

# The Word on the Word Series: 3

## Psalm 119

### God's Word IS God's Word

**"Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD" (v.1)**

One of the starting points of our study and any study of the Word of God we looked at last time:

- we must judge God's word as true and infallible. This psalm says that the entirety of God's word is true (vs 160)

another which might sound obvious, but is the essential starting point

- before we judge the word as true and infallible is that we realise and acknowledge that it actually is God's word - It comes from God. The opening verse to the psalm states that it is the law of the LORD (*Jehovah*)

Other books and writings are good and helpful, they give great information - but none others are from the Lord – they are only the authors thoughts and opinions about the word of God.

### **Divinely Inspired Words**

Of course, we believe and hold to the verbal inspiration of Scripture (**2 Timothy 3.16-17**) - every single word in the original texts was inspired by God

Yet in a wonderful way He used the personalities and writing styles of those He chose to give us His word in order to convey His message.

Although God used these differing writers, their writings are not ancient historical texts that need to be academically studied - it is **HIS** word; this is the pre-requisite, without this starting point, our study is merely an academic exercise.

This thought is conveyed in verses **72** and **88** where God's word is described as being from God's mouth - these are God's words, as though God Himself actually spoke them. That's how important they are, that's how we are to treat and regard them. There can, of course, be no words more important than those of the infinite, omnipotent God.

### **Your..**

Even taking a very brief look at this psalm we cannot help but notice the author's enthusiasm and excitement for God's written revelation.

He is not primarily a lover of books and writings, but a passionate lover of a great God. He gets excited, not out of a love for laws and commandments, but because they are "your laws" and "your commandments".

171 times in this psalm, the psalmist refers to the laws, commandments, precepts, and words etc as "Your.. (words, commandments, precepts, law)

He is not an academic believer but a relational one. He has learnt to hear God's voice through Scripture: "for You Yourself have taught me" (**vs102**).

The Scriptures are still God's primary way to communicate with His people. He speaks to us through His word, He directs us, guides us, teaches us, convicts us and chastises us all through His word

## **Benefiting from God's Word**

### **1. He is positive towards it:**

- "I will delight myself in Your statutes, I will not forget Your word" (**v16**).
- "Your testimonies are wonderful" (**v129**).
- "... I love them exceedingly" (**v167**).

Oh that we would love and value God's Word like the psalmist!

### **2. He is humble before it:**

- "...and I am afraid [*in reverence*] of Your judgements" (**v120**),
- "...but my heart stands in awe of Your word" (**v161**).

Do we have a similar appreciation of the authority of God's revealed word?

Do we accept it humbly and reverently? or do we argue with it and seek to adjust its plain meaning to suit our likes or dislikes?

### **3. He expects God to speak to him through it:**

Listen to the author's sense of expectation as he prepares to read and meditate on God's word:

- "I opened my mouth and panted, for I longed for your commandments" (**v131**),
- "My soul breaks with longing for your judgements at all times" (**v20**).

### **4. He is determined to obey it:**

- "So shall I keep Your law continually, for ever and ever" (**v44**).

Our salvation is marked by a decision to yield ourselves to God.

In the same way, our growth in the Christian life is based on conscious decisions to obey God's word, regardless of what we find.

- "I have said that I would keep Your words" (**v57**).
- Like a marriage vow, "I have sworn and confirmed that I will keep Your righteous judgements" (**v106**).

### **5. He seeks help to understand and to obey it:**

- "Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law" (**v18**),
- "Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes... Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed I shall observe it with my whole heart" (**vs33, 34**).

We all live under different social pressures and have our own likes and dislikes. We need a sincere heart and Holy Spirit's help to avoid arriving at wrong conclusions from Scripture.

## **6. He spends time with it:**

For the psalmist, God's word is not just for special events, or for Sundays. During the day, his mind would go back to it

- "...It is my meditation all the day" (**v97**).
- "My eyes are awake through the night watches, that I may meditate on Your word" (**v148**).

## **7. He makes decisions in the light of it:**

The psalmist not only views God's word as "my counsellors" (**v24**) but strives to relate the principles of God's Word to his daily living.

- "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (**v105**).

Do you allow the Word to shed light on your path? To what degree does it influence your decision process? Does it make a difference in your family and work life?

## **8. He admits to straying from it:**

We usually find it difficult admit to straying from the word of God, but not the psalmist. We have no doubt as to the direction of his heart, since as he looks around him -

- "Rivers of water run down from my eyes, because men do not keep Your law" (**v136**).
- Yet he ends his song with a painful admission "I have gone astray like a lost sheep" (**v176**)
- He pleads "Let no iniquity have dominion over me" (**v133**).

Do we wander from the word of God and neglect it?

If we do it will be difficult to hear the Lord speaking to us.

Let us learn to repent - we can learn like the psalmist that if we come back to Him in repentance we can find that "Great are Your tender mercies, O Lord" (**v156**)