

PSALM 119 129 - 144 – Meditations on the Excellencies of the Word of God!

8/14/21 Sat. Morn Prayer - P. Twente, www.ptwente.com 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

Psa 119:138 Your testimonies, which You have commanded, Are righteous and very faithful.

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS! Chisholm; Runyan – Fetke (2:40)

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; as Thou hast been Thou forever will be.*

Refrain:

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided; great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth. Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain*

Thomas O. Chisholm was born in Franklin, Kentucky in 1866. His boyhood was spent on a farm and in teaching district schools. He spent five years as editor of the local paper at Franklin. He was converted to Christianity at the age of 26 and soon after was business manager and office editor of the "Pentecostal Herald" or Louisville, Ky. In 1903 he entered the ministry of the M. E. Church South. His aim in writing was to incorporate as much as Scripture as possible and to avoid flippant or sentimental.

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Psa 119:129 Your testimonies are wonderful; Therefore my soul keeps them.

- In the Old Testament we have the testimonies of the Lord. How God worked in His people, by His people and for His people. Thus, in Psalm 119, when we talk about the testimonies of the Lord, we are talking about the word of God that tells us of God's faithfulness, God's goodness, God's blessing, and God's watchful care. It is testifying really of the character and the nature of God as it is manifested in the life of His people
- It's always a thrilling thing to hear the testimonies. Truly, they are wonderful, those testimonies of God's faithfulness and His goodness.
- *Therefore my soul keeps them.* That is, I keep the relationship with God that allows Him that freedom of working in my life. The psalmist says it's wonderful what You do God, therefore I will keep myself in that place where You can do for me that which You desire to do because of Your rich love for me.

Psa 119:130 The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

- *The entrance of Your words!* The opening of the door to the word of God gives understanding. That probably is an idea that would be more in keeping with the Hebrew language. It's talking about how that the word of God sort of opens the door of my understanding of God, the ways of God and the purposes of God.
- *It gives understanding to the simple!* I qualify! God has not chosen many wise and many noble, but He has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise, which is nothing to really be an interesting witness to those that think they are something.

Psa 119:131 I opened my mouth and panted, For I longed for Your commandments.

- *(Psa 42:1) As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God.*

- Think of a marathon runner who has run far enough that they can't suck in enough air. They open their mouths and really pant to get all the oxygen that they can. That's the picture here. His desire is so great *that I opened my mouth*, I pant with an open mouth for the commandments of God. I long, my heart just yearns and longs for Your commandments.
- Not everybody takes that attitude towards the commandments of God. There are many people who sort of shun the commandments of God. They look upon them as something that is restrictive, something that is there to keep me back from something that would be desirable or good for me. In reality the commandments of God are truly good for me.

Psa 119:132 Look upon me and be merciful to me, As Your custom is toward those who love Your name.

- The testimonies of the Old Testament tell of how God looked upon those and blessed those who kept His word, who loved Him. The psalmist is asking the Lord to do for him as He has done for others who have loved the name of the Lord.

Psa 119:133 Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me.

- Let my life be guided by Your truth. Let me walk in the path that You have established for my life. Order my steps in Your word.
- *Let no iniquity have dominion over me!* What an important prayer. If you give yourself over to iniquity it will take control of your life. It will begin to rule. Many people just began an iniquitous thing, maybe as a dare. They found that soon they were trapped. They were victims because it was ruling over them. It's a very legitimate prayer of the psalmist not to allow any iniquity to have dominion over him.

Psa 119:134 Redeem me from the oppression of man, That I may keep Your precepts.

- Lord, look with favor upon my life! When saints are set free from the tyrant, they are free to joyfully pay homage to their king.

Psa 119:135 Make Your face shine upon Your servant, And teach me Your statutes.

- The psalmist speaks of his sorrow because men were not keeping the law of God. It is grieving to see the conditions of our nation today. I have sort of a mixed kind of an emotion. I'm grieved at the direction that our nation is going, forsaking the law of God, but then I'm also angry that men could be so foolish as to forsake God, as to think that the nation can get along without God!
- In the first public schools in the United States, the Bible was the textbook. Every child had one and they were taught to read. As they were taught their English lessons, they were taught out of the Bible. How foolish is a nation that began with a trust in God and a reliance upon God to now think they can survive independently of God, pushing Him aside? You think you can survive that way?

Psa 119:136 Rivers of water run down from my eyes, Because men do not keep Your law.

- In another place David speaks about his bed swimming in his tears. I cried so much my bed was floating! It is speaking of a heart that is really moved. We need to have a more sensitive heart towards issues of the spirit. We need to feel more keenly, more deeply, these issues where we really weep before God for the things that are happening.

TSADDE

Psa 119:137 Righteous are You, O LORD, And upright are Your judgments.

