

## PSALM 119

### ***THE EXCELLENCIES OF THE WORD OF GOD (Part 1)***

#### Introduction

- 1) In a time when many love lawlessness, it is refreshing to the godly soul to meditate on the wonderful qualities of the law/word/precepts/statutes/commandments/testimonies of God
- 2) **Psalm 119** is a collection of meditations on the excellent qualities of the word of God
  - a) Longest psalm and chapter in the Bible (176 verses)
  - b) Hebrew acrostic – 22 divisions corresponding to the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet
  - c) Beautifully written in form and content – spiritual food for the hungry soul
- 3) Will now consider the truths and principles to be learned in **vv. 1-56**

#### **I) Vv. 1-8 – Our Whole Heart**

- A) v. 2 – seek God with the “whole heart” – not half-heartedly, ho-hum attitude
  - 1) Heart = conscience, will, emotions, intellect (the whole man)
  - 2) Love God with “all your heart” – greatest commandment (Matt. 22:37)
- B) v. 3 – not sinning while busy obeying God (practice righteousness 1 Jn. 2:29; 3:9)
- C) v. 6 – sin should bring shame (v. 80; Jer. 6:15)
- D) v. 7 – upright heart necessary to praise God (Matt. 15:8-9)

#### **II) Vv. 9-16 – Advice for Youth**

- A) v. 9 – crucial advice for all young people (Eccl. 12:1)
- B) vv. 10-11 – how to avoid sin and wandering from God’s commandments (Heb. 2:1)
  - 1) Hide word in heart – not on shelf, coffee table, in drawer, etc.
- C) vv. 12-13 – be taught, then speak the word
- D) vv. 14-16 – must spend time with word, lest we forget it

#### **III) Vv. 17-24 – Open Eyes**

- A) v. 18 – “open eyes” = not just seeing, but understanding the truth
  - 1) Wondrous things = God’s great works, love, grace, forgiveness, salvation
- B) v. 23 – not intimidated by man’s opinions; courage and confidence provided in word

#### **IV) Vv. 25-32 – The Godly Life**

- A) vv. 25, 28 – word of God revives and strengthens the downcast
- B) vv. 30-32 – summary of godliness – choose, cling, and run in God’s commandments

#### **V) Vv. 33-40 – God’s School**

- A) v. 33 – Learning process is first step to keeping commandments of God
- B) v. 35 – Application to life is goal of those who love God and His word
- C) vv. 36-37 – Make real choices between worthless things and God’s way

#### **VI) Vv. 41-48 – Our Duty**

- A) vv. 41-43, 46 – ready with an answer for those who reproach us (1 Pet. 3:15)
- B) v. 44 – our duty in life (Eccl. 12:13); constant, unwavering focus each day
- C) v. 45 – true liberty found in walking in God’s ways – liberty to do what is right
- D) vv. 47-48 – do you love God’s word? How could someone know that?

#### **VII) Vv. 49-56 – Hope, Life, Confidence**

- A) v. 49 – word of God brings hope (Heb. 11:1)
- B) v. 50 – word of God gives life (Jn. 6:63, 68-69)
- C) vv. 51-53 – not intimidated, but indignant at the wicked because of truth
- D) vv. 50, 45, 49 – word of God gives “life, liberty, and the pursuit of [spiritual] happiness”

*Next study: Vv. 57-120*