

Sunday Night Message

September 25, 2016


























Psalms 119:129 – 136 – *Loving God and His Word When It Is No Longer in Vogue*

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 119:129 - 136

Introduction

We are continuing our examination of the longest Psalm as well as the longest chapter of the Bible. As we discussed last week, this psalm is a Hebrew acrostic where every eight verses are separated into sections where the first letter of each verse begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The first eight verses each begin with “Aleph”, the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Verses 9 – 16 all begin with “Beth”; verses 17 – 24 all begin with Gimel; and, so on.

									
Yod (Y)	Tet (T)	Chet (Ch)	Zayin (Z)	Vav (V)	He (H)	Dalet (D)	Gimel (G)	Bet (B/V)	Alef (silent)
									
Ayin (silent)	Samech (S)	Nun (N)	Nun (N)	Mem (M)	Mem (M)	Lamed (L)	Khaf (Kh)	Kaf (K/Kh)	
									
Tav (T)	Shin (Sh/S)	Resh (R)	Qof (Q)	Tsadeh (Ts)	Tsadeh (Ts)	Feh (F)	Peh (P/F)		

We do not know the writer of this psalm, though we think it must have been a “high profile” person, perhaps a king or a priest. Nor do we know the historical context. There is no doubt, however, as to the theme of the psalm. 170 out of the 175 verses in this psalm speak directly regarding the Word of God. The writer to this psalm is expressing his love and devotion to the Word of God, and is encouraging us to do the same.

Phillips has said regarding the anonymity of the writer:

Throughout this psalm we are made aware that the singer is in trouble. We would like to know who he was—David, perhaps, or Daniel, or Hezekiah. But since he has remained

anonymous (making this psalm one of the “orphan psalms” of the Hebrew hymn book) the Holy Spirit intends his sufferings to be of universal significance. Any beleaguered saint of God can put his or her name at the head of this psalm and sing it themselves.¹

“PE”

“PE” is the seventeenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet, so every verse of this section of the psalm begins with the letter “PE”.

The theme that jumped out at me as I read this “PE” section of Psalm 119 was the theme of remaining steadfast and faithful to the Lord when it is no longer “the in thing” to do. The worship of God can be like a fad to many people. There have been times in our recent history when being a Christian was a popular thing to be. Unfortunately, however, Christianity is becoming, at least in the eyes of many, increasingly unpopular.

Back in the days of the first century, Emperor Nero burned down much of the City of Rome and blamed it on the Christians. It seems that many of the problems in our world today are also being blamed upon Christians.

It is easy to serve God when it is in vogue, but what will the Christian do when it is not. Will we still love the Lord when it costs us something to do so. We have enjoyed many decades, even centuries of being the dominating religion in America, but those days are quickly escaping.

This psalmist seemed to be reflecting on the “good ole days” and was sad to see them go, but he was also determined to continue loving and serving God and His word, even though the world around Him was turning away from God.

I **The Conviction of the Psalmist (vs. 129 – 130)**

In these first two verses the psalmist is stating His position. This is where he stood. He is almost reminding himself of the reasons why he was still in love with the Word of God, though no one else seemed to be.

"Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them." - (Psalm 119:129)

God’s Word is wonderful, and the blessings that come from living according to the Word are wonderful also.

"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." - (Psalm 119:130)

A man who is not especially intelligent will be much wiser than the rest of the crowd if he allows

¹ Phillips, J. (2012). Exploring Psalms 89–150: An Expository Commentary (Vol. 2, Ps 119:81–88). Kregel Publications; WORDsearch Corp.

the Word and words of God to enter into Him. The more we learn and apply the Bible to our lives, the more we will have understanding.

The psalmist is stating in these first two verses that His position is firm. He does not care what his peers are doing, he is firmly standing upon the Word of God.

"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me." - (Psalm 101:3)

II The Recollection of the Psalmist (vs. 131 – 132)

"I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for thy commandments." - (Psalm 119:131)

I am reminded of the early days of my salvation. I was hungry – starving – for the Word of God. I could not get enough.

"As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God." - (Psalm 42:1)

"Look thou upon me, and be merciful unto me, as thou usest to do unto those that love thy name." - (Psalm 119:132)

He was remembering when there were a whole lot more people who were serving God, but as was stated earlier, he was not dependent upon others. He panted for God when they were panting, and He is still panting for God now.

III The Supplication of the Psalmist (vs. 133 – 135)

"Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me." - (Psalm 119:133)

"Deliver me from the oppression of man: so will I keep thy precepts." - (Psalm 119:134)

"Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; and teach me thy statutes." - (Psalm 119:135)

"Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer." - (Psalm 19:13-14)

IV The Lamentation of the Psalmist (v. 136)

"Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law." - (Psalm 119:136)

The psalmist grieved over the condition of his nation.

We ought to be grieving over the condition of America.

Turn to Nehemiah 1