

## Psalms 119:1-32 – Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

- As I've shared many times before, I have personally been looking forward to Psalm 119 as I'm sure many of you have as well.
- This for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that it is the longest chapter in the Word of God, about the Word of God.
- It's for this reason I think it would be appropriate for us to take a little bit of time to know some things about this amazing Psalm.

- First, we're not told who wrote this Psalm though most commentators have suggested David composed this throughout his life.
- Psalm 119 is an acrostic Psalm with 22 sections of 8 verses, all of which correspond with the 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet.
- Not only do the sections correspond to the Hebrew letters, but so too does the first verse of each section correspond as well.

- Another interesting fact about Psalm 119 is with the exception of verses 84, 122, and 132, every verse mentions God's Word.
- In other words, of the 176 verses in this Psalm, 173 verses mention the Word of God with specificity or in some other manner.
- Psalm 119 is not only an expression of one's love for God's Word, it's also an explanation as to why one loves God's Word.

**Psalm 119** -- 1 Blessed are the undefiled in the way, Who walk in the law of the LORD! 2 Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart! 3 They also do no iniquity; They walk in His ways. 4 You have commanded us To keep Your precepts diligently. 5 Oh, that my ways were directed To keep Your statutes! 6 Then I would not be ashamed, When I look into all Your commandments. 7 I will praise You with uprightness of heart, When I learn Your righteous judgments. 8 I will keep Your statutes; Oh, do not forsake me utterly!

- This first section of Psalm 119 is a declaration of how those who live according to the Word of God will have a very blessed life.
- While I realize this sounds like a firm grasp of the obvious, let me hasten to say one need look no further than to a life that isn't.
- By that I mean, one need only to contrast the life of one who lives according to God's Word as opposed to one who does not.

9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. 10 With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! 11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. 12 Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes. 13 With my lips I have declared All the judgments of Your mouth. 14 I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches. 15 I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways. 16 I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.

- This second section in Psalm 119 is about how living according to the Word of God will lead to a life of purity and of holiness.
- One has noted the detail of a young man cleansing his way because if God's Word does that for him, it does that for anyone.
- One of the best quotes I've ever heard in this regard is "Sin will keep you from the Bible and the Bible will keep you from sin."

17 Deal bountifully with Your servant, That I may live and keep Your word. 18 Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law. 19 I am a stranger in the earth; Do not hide Your commandments from me. 20 My soul breaks with longing For Your judgments at all times. 21 You rebuke the proud—the cursed, Who stray from Your commandments. 22 Remove from me reproach and contempt, For I have kept Your testimonies. 23 Princes also sit and speak against me, But Your servant meditates on Your statutes. 24 Your testimonies also are my delight And my counselors.

- This third section in Psalm 119 sort of personifies God's Word in the sense that there's this longing for it as being a counselor.
- This speaks to the role of the Word of God in the life of a believer during those times when we need guidance and counsel.
- As a pastor, I have to say there are many times when I find myself simply providing scripture as Biblical guidance to someone.

25 My soul clings to the dust; Revive me according to Your word. 26 I have declared my ways, and You answered me; Teach me Your statutes. 27 Make me understand the way of Your precepts; So shall I meditate on Your wonderful works. 28 My soul melts from heaviness; Strengthen me according to Your word. 29 Remove from me the way of lying, And grant me Your law graciously. 30 I have chosen the way of truth; Your judgments I have laid before me. 31 I cling to Your testimonies; O LORD, do not put me to shame! 32 I will run the course of Your commandments, For You shall enlarge my heart.

- This fourth section in Psalm 119 speaks to how the Word of God revives us and strengthens us during our pain and suffering.
- Of course this presupposes one turns to the Word of God during those times in life that you find yourself at the end of yourself.
- When our physical bodies are exhausted we nourish them, so too when it comes to the Word of God, but in the spiritual sense.

G. Campbell Morgan - The singer is bowed down, overwhelmed. He sorely needs succour and strength. How does he seek it? Not by asking for pity, but by a determined application to the law of his God."

Hebrews 4:12 - 12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.