

PSALM 119: 1-16 2023 – Meditations on the Excellencies of the Word of God!

11/4/23 Sat. Morn Prayer - P. Twente, www.ptwente.com 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET! Amy Grant Michael W. Smith (3:18)

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path (2X)
When I feel afraid Think I have lost my way Still you're there right beside me
And nothing will I fear As long as you are near Please be near me to the end
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
I will not forget Your love for me and yet My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide And hold me to your side I will love you to the end
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near Please be near me to the end
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
And a light unto my path You're the light unto my path*

PSALM 119: The one theme is the word of the LORD. The Psalmist sets his subject in many lights and treats of it in many different ways, but he seldom omits to mention the word of the LORD in each verse under someone or other of the many names by which he knows it. Even if the name is not there, the subject is still heartily pursued in every stanza. He who wrote this wonderful song was saturated with those books of Scripture which he possessed. Andrew Bonar tells of a simple Christian in a farmhouse who had meditated in the Bible through three times. This precisely what this Psalmist had done. He had gone past reading, into meditation. Like Luther, David had shaken every fruit tree in the God's garden and gathered golden fruit there from. Most, says Martin Boos, read their Bibles like cows that stand in the thick grass, and trample underfoot the finest flowers and herbs. It is to be feared that we too often do the same. This a miserable way of treating the pages of inspiration. May the LORD prevent us from repeating that sin while reading this precious Psalm!

This acrostic Psalm is the longest chapter in the Bible. It is in an essence the ABC's of, you might say, the word of God. It is divided into twenty-two sections of eight verses each and at the heading of each section there is a Hebrew letter beginning with their "A" and going through the Hebrew alphabet. Each verse of the first eight verses of the Aleph begins with the Hebrew letter Aleph. Verses 9-16 begin with the Hebrew letter Beth and so on through the Hebrew alphabet. It is interesting that it goes in eight's and in each group of eight it begins with the successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

It is said that the Hebrews taught the children the Hebrew alphabet by having them memorize this psalm. You never had it so good, "A is for apple, B is for banana." The impact, of course, of that would be a thorough appreciation for the word of God. In all but three verses the word of God is mentioned as far as the statutes, the law, the commandments, the precepts, the ways and in the different forms the word of God is mentioned.

It is a psalm that extols the law of God, the judgements of God, the precepts of God, the commandments of God, the statutes of God and the ways of God. He has made known really the testimonies of God, all that He has made known unto His people. With that brief introduction we begin with the declaration of the blessedness.

THE WORD OF GOD LEADS TO A BLESSED LIFE!

Psa 119:1 Blessed are the undefiled (perfect, blameless) in the way, Who walk in the law (Torah, to direct, guide, aim) of the LORD!

***Psa 119:2 Blessed are those who keep His testimonies (to bear witness, to testify),
Who seek Him with the whole heart!***

- *Blessed* - Oh how happy!) Notice we have the **way** (Thank God, we have a way!) of the LORD, the **law** of the LORD and now the **testimonies** of the LORD. **The Word of God** (173 verses)-**The God of the Word** (176 verses), **leads to a blessed life!**
- Over and over the scripture is exhorting us to make a **whole-hearted** commitment unto God. The half-hearted commitment never wins. God wants a total commitment from us! Here we see the

blessedness of the man, who *observes* the law of God, who *walks* in the law of the LORD, who *seeks* to live a pure life, a good life whose life is undefiled.

