

Sunday Night Message

June 12, 2016

Psalms 119:33 – 40 - Commitment to the Word of God

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 119:33 - 40

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.

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 of this psalm is expressing his love and devotion to the Word of God, and is encouraging us to do the same.

“HE.”

Today we are examining the *“He”* section of Psalm 119. “He” is the fifth letter of the Hebrew alphabet, and every verse in this section begins with the Hebrew letter “He”.

I do not know if all of these sections within Psalm 119 all teach one main thought within the overall theme dealing with the Word of God, but I do know that each of these sections seem to emphasize a certain idea. In the last section, the “Daleth” section we saw that the psalmist found encouragement from the Word of God. In this section, we see the psalmist commitment to the Word of God.

We live in a world that is severely lacking in commitment. As a culture, we don’t take seriously anymore the things that we should be committed to, and even to things that we have previously voiced our commitment to.

Examples:

Our faithfulness to our spouses and dedication to our marriages.

Our fulfillment of our financial obligations.

Our faithfulness and loyalty to our local church.

In this “He” section of Psalm 119, we see that the psalmist was committed to God, and to obedience to the Word of God.

I His Commitment Was Enduring (v. 33)

“Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.” (Psalm 119:33)

God gives His children everlasting as well as eternal life.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.” (John 6:47)

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
(Romans 6:23)

If God’s commitment to us is “unto the end”. Ought not we be committed to Him “unto the end”

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

II His Commitment was Emphatic (v. 34)

“Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.”
(Psalm 119:34)

Five times in Psalm 119, we read the phrase “with my whole heart”, along with three other appearances in the psalms.

Everything we do, we should do wholeheartedly:

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.” (Ecclesiastes 9:10)

“And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,” (Deuteronomy 10:12)

Turn to Numbers 25:1 – 13 – Phinehas had a zeal for God.

We need to put some energy and zeal into our devotion to the Lord. We need to serve the Lord with passion.

III His Commitment was Enjoyable (v. 35)

"Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight." (Psalm 119:35)

There is tremendous joy in serving God.

Illustrate – driving the bus home

"And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full." (1 John 1:4)

Serving God should not be drudgery. It is an abundant life – a life with purpose and joy.

The fruit of the Spirit is joy.

"This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24)

IV His Commitment was Excluding (vs. 36 – 40)

A genuine commitment to the Lord will cause us to purge some things from our lives. In these verses the psalmist refers to covetousness and vanity, but these are not exclusive.

"Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness." (Psalm 119:36)

"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's."

(Exodus 20:17)

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Hebrews 13:5)

"Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way." (Psalm 119:37)

Vanity means emptiness. The world will leave you empty. The temporary things of this earth are vanity. They are temporary.

"I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit." (Ecclesiastes 1:14)

"Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun." (Ecclesiastes 2:11)

"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind," (Ephesians 4:17)

"Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear." (Psalm 119:38)

"Turn away my reproach which I fear: for thy judgments are good." (Psalm 119:39)

"Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy righteousness." (Psalm 119:40)

God's precepts give life. The Word of God is God breathed. God breathes life into His children through His Word.

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." (John 6:63)

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)