 107-110)

You will notice that the psalmist took this oath during a time of intense personal affliction. Verse 107 says, "I am afflicted very much; revive me, O Lord, according to Your Word." A great part of persevering in your faith as a Christian is learning to bring every concern that you have about your inability to keep God's Word, directly to God in prayer. Often, we are very prone to bring our cares and troubles, and our lack of willingness and strength, to other people; and we seek human help before we seek divine assistance. This is not a good order. To learn to pray is to learn to acknowledge our dependence upon God for every good thing. God is glorified in man's dependence. "The Lord God is a Sun and a Shield; the Lord gives grace and glory." "No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly." (Psalm 84: 11) And so, in learning to walk uprightly, to discern what you should do and how you should do it in every given situation, this is the essence of sanctification. To pursue after holiness, this is progressive sanctification. But sometimes you may become discouraged about your progress, or you may be struggling with bodily or mental afflictions of various sorts. What should you do? You tell the Lord in prayer – "I am afflicted very much; revive me, O Lord, according to Your Word." And the Lord comes to your aid. It is in this way that you are taught the lessons of how to find His strength in the midst of your difficulties; when we pray for His help, and you pray to be taught. "Accept, I pray, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O Lord, and teach me Your judgments." In other words, you praise God for what you have received in grace, through your Lord Jesus Christ, and you humbly ask to be taught as you are going through difficult and trying situations, what your attitude should be, and what you can practically do to honor God in the midst of these troubles of soul and body. This is God-honoring. This is obeying God's Word. This is how Christ comes to be formed in your soul more and more.

We often ask ourselves, "When will this trial that I am going through come to an end?" Beloved, it will come to an end when we have learned the lessons which God would have us to learn. He would have you pray for wisdom if you need it. He would have you pray that you would be able to exhibit a greater faith and love to Him for all that He does for you, and a greater love to people around you. David, the man who wrote this Psalm says in verse 109, "My life is continually in my hand, yet I do not forget Your law." "The wicked have laid a snare for me, yet I have not strayed from Your law." He is saying that he had enemies who really lay in wait to

destroy his reputation and even to take his life. But he did not use their evil actions as an excuse not to continue to keep God's commandments. No, he says, "I have not strayed from your precepts."

**3<sup>rd</sup> - We need to understand that God leads the true believer to incline his heart to perform His statutes forever, even to the very end.**

(Verses 111 and 112)

There are two things which the Psalmist David did which you and I as true Christians should do on a regular basis, seeing what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for us in dying for our sins. First, we would remember to take taking God's Word, His testimonies, as our heritage forever, as it says in verse 111. When all is said and done in this life, this is our lasting inheritance. We will take nothing else with us, out of this world. It is the promises and the precepts and the judgments of the Lord which we have meditated on day and night; this is what we will take with us all the way to heaven. It will be the treasure which we have stored up in heaven as we lived our lives. Then, the other thing that we should do on a regular basis is to "incline our hearts to perform God's statutes, forever, to the very end." This too, is something taught to us by our blessed Savior. It says in John 13: 1 – "Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end." Judas was standing near Him to betray Him. "But Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to the Father, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself." And He served them. He washed their feet. And He said to them, "I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you." "Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him." "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them." This is how we face darkness; this is how we face affliction; we come to use God's word as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. God's testimonies are the joy and rejoicing of our hearts. Let us thank God that He is the best of teachers, and the One who will guide us to heaven, and satisfy us with His lovingkindness forevermore.