- It is said that Hebrew word “*blessed*” could be literally translated “Oh how happy is the man.” It is true that the law of God was intended to bring us into a relationship with God and that relationship with God has as its byproduct happiness and joy in our lives.
- He speaks about that fullness of joy, relating it to fellowship with God. The purpose of God giving us His law, His commandments, is to bring a man into fellowship with God. These are the rules. If you are to walk and live-in fellowship with God these are the rules, this the way God is, and this is the way God wants you to be. To live in fellowship with Him and oneness with Him you have to come into harmony with Him and this is what God is: He is true, His is pure and He is holy. Thus, He wants you to be true. He wants you to be fair. He wants you to be holy and He wants you to be righteous in order that you might enjoy that fellowship with Him.
- The happiness of the man who is *undefiled in the way*. Have you ever noticed how much trouble sin can get you in? Have you noticed the mental turmoil that you go through when you have done something wrong and especially when you have been caught, and you know you are going to have to pay the consequences? You are going to have to face up to what you have done. You have lied about somebody, and word has gotten back to them that you lied about them, and they have called, and they want to meet you. Have you noticed how totally miserable and uncomfortable you are? You really do not want to see them; you do not want to have to face up to what you have done. You know what you have did was wrong, and you know you should not have said it and now you have got to face it. How miserable sin can make us? In fact, you wonder why people keep sinning when it is consequence is such misery.

Psa 119:3 They also do no iniquity (twistedness); They walk in His ways.

- The interesting thing about this is that the scripture acknowledges that “there are none righteous, no not one. If we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth isn’t in us.” For the declaration that they also do no iniquity for they walk in His ways is an interesting statement because for those who are walking in the way of the LORD, in faith and trusting in God, in the sight of the LORD, do no iniquity. He sees your heart and your heart is holy towards Him. It does not mean that you do not fail, we do fail. It does mean that God **is not keeping a record** of our failures.
- One of the tremendous benefits of trusting in Jesus Christ is that God is not keeping a list against you. God is not accounting iniquity against you. That is a very blessed and happy state. To realize that because my heart is totally towards Him. I love Him. I want to serve Him, and I want to do what is right, my spirit indeed is willing, and God sees my spirit and He accounts that which is in my spirit. This is not an excuse for me to just say, “All right, no accounting of iniquity so let’s go out and party.” That is not what it is about. “How can we who are dead to sin live any longer therein?” My heart is towards the LORD.
- God seeing my heart, knowing my spirit, knowing my heart is towards Him and my desire is to walk after the spirit though I may fall and stumble, God does not impute that iniquity against me. I am cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. Oh, how happy is that man who has this kind of relationship with God.

Psa 119:4 You have commanded (to keep, to guard) us To keep Your precepts (mandates, to place in trust) diligently.

- I am to really meditate upon the law of God. To understand it, to know it, to know those things that He requires and desires of me that I might keep His precepts diligently.

Psa 119:5 Oh that my ways were directed (my pleading begins), To keep Your statutes (decreed, ordained, to engrave, inscribe)!

- If only this were my natural bent. If my natural bent was not towards the rebellion against authority. If I could just do it naturally. I cannot keep the law of God naturally. It is against my human nature. I can only keep the law of God supernaturally through the power of His Holy Spirit. We need that keeping power of the Spirit of God working in our lives. We try to do it in ourselves and in our flesh and we are just going to be faced with all kinds of misery. The power of God’s spirit working in me, transforming me, giving the abilities and the capacities. “*Oh, that my ways were directed to keep Your statutes.*” Through the working of the Holy Spirit, they are indeed.

Psa 119:6 Then I would not be ashamed, When I look into all Your commandments (obligation, to command, ordain).

- The scripture says, (*Gal 3:10*) *For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT CONTINUE IN ALL THINGS WHICH ARE WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO DO THEM."* To obtain a righteous standing before God by keeping the law is impossible.. The law was not intended to make you righteous. The law was intended to show you your sin. It was intended to drive you to Jesus Christ. It was intended to bring you to the end of your self-efforts and say, "Oh God I can't do it. Help." Thus, bringing you into that fellowship of God that comes when you cry out for God's help.
- If righteousness could come by the law then Christ died in vain. It was never intended as a righteous standard; it was intended just as something to display to you how far short you have come of being what God would have you to be and to cause you to be driven to Jesus Christ as your only hope. My only hope of forgiveness, my only hope was standing before God and my only hope of fellowship with God lies in the work of Jesus Christ.

