

Subject: *God's Servant Needs His Word*

Scripture: *Psalm 119:121-136*

Most of us are busy people. We often hear the expression, "My plate is full" or "I have too much on my plate." Too often we have so much on our plate to give quality time to the Word of God. If you're too busy to read and study God's Word, you're too busy. God gives us enough time and the grace to get everything done that He wants us to do. We must never be too busy to spend time with God in prayer and the Word.

We have noted that the writer of Psalm 119 is telling us about himself and his own love for God's Word. After reading and studying this psalm for the past few months maybe you have the idea that the writer has secluded himself from his family, the world, and all things to spend all of his time in the Word. That's just not true. I want you to notice that he calls himself God's servant four times in our text (vs. 122, 124, 125, and 135). Servants are busy people, working people, doing what God wants done in the world. But God's servants must be wise enough (like this man) to know who God is, what He is doing, and what He wants us to do. For that wisdom we need to be in God's Word. Let's look at some of the ways that God's Word guides us and helps us serve Him better.

God's servant does what is right (vs. 121)

How can we do right unless we know what is right?

Micah 6:8 *He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*

God's servant relies on His protection (vs. 121b-123, 134)

He trusts God to protect him from oppressors.

God's servant depends on His mercy (vs. 124a, 132)

The more we understand God's holiness the more we understand our need for mercy. The better we know our weakness and failure the better we know our need for mercy.

Psalms 103:8-10⁸ *The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.*⁹ *He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.*¹⁰ *He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.* We need to present the promises to the Promiser and claim them.

God's servant needs to know His Word (vs. 124b-125)

We have a saying around here in some of our classes: we are not Bible scholars, but we are Bible students. God's servant must have a teachable heart. Josh Billings said: "It ain't what a man don't know that hurts him. It's what he knows that ain't so that hurts him." God's Word replaces misinformation with truth. There's a strong connection between knowing and doing. In Romans 12:1-2, Paul urges us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice and then tells us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

God's servant looks for His intervention (vs. 126)

The servant knows his limitations and so he asks God to intervene in difficult times. This is a verse to remember in our generation.

God's servant prizes His Word (vs. 127)

The world knows the price of everything, but God's people know what is really valuable.

God's servant has total confidence in His Word (vs. 128)

Builders use a plumb line to make sure a building is square. God's Word is the plumb line of righteousness and truth. The writer knows that God's way is always right and he hates every false way (Pr. 14:12; 16:25). The concern of God's servant is always this: Is it true? Does it line up with the Word?

God's servant always strives to obey His Word (vs. 129)

The Hebrew word translated "wonderful" means "amazing, awe-inspiring." Three things of God are said to be wonderful: God's works (Ps. 40:5; 107:8; Isa. 25:1); His wisdom (Ps. 139:6; Isa. 28:29); and His Word (Ps. 119:129). God's servant has a high view of the Word and for this reason he wants to live by it.

God's servant follows the light of His Word (vs. 130)

This verse refers to illumination in understanding and comprehending the meaning of Scripture. It also refers to the clarity (also called "perspicuity") of Scripture, which means that it is understandable rather than puzzling or mysterious.

God's servant craves His Word (vs. 131)

He longs for the Word as he longs for God Himself. ***Psalms 42:1-2**¹ As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.² My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?*

God's servant relies on the overcoming power of His Word (vs. 133)

He realizes that sin cannot get the upper hand if he is obedient to the Word. ***Romans 6:12** Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*

He know if he is doing the right thing he won't be doing the wrong thing. ***Galatians 5:16** This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*

God's servant asks for His blessing through the Word (vs. 135)

God's face shining represents God's favor. This was the special priestly blessing that Aaron and his sons were to speak upon Israel: ***Numbers 6:24-26**²⁴ The LORD bless thee, and keep thee:²⁵ The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:²⁶ The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. God's shining face is also implied in this text: ***Psalms 84:11** For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.**

God's servant is heartbroken when people reject His Word (vs. 136)

He weeps because people disobey God and disregard His Word. Our hearts should break over the things that break God's heart.