

Subject: *Light in a Dark World*

Subject: *Psalm 119:105-120*

Psalm is a unique portion of God's Word. It is written like an autobiography with the writer telling his personal story. It is like a testimonial from someone who has tried and proven a certain product. This writer says that he has tried Scripture and found it to be exactly what he needs and more than he could ever want. As I have said before, Martin Luther and other 16th century Reformers held to the position they called *Sola Scriptura*, the Word of God is sufficient in every way. The writer of Psalm 119 is saying the same thing. He was a reformer before the Reformers.

God's Word provides light for our journey (vs. 105)

It is a sure lamp and powerful light to direct our steps in the midst of a dark world that is ignorant of God. *Psalm 119:130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.*

We are used to having street lights in our neighborhoods, headlights on our cars, and even night lights in our homes, but in Bible times light was not easy to come by. This is not speaking of physical light for our eyes to see, but spiritual light for our soul to live by.

God's Word provides light in a specific way. It's not a flood light that lights our path for a great way off into the future. It is a foot lamp that gives just enough light for the next steps on the way. It gives us enough light to guide us and keep us from stumbling or falling into danger. *Proverbs 4:18-19¹⁸ But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.¹⁹ The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.*

God's Word requires complete obedience (vs. 106)

God doesn't ask us to think about His Word and consider if we want to do it. He commands us to obey it. It's one thing to be a Bible-believing Christian, but it's another to be a Bible-obeying Christian. It takes real commitment and determination to obey God. The writer is not living by feelings. He is not fickle, but faithful. *1 Samuel 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.*

God's Word revives and strengthens us (vs. 107)

When we are weakest, we have God's promise of strength. *2 Corinthians 12:9-10⁹ And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*

God's Word deserves our personal praise (vs. 108)

The writer offers the sacrifice of praise from his own mouth. Nobody can praise God for you. In Old Testament times every person brought his own offering to the tabernacle or temple. There are times like this service when we come together to praise the Lord, but that can never

take the place of our personal praise. **Psalms 119:164** *Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments.*

God's Word provides security (vs. 109-110, 114)

(NLT) "My life constantly hangs in the balance, but I will not stop obeying your law." The psalmist's life is at risk due to his commitment to the Word.

God's Word enriches our life (vs. 111)

A heritage is an inheritance or a treasure. The writer feels so privileged, like he is the heir of a vast estate. When the late Aristotle Onassis died, a lady was upset and crying. Her friend asked: "Why are you crying, you weren't related to him." She said, "That's why I'm crying." **Psalms 119:162** *I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.*

God's Word rewards consistent obedience (vs. 112)

This is one of the greatest statements on obedience anywhere in the Bible. The writer says he will obey from the heart. He will do it at all times, and he will keep doing it as long as he lives. That's the way to live and finish well. We all appreciate people who are committed to a task. We admire the person who works hard to excel in business or sports. Why shouldn't we work just as hard to do what pleases God?

God's Word calls for our deepest love (vs. 113)

The writer knows what he loves and what he hates. His mind is settled. He is not double minded. He hates vain (empty, worthless) thoughts. That sums up most things in the world. But he loves God's law. He doesn't try to hide his feelings. He's not afraid of being all out.

God's Word requires separation from bad company (vs. 115)

In order to keep God's Word, the psalmist carefully chooses his companions and rejects others (Ps. 119:63). The world tries to distract us. We can learn from Nehemiah. **Nehemiah 6:2-4**² *That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief.*³ *And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?*⁴ *Yet they sent unto me four times after this sort; and I answered them after the same manner.*

God's Word instills hope and confidence (vs. 116-117)

Twice he asks God to hold him up. **Psalms 37:23-24**²³ *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.*²⁴ *Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.*

God's Word assures that His justice will prevail (vs. 118-119)

God righteously judges the wicked according to His Word. **Romans 12:19** *Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.* We don't have to seek justice for every wrong done because "it is written" that's God's job.

God's Word produces reverence for God (vs. 120)

Isaiah 66:2 *For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.*

Psalms 19:9 *The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.*

Steven Lawson summarizes this section of Psalm 119: “In these stanzas, the psalmist expresses again the all-sufficiency of the Word of God in his life to cause him to live as God intends. He stands in awe of the Scripture, extolling its many perfections. The holy character of God is contained in his Word and is revealed to him as he learns, loves, and lives its truths. His life is immeasurably enriched as he feeds upon and follows its teaching. The Word causes him to be restrained from sin and to pursue righteousness as he progresses in godliness. The Word is more than adequate to direct him into the fullness of God’s will.”