

Sunday Night Message

June 19, 2016




























Psalm 119:73 - 80 – *Showing Off God's Handiwork*

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 119:73 - 80

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)	Feh (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.

"JOD."

“Jod” (pronounced “Yod”) is the tenth letter in the Hebrew alphabet. It makes a “y” sound. It is the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet.

When Jesus spoke about the “jot” and “tittle” in Matthew 5:18, he referred to the letter “Jod” in Hebrew. The Greek transliteration is the letter *ἰῶτα (iota)*. Jesus’ meaning was that every minute detail such as the “Jod” letter, or the Hebrew accent mark (or tittle) will be fulfilled.

"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." (Matthew 5:18)

As far as this section of Psalm 119 is concerned, we can see that God is involved in the minutest details of our initial creation and subsequent development.

I We Are Handmade by God (v. 73)

"Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments." (Psalm 119:73)

"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee." (Psalm 139:14-18)

*"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: **it is he that hath made us**, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." (Psalm 100:1-5)*

Notice – we are made by His hands. God spoke the worlds into existence, but when it came to creating us, God used His hands. We are handmade, not mass produced by some heavenly machine, but handcrafted by God. We are a very special part of God’s creation.

There is no doubt that we are specially hand crafted by the Lord, but the question is: Why? God has a unique plan and purpose for each of us.

God is the Creator and Owner of our lives. He knows us better than we know ourselves, and He knows how to fix us when we are broken. His Word is the owner's manual.

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." (James 1:22-25)

"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)

We will see in just a minute that God's Work and God's Word in our lives was not finished when we were born. Just as God developed us physically through our childhood and teenage years, God is developing us spiritually, mentally, and emotionally as we grow in the Lord.

II We Are On Display for Others To See (vs. 74 and 79)

"They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; because I have hoped in thy word." (Psalm 119:74)

"Let those that fear thee turn unto me, and those that have known thy testimonies." (Psalm 119:79)

Our lives ought to be showpiece for others. Our lives ought to reflect the fact that we are God's children.

"I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD." (Psalm 40:1-3)

The work of God in redemption in our lives ought to be source of encouragement and strength to others.

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle,

and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:13-16)

III The Trials of Life Continue to Mold Us into What God Wants Us to Be (vs. 75 – 77)

The older we grow physically, the less attractive we become; but the older we grow spiritually, the more beautiful we are to others. Affliction can weaken us physically, but it beautifies us spiritually.

"Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." (1 Peter 3:1-4)

"I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me." (Psalm 119:75)

God's work of molding and fashioning our lives continues beyond our physical development. He uses both the tools of instruction and correction to make us into what He wants us to be. He is faithful in His correction and affliction. In other words, He is doing what is best for us.

"Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant." (Psalm 119:76)

"Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight." (Psalm 119:77)

He is also faithful, as our loving Heavenly Father, not to push us beyond our limitations.

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (1 Corinthians 10:13)

"Let the proud be ashamed; for they dealt perversely with me without a cause: but I will meditate in thy precepts." (Psalm 119:78)

Often times, it is people that are the source of our afflictions. People will attack us and malign us, because they hate God, and they hate what God is doing in our lives.

Examples David – Saul hated him for no reason; Joseph – His brothers hated him, but He let their hatred make him better, not bitter.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

"Let my heart be sound in thy statutes; that I be not ashamed." (Psalm 119:80)

A sound heart means a hearth that is upright and without blemish, and it comes from faithfully applying the principles of the Word of God, and patiently enduring through the trials and difficulties of life.

If we faithfully apply God's Word to our lives and endure the troubles and trials of life faithfully, we will glorify the Lord. We will show of God's handiwork.

*"Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may **adorn** the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things." (Titus 2:9-10)*

Conclusion

You were hand crafted by God in the womb.

God has continued to mold you and develop you mentally and emotionally, and since you were saved, He has been growing and maturing you spiritually.

He has used instruction as well as affliction to make you who you are, and He will continue to do the same until He has finished the product.

All along the process, however, God wants to show off His handiwork by letting others see what an awesome job He has done in your life. Let people see God's work in your life.