

Sunday Night Message

May 1, 2016

Psalm 119

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 119:9 - 16

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 – 23 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.

"BETH."

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." (Psalm 119:9)

"With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments." (Psalm 119:10)

You may have heard the expression, “This Book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this Book.”

The Word of God, if read and studied reverently will help you win the battle against sin. The Word will encourage you to stay away from you. It will nourish your soul and strengthen it to stand against sin.

The Word of God will increase your faith, and greater faith leads to greater obedience.

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17)

Notice that this verse is particularly directed to a young man. The Bible admonishes young people:

"Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart." (2 Timothy 2:22)

Young people are particularly susceptible to the lusts of the flesh, and the wiles of the devil. What they do with the word of God will be the determining factor as to how successful they will be in avoiding sin and obeying God.

In this second section of Psalm 119, I see three clear instructions regarding the Word of God, with particular emphasis placed on the young person.

We do not want to wander from God's Commandments – God's will. What can we do? We will need to saturate in the Word of God. Illustrate – David Gibbs – read Bible through once per month

The Word of God will pull us up from focusing on the temporary, the mundane things of this earth, and will cause us to set our affections on the things above:

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." (Colossians 3:1-3)

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." (Philippians 4:8)

How can we do this?

I Memorize the Word of God

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." (Psalm 119:11)

II Study the Word of God

"Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes." (Psalm 119:12)

"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)

III Meditate Upon the Word of God

So much so that you will speak it often in response to any and every event in life.

"With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth." (Psalm 119:13)

"I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches." (Psalm 119:14)

"I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways." (Psalm 119:15)

Notice the reference to riches. Riches can cause us to wander from the Word and Will of God.

Achan, Ananias and Saphira, and Saul are good examples.

We need to love the Word more than we love money:

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." (Matthew 6:24)

"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." (1 Timothy 6:10)

Read Deuteronomy 6:4 – 9

IV Obey the Word

"I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word." (Psalm 119:16)

"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. If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." (James 1:22-27)