

Sunday Night Message

September 25, 2016




























Psalms 119:137 – 144 – *Learning God’s Word is the Best Thing That Ever Happened To Me*

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 119:137 - 144

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

It is possible having now gone through almost 140 verses centered in the theme of God’s Word that some would be bored with the topic. I like what Phillips said as he approached the “tsadech” or “tzaddi” section:

The psalmist continues with his inexhaustible theme, occupied with the most wonderful Book ever written, a Book without parallel in the world’s libraries. He is occupied with the Word of God.²

This particular section of Psalm 119 tells us that both God and His word our righteous.

Men have a myriad of different ways to live while they are here on this earth, but God’s way is right.

*"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." -
(Proverbs 14:12)*

In Warren Wiersbe’s commentary, he entitled this section “God’s Word is Trustworthy”

As the world moves rapidly away from the philosophies and principles contained in the Word of God, Christians need to decide who they are going to listen to? Who are they going to trust? We also need to determine to keep following the Word of God, even when it seems to make little sense.

TZADDI.

"Righteous art thou, O LORD, and upright are thy judgments." - (Psalm 119:137)

"Thy testimonies that thou hast commanded are righteous and very faithful." - (Psalm 119:138)

"My zeal hath consumed me, because mine enemies have forgotten thy words." - (Psalm 119:139)

"Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it." - (Psalm 119:140)

"I am small and despised: yet do not I forget thy precepts." - (Psalm 119:141)

"Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth." - (Psalm 119:142)

"Trouble and anguish have taken hold on me: yet thy commandments are my delights." - (Psalm 119:143)

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

² Phillips, J. (2012). Exploring Psalms 89–150: An Expository Commentary (Vol. 2, Ps 119:137–144). Kregel Publications; WORDsearch Corp.

*"The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live." -
(Psalm 119:144)*

Three times in these verses God declares that His Word (judgments (v. 137), testimonies (vs. 138, 144) is righteous. It's right.

Once it says that they are faithful or dependable or trustworthy. (v. 138)

Once it says that they are pure (v. 140), meaning purified or time tested and trustworthy.

"The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever." - (Psalm 12:6-7)

Once it says that they are eternal – not bound by time or changes in the culture (v. 144)

The psalmist came to the same place in His life that I have come to. He knew the Bible was God's Word, and He trusted it. He learned that God and His Word was right, no matter how it might disagree with the philosophies of this world.

"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." - (Isaiah 55:9)

We have to trust God's word just as we expect our small children to trust us. Sometimes, their little minds think that they know what is best, but we know better. God also knows better than we do.

Because the psalmist learned to trust the Word of God, He gained understanding (v. 144), which blessed His life, which caused Him to love it (v. 140) and delight (v. 143) in it.

The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to implant faith in our hearts (Rom. 10:17), and the more we live in God's Word, the stronger our faith will become. Some people have no faith (Mark 4:40), others have little faith (Matt. 8:26; 14:31), and a few have great faith (Matt. 8:10; 15:28). Like a mustard seed, faith has life in it, and if the seed is planted and cultivated, it will grow and bear fruit (Matt. 17:20). The message in this section of the psalm is that you can depend on the Word of God, so—have faith!³

God's word is trustworthy no matter how you feel, no matter what others say, and no matter how long you live.

³ Wiersbe, W. W. (2004). Be exultant (1st ed., p. 134). Colorado Springs, CO: Cook Communications Ministries.

In order to have faith, we must be in the Word of God.

1 Open the Word of God and Read It

"Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." - (Revelation 1:3)

2 Study the Word of God

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." - (2 Timothy 2:15)

3 Follow the Principles Found in the Word of God

The word "pure" means purified – it means all of the impurities or problems have been removed. It is time tested. Give it a try. You've tried doing life your way and it didn't bring happiness; you've tried following the world, and that didn't bring success. Why not try it God's way. "Prove me now" (Malachi 3)

"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." - (2 Timothy 3:15-17)

4 Experience Success – In the Long Run

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish." - (Psalm 1:1-6)

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." - (Joshua 1:8)