Psa 119:7 I will praise (now the verses begin with praises, prayers)***You with uprightness of heart, When I learn Your righteous judgments*** (judicial decisions, to govern, to judge).

- The praising of the LORD with the uprightness of my heart comes as the result of learning His righteous judgements.

Psa 119:8 I will keep Your statutes; Oh, do not forsake me utterly!

- These verses are hard to expound because every one of them is sort of a thought that can be developed in itself. We could spend the next year in this psalm, developing verse so we just cannot take that time.

THE WORD OF GOD LEADS TO A PURE, CLEAN LIFE!

Psa 119:9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word (Logos, Word of God).

- Beginning with a question. *How can a young man cleanse his way?* The answer. *by taking heed thereto according to Your word. **The word of God leads to a pure, clean life!** Are you giving "the word" a cleansing place in your life? How is your devotional life? Do you feel the word of God cleansing you? The single greatest influence in your life?*

Psa 119:10 With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!

- The reason why a person prays, "*Let me not wander from Your commandments*" is because there is a human tendency to wander away. We do not live the Christian life naturally; we live it supernaturally. Anytime we move away from the Spirit, we get into trouble; the natural bent of man takes over.

Psa 119:11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

- The best defense that we have against the attacks, temptations and deception of Satan is the word of God hidden in our hearts, saturating your life with the word of God. As you are saturated with God's word, there is that power against sin. The word of God hidden in my heart gives me the best defense against the deceptions of Satan!
- The word of God hidden away in your heart becomes your best defense against the temptations that Satan brings along your path. The word will keep you from sin; and sin will keep you from the word. I want my life to be cleansed. I want my sons to walk in purity What is the best way? Get them in the Word of God. *How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.*

Psa 119:12 Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes.

Psa 119:13 With my lips I have declared All the judgments of Your mouth.

Psa 119:14 I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches.

- Notice here I will declare, or *I have declared, I have rejoiced.*
- The accounting of the LORD is great treasures, great riches, rejoicing in the testimonies of God.

Psa 119:15 I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways.

- We are living in a day and age of great broadness. Because of magazines, the media, newspapers, television, and radio we have become a very broad people. We know a little bit about everything. We get it in condensed forms, information. This is the age of information, the information exchange. With all of these capacities of exchanging information we know a little bit about everything, but we are not very deep in anything. We are broad but not deep.
- In this day and age, we have really lost the art of meditation. I want it in a five-minute capsulated form. Condense it. Be brief. Give me the essence. I like the information all processed, digested, and given to me in the condensed form so I can get the grasp of it. I do not need to know all the details. I just want to get the gist of the matter. That is the way we treat information today. We do not really stop to think things through, to meditate on things and yet the Word of God is something that cannot be grasped in a capsulated form. To really understand you have to meditate on it, mull over it and let the Spirit of God begin to minister to your heart the truth of God's word!
- It is amazing how much one can get out of a scripture when you just sit down and begin to meditate on it, just sitting down and reading it over and over and over again. You think about it, meditate on it, and begin to see facets of it that you never discovered it in the beginning and the thing just begins to unfold and open up. That comes from just meditation. *Thus, I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways.*

Psa 119:16 I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.

Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

- *I have declared, I have rejoiced, I will meditate, I will delight, and I will not forget.* So, when you come to the word of God those are good things. To rejoice in the Word of God, to meditate in the Word of God, to delight yourself in the Word of God and do not forget the Word.

ABOVE ALL – Michael W. Smith (4:24)

Above all powers, above all kings. Above all nature and all created things

Above all wisdom and all the ways of man You were here before the world began

Above all kingdoms, above all thrones Above all wonders the world has ever known

Above all wealth and treasures of the earth There's no way to measure what You're worth

Crucified, laid behind a stone You lived to die, rejected and alone

Like a rose, trampled on the ground You took the fall and thought of me Above all (2X)

Crucified, laid behind a stone You lived to die, rejected and alone

Like a rose, trampled on the ground You took the fall and thought of me Above all

Like a rose, trampled on the ground You took the fall and thought of me Above all

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!

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