- *Righteous are You, O Lord* The Psalmist has not often used the name of Jehovah in this great composition. The whole Psalm shows him to have been a deeply religious man, thoroughly familiar with the things of God. Such persons never use the holy name of God carelessly, nor do they even use it at all frequently in comparison with the thoughtless and the ungodly.
- *And upright are Your judgments.* Here he extols God's word, or recorded judgments, as being right, even as their Author is righteous. That which comes from the righteous God is itself righteous. The LORD both says and does that which is right, and that alone. It should be our glory to sing this brave confession when all things around us appear to suggest the contrary. This is the richest adoration. This which rises from the lips of faith when carnal reason utters the opposite.

Psa 119:138 Your testimonies, which You have commanded, Are righteous and very faithful.

- All that which God hath testified in His word is right and truthful. It is righteous, and may be relied upon for the present. It is faithful and may be trusted in for the future. Not only the precepts but the promises also are commanded of the Lord, as all the teachings of Scripture. God's word is righteous and cannot be impeached. It is faithful and cannot be questioned. It is true from the beginning, and it will be true unto the end.
- Dwell upon that sweet word - "*very faithful.*" What a mercy that we have a God to deal with who is scrupulously faithful, true to all the items and details of His promises, punctual to time, steadfast during all time.

Psa 119:139 My zeal has consumed me, Because my enemies have forgotten Your words.

- The psalmist had the same kind of mixed emotions that I have. There is a grieving because of peoples' disobedience to the word of God, the law of God. Yet there is also an anger.

Psa 119:140 Your word is very pure; Therefore Your servant loves it.

- *Your word is very pure!* It is truth distilled, holiness in its essence. In the word of God there is no mixture of error or sin. It is pure in its sense; pure in its language; pure in its spirit; pure in its influence. All of this to the very highest degree. It is *very pure!* Not 99 44/100%, but 100% pure!
- *Therefore Your servant loves it!* Which is a proof that he himself was pure in heart, for only those who are pure, love God's word because of its purity. His heart was knit to the word because of its glorious holiness and truth. He admired it; delighted in it; practiced it and longed to come under its purifying power.

Psa 119:141 I am small and despised, Yet I do not forget Your precepts.

- That fault of forgetfulness which he condemned in others, could not be charged upon himself. His enemies made no account of him. They regarded him as a man without power or ability. Therefore, they looked down upon him. He appears to accept the situation and humbly take the lowest room, but he carries God's word with him. The beauty of the Psalmist's holiness was that it was calm and well-balanced. He was not carried away by flattery, so was he not overcome by shame. He jealously attended to the smaller duties; and if despised, he was more earnestly keeping the despised commandments of God.

Psa 119:142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your law is truth.

- Having in a previous verse ascribed righteousness to God, he now goes on to declare that, that righteousness is unchanging and endures from age to age. This is the joy and glory of the saints. That is what God is. He always will be, and His mode of procedure towards the sons of men is immutable, having kept His promise, and dealt out justice among His people. He will do so world without end. Both the righteousnesses and the un-righteousnesses of man come to an end, but the righteousness of God is never

ending!

- *And Your law is truth.* As God is love, so His law is the truth, the very essence of truth, truth applied to ethics, truth in action, truth upon the judgment seat. We hear great disputes about, “*What is truth?*” The holy Scriptures are the only answer to that question. We may not say of them that they contain the truth, but that they are the truth! There is nothing false about the law or the Scripture. Those who are obedient to it shall find that they are walking in a way consistent with fact, while those who act contrary thereto are walking in a useless show.

Psa 119:143 Trouble and anguish have overtaken me, Yet Your commandments are my delights.

- *Trouble and anguish have overtaken me.* The word rendered “*trouble*” means affliction of any kind; the word rendered “*anguish*” would probably express that which results from being pressed or compressed. It properly refers to a situation where there is no room to move, and where we are pent up in a narrow place. The two words denote deep affliction. Often, when we least expect them, they come suddenly up to us, and make us their victims.
- *Yet Your commandments are my delights!* Notwithstanding this trouble, and in this trouble - no matter what comes, I have the same unfailing source of comfort, the truth of God; and notwithstanding what may occur! I still make God and His law the source of my happiness.

Psa 119:144 The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting; Give me understanding, and I shall live.

- **The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting.** *Your* moral law was not made for one people, or for one particular time! It is as imperishable as *Your* nature, and of endless obligation. It is that law by which all the children of Adam shall be Judged.
- *Give me understanding.* To know and practice it.
- *And I shall live* - Shall glorify thee, and live eternally; not for the merit of having done it, but because thou didst fulfill the work of the law in my heart, having saved me from condemnation by it.

THE LOVE OF GOD! Frederick Lehman – Phelps, Penrod & Gardner (4:24)

*The love of God is greater far Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star, And reaches to the lowest hell;
The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled, And pardoned from his sin.*

Refrain:

*Oh, love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure— The saints’ and angels’ song.*

*Could we with ink the ocean fill, And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill, And every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, Though stretched from sky to sky. (Refrain)*

**PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE
OFFICERS/MILITARY; ISRAEL:
PRAY FOR OUR NATION’S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD
LEADERS: - Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation!**