

Evening Sermon Outline – July 2, 2017

Praying Big Psalm 119:17-24

I. Pray for what is beyond what you deserve –

This portion of Psalm 119 starts with the letter GIMEL and the word

GAMAL גמל gamal {gaw-mal'} – meaning to deal bountifully

1. Here, the Psalmist, God's Servant is praying for grace –

This prayer for bountiful dealing means the one praying understands what he deserves –

For the wages of sin is death, ... (Romans 6:23 NKJ)

He is NOT ASKING for that (what he deserves), but rather for the

Wonderful Grace of Jesus -

but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23 NKJ)

A. *The prayer does not focus on our goodness, as we have no real goodness –*

B. *No, it focuses on the Goodness and grace of God!*

2. What is the bountiful dealing he asks for?

A. *Lots of money? B. A faithful wife? C. A beautiful, large family?*

... That I may live and keep Your word. (Psalm 119:17 NKJ)

This is a big deal, as most people don't do this. Lots of people may be millionaires. Many have nice, beautiful families. Some seemed blessed with EVERYTHING! Few walk and keep God's Word –

This is the narrow way Jesus speaks of –

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. (Matthew 7:13-14 NKJ)

The Psalmist is praying God will help him stay on it, it is the way of life! If I don't sin I certainly win.

II. Pray to see things beyond this world –

Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law. (Psalm 119:18 NKJ)

"Open thou mine eyes." ... "It is far better to have the eyes opened than to be placed in the midst of the noblest prospects and remain blind to their beauty. "That I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." Some men can perceive no wonders in the gospel, but David felt sure that there were glorious things in the law: he had not half the Bible, but he prized it more than some men prize the whole. He felt that God had laid up great bounties in his word, and he begs for power to perceive, appreciate, and enjoy the same. We need not so much that God should give us more benefits, as the ability to see what he has given." C.H. Spurgeon

1. This is the great purpose of ministry, and especially evangelism; God tells Paul -

I now send you, ¹⁸ to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.' (Acts 26:17-18 NKJ)

This was Paul's prayer too, not only for non-believers, who needed their eyes opened, but for believers who needed eyes "enlightened" – I also, ... making mention of you in my prayers:

¹⁷ that ...the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, (Ephesians 1:15-18 NKJ)

2. This is what it means to see "wondrous things" from God's law:

A. *It is seeing those things which are impossible to see apart from the New Birth –*

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3 NKJ)

B. *It is seeing those things we cannot see except with the Holy Spirit's enabling –*

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." ¹⁰ But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. (1 Corinthians 2:9-10 NKJ)

C. *It is seeing those things which are "foolishness" to an ungodly and BLIND world –*

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14 NKJ)

"I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see." John Newton

III. *Pray to be guided and helped through this world –*

I *am* a stranger in the earth; Do not hide Your commandments from me. ²⁰ My soul breaks with longing For Your judgments at all times. ²¹ You rebuke the proud-- the cursed, Who stray from Your commandments. ²² Remove from me reproach and contempt, For I have kept Your testimonies. ²³ Princes also sit *and* speak against me, *But* Your servant meditates on Your statutes. ²⁴ Your testimonies also are my delight *And* my counselors. (Ps. 119:19-24 NKJ)

1. *The Psalmist is a stranger in this world:*

A. *Because of his relationship to God*

B. *Because of his obedience to God's commandments, therefore he prays again –*

2. *Do not hide your commandments from me, why?*

A. *He sees these things hidden from the ungodly –*

Just as it is written: "God has given them a spirit of stupor, Eyes that they should not see And ears that they should not hear, To this very day." (Romans 11:8 NKJ)

B. *Whether it is God or the god of this world (Satan) blinding the ungodly, he the Psalmist wants nothing to do with this dread blindness –*

But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the *veil* is taken away in Christ. (2 Corinthians 3:14 NKJ)

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. (2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NKJ)

3. *The Psalmist realizes he has a great NEED for God's commands and a personal obedience to them –*

My soul breaks with longing For Your judgments at all times. (Ps. 119:20 NKJ)

This is the longing we need, because first we struggle with our SELF - For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. (Galatians 5:17 NKJ)

4. *But there is also outward OPPOSITION -*

²¹ You rebuke the proud-- the cursed, Who stray from Your commandments. ²² Remove from me reproach and contempt, For I have kept Your testimonies. ²³ Princes also sit *and* speak against me, *But* Your servant meditates on Your statutes. ²⁴ Your testimonies also are my delight *and* my counselors. (Ps. 119:19-24 NKJ)

Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. (2 Tim. 3:12 NKJ)

"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. (John 15:18 NKJ)

A. *When we keep God's law we become the do-gooders which the world hates, this has been the world's way since Cain – not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. ¹³ Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. (1 John 3:12-13 NKJ)*

B. *We pray in the midst of OPPOSITION because our OPPOSITION is great and terrible –*

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (Eph. 6:10-13 NKJ)

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