

God's Life Changing Word

Psalm 119

Pastor Guy Gray

The Book of Psalms is the book of prayer and praise. Surprisingly though, it doesn't begin with prayer, it begins with a call to delight in and meditate on the Word of God. This is a theme that reappears many times throughout the Book of Psalms. The reason for this is simple and truly important, before we ever speak a word of prayer or praise to God we must realize and acknowledge that God has first spoken to us! This means that all of our prayers and praises are really our personal response to what God has spoken in His Word—what God has revealed. Even when we ask for God's help in times of trouble, we are praying in faith to God because His Word has revealed to us that we can call upon Him in faith in times of trouble. His Word has shown us His power, His glory, His heart and His love. This is the foundation of all real prayer and praise.

Learning to Treasure God's Word

Psalm 119 is one of the psalms that focuses our attention on the Word of God. It is the longest of all of the psalms (176 verses!) The whole psalm is dedicated to exploring and celebrating the wonders of the Word of God. Verse 72 says "The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold." To truly treasure God's Word, you need to see all the reasons for its great value. A wonderful exercise is to go through Psalm 119 and list all the reasons given for us to treasure the Word.

When you see something as a priceless treasure, you are motivated to go after it—to acquire it! This is another theme that rings out from this psalm. Verse 18 says, "Open my eyes that I might see wonderful things in your law." This prayer catches the spirit of longing and seeking of the psalm. There is treasure here. Will we see it? Will we find it? It is not just through study or reading the Word that we find the treasure. It is through the earnest prayer that goes hand in hand with our reading of the Word.

Jesus and the Word of God

The most powerful thing about God's Word is how it reveals Jesus to us. The disciples learned this lesson from Jesus after His resurrection (see Luke 24:27-45.) In fact, the Word not only reveals Jesus to us, but the voice of Jesus speaks in and through the Word. There is an unbreakable connection between Jesus and the scriptures. (See 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 and John 5:39-40.) The more we get into the Word and truly understand Old Testament and New—the more we will truly understand Jesus and the Gospel. The more we will grasp all that has been done for us through Christ as well as our life of faith and following Christ. This is what we saw as we studied the Book of Exodus. Remember how it all pointed to the New Testament and the reality of Jesus and the Gospel? This is why at River West we are committed to a consistent deep study of God's Word—ever looking at the message of the Bible as it unfolds book by book and chapter by chapter.

Light for Your Path

We are living in challenging times! There is confusion and controversy all around us. There are questions and struggles we each have in our own lives as well. What a comfort to know that there is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path in the Word of God (Psalm 119:105). Each of us must decide to treasure God's Word for the treasure that it truly is. As individuals and as a church let's do just that as we move into our study of 1 Corinthians together next week!

Ideas for Reflection and Discussion

This week, use Psalm 119 as a part of your daily devotion. Read it and pray through it. Consider memorizing verses that are particularly meaningful to you (e.g., vs. 9-11, 105-106, 36 & 37).

Finding the Treasure

As you study and read Psalm 119, make a list of all the reasons given for us to treasure the Word (vs. 72.) As verse 18 encourages us, pray and ask the Lord to open your eyes that you might see the wonderful things in the law. Record your discoveries.

Hiding the Word in Your Heart

What is the prescription for defeating sin in verse 9-16? How is this different from simply motivating ourselves through self-discipline or even guilt? Can you relate to David in his passionate delight in the Word? Why or why not? What action steps might the Lord want you to take to grow in your love and dependence upon His Word?

Coming up:

STARTING IN SEPTEMBER:

Fall is here & there are many opportunities to get connected! Sign-ups start today!

Financial Peace University

Contact Julie Messinger at 699.2226 or julie@riverwest.org

Women's Bible Studies

Contact Marty Layton at 624.8787

Men's Bible Studies

Contact Pastor Adam McMurray at 699.2226 or adam@riverwest.org

Community Groups

Contact Pastor Adam McMurray at 699.2226 or adam@riverwest.org

FitBody Conditioning Class

Contact Gina Kulper @ 636.8294 or gina6855@hotmail.com