

The Word on the Word Series: 6

Psalm 119

Walking In The Word

We ended last time with a brief look at the opening thoughts of the psalmist as he contemplated the blessedness of living according to God's Word. God willing over these next few sessions we are going to look further and deeper at these opening verses as we explore three themes:

- i. Walking in the Word
- ii. Delighting in the Word
- iii. Meditating on the Word.

A. Know the Blessing of