

Psalms 119:73-104 – Thursday, May 23rd, 2019

73 Your hands have made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments. 74 Those who fear You will be glad when they see me, Because I have hoped in Your word. 75 I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are right, And that in faithfulness You have afflicted me. 76 Let, I pray, Your merciful kindness be for my comfort, According to Your word to Your servant. 77 Let Your tender mercies come to me, that I may live; For Your law is my delight. 78 Let the proud be ashamed, For they treated me wrongfully with falsehood; But I will meditate on Your precepts. 79 Let those who fear You turn to me, Those who know Your testimonies. 80 Let my heart be blameless regarding Your statutes, That I may not be ashamed.

- Here in this section, the Psalmist once again makes mention of how it was good that God in His faithfulness had afflicted him.
- So much so, that it seems those who also feared God were so blessed when they would see the Psalmist come toward them.
- It reminds me of what one so aptly said concerning this, "Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go."

81 My soul faints for Your salvation, But I hope in Your word. 82 My eyes fail from searching Your word, Saying, "When will You comfort me?" 83 For I have become like a wineskin in smoke, Yet I do not forget Your statutes. 84 How many are the days of Your servant? When will You execute judgment on those who persecute me? 85 The proud have dug pits for me, Which is not according to Your law. 86 All Your commandments are faithful; They persecute me wrongfully; Help me! 87 They almost made an end of me on earth, But I did not forsake Your precepts. 88 Revive me according to Your lovingkindness, So that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth.

- One can't help but feel the sense of desperation on the part of the Psalmist here in this section as he pleads for God's comfort.
- It seems the intensity of the persecution he faced brought him to the end of himself, such that he fainted for God to save him.
- This speaks to how we can turn to God's Word when we're battle weary in the difficulty of living the Christian life in this world.

2 Timothy 3:12 - In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 - 8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

89 Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. 90 Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides. 91 They continue this day according to Your ordinances, For all are Your servants. 92 Unless Your law had been my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction. 93 I will never forget Your precepts, For by them You have given me life. 94 I am Yours, save me; For I have sought Your precepts. 95 The wicked wait for me to destroy me, But I will consider Your testimonies. 96 I have seen the consummation of all perfection, But Your commandment is exceedingly broad.

- This section here in Psalm 119 is most interesting for a number of reasons, chief of which is what the Psalmist says in verse 89.
- Namely, that of the Word of God being settled in heaven, which in turn settled the heart of the Psalmist in the face of affliction.
- In verse 92, he goes as far as saying that had it not been for him delighting in the settled Word of God, he would have perished.

I like how one commentator said it, "What got him through his afflictions was his lifelong habit of reading, marking, learning, meditating upon, spiritually digesting, and above all obeying God's Law."

97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. 98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me. 99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. 100 I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts. 101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Your word. 102 I have not departed from Your judgments, For You Yourself have taught me. 103 How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth! 104 Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.

- Here in this section the Psalmist is expressing his love for God's Word and in so doing saying I live as if I couldn't live without it.
- One almost gets the sense the Psalmist is having considerable difficulty articulating just how passionate he is for God's Word.
- This because, there is such an outpouring of his appreciation for God's Word that he doesn't even bother to ask for anything.

G. Campbell Morgan - "This is a pure song of praise. It contains no single petition, but is just one glad outpouring of the heart."

I want to close with a true story about the life of Harry Ironside, the pastor and author and Bible commentator. Ironside went to visit a man near death, suffering from tuberculosis. The man was almost dead and could barely speak. As Ironside spoke to him he asked, "Young man, are you trying to preach Christ, are you not?" Ironside said that he was, and the man replied: "Well, sit down a little, and let us talk together about the Word of God." Then the man opened his Bible and spoke with Ironside until his strength was gone; he shared insights from the Bible that Ironside had not appreciated or even seen before. Ironside was stunned, and he asked the man: "Where did you get these things? Can you tell me where I can find a book that will open them up to me? Did you get them in seminary or college?" The old man replied: "My dear young man, I learned these things on my knees on the mud floor of a little sod cottage in the north of Ireland. There with my open Bible before me, I used to kneel for hours at a time and ask the Spirit of God to reveal Christ to my soul and to open the Word to my heart. He taught me more on my knees on that mud floor than I ever could have learned in all the seminaries or colleges in the world."