

Psalms 119:137-176 – Thursday, June 6th, 2019

137 Righteous are You, O LORD, And upright are Your judgments. 138 Your testimonies, which You have commanded, Are righteous and very faithful. 139 My zeal has consumed me, Because my enemies have forgotten Your words. 140 Your word is very pure; Therefore Your servant loves it. 141 I am small and despised, Yet I do not forget Your precepts. 142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your law is truth. 143 Trouble and anguish have overtaken me, Yet Your commandments are my delights. 144 The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting; Give me understanding, and I shall live.

- This stanza in Psalm 119 is really an apt description of the character and nature of God, such that, He's righteous and faithful.
- It seems in verse 139 that the Psalmist has a sanctified and strengthened resolve concerning those who reject God's Word.
- So much so that though he's small and despised, he loves the Word of God because it is "very pure" as God's law of truth.

Charles Spurgeon - "In the word of God there is no admixture of error or sin. It is pure in its sense, pure in its language, pure in its spirit, pure in its influence, and all this to the very highest degree—'very pure'."

145 I cry out with my whole heart; Hear me, O LORD! I will keep Your statutes. 146 I cry out to You; Save me, and I will keep Your testimonies. 147 I rise before the dawning of the morning, And cry for help; I hope in Your word. 148 My eyes are awake through the night watches, That I may meditate on Your word. 149 Hear my voice according to Your lovingkindness; O LORD, revive me according to Your justice. 150 They draw near who follow after wickedness; They are far from Your law. 151 You are near, O LORD, And all Your commandments are truth. 152 Concerning Your testimonies, I have known of old that You have founded them forever.

- What stands out here in this stanza is the nearness of God while the Psalmist is in the midst of a very difficult and painful trial.
- The reason being is that often times when we're in a trial, it can seem as if God is distant, or even worse yet, not there for us.
- The problem with feeling like God isn't there is that we're basing that conclusion on our feelings and not on the Word of God.

153 Consider my affliction and deliver me, For I do not forget Your law. 154 Plead my cause and redeem me; Revive me according to Your word. 155 Salvation is far from the wicked, For they do not seek Your statutes. 156 Great are Your tender mercies, O LORD; Revive me according to Your judgments. 157 Many are my persecutors and my enemies, Yet I do not turn from Your testimonies. 158 I see the treacherous, and am disgusted, Because they do not keep Your word. 159 Consider how I love Your precepts; Revive me, O LORD, according to Your lovingkindness. 160 The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

- This is an interesting section for a number of reasons chief of which is the contrast the Psalmist paints between good and evil.
- Particularly in verse 158-159 where the Psalmist says he's disgusted by the treacherous but he loves and keeps God's Word.
- To me, the take away is that of the lovingkindness of God for those of us who love God's Word as opposed to those who don't.

161 Princes persecute me without a cause, But my heart stands in awe of Your word. 162 I rejoice at Your word As one who finds great treasure. 163 I hate and abhor lying, But I love Your law. 164 Seven times a day I praise You, Because of Your righteous judgments. 165 Great peace have those who love Your law, And nothing causes them to stumble. 166 LORD, I hope for Your salvation, And I do Your commandments. 167 My soul keeps Your testimonies, And I love them exceedingly. 168 I keep Your precepts and Your testimonies, For all my ways are before You.

- This stanza is all about being in awe of the Word of God in the sense that there's an excitement every time someone reads it.
- What's interesting about this is the Psalmist is in so much awe of the Word of God and God of the Word that there's no petition.
- In other words, he is only expressing his love and joy for the Word of God and does not deem it necessary to ask for anything.

G. Campbell Morgan - "This division is remarkable in that it is one of the only two which contain no petition (other was Mem, 197-104). That fact is the more remarkable because its opening sentence shows that the singer is still conscious of the circumstances of trial."

169 Let my cry come before You, O LORD; Give me understanding according to Your word. 170 Let my supplication come before You; Deliver me according to Your word. 171 My lips shall utter praise, For You teach me Your statutes. 172 My tongue shall speak of Your word, For all Your commandments are righteousness. 173 Let Your hand become my help, For I have chosen Your precepts. 174 I long for Your salvation, O LORD, And Your law is my delight. 175 Let my soul live, and it shall praise You; And let Your judgments help me. 176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; Seek Your servant, For I do not forget Your commandments.

- Here in the last stanza of this amazing Psalm, the Psalmist declares that the Word of God has changed the way he speaks.
- This is so apropos in that it speaks to how the Word of God teaches us the language of heaven where we speak God's Word.
- Would to God that we would be numbered amongst those of whom it can be said, "all they ever talk about is the Word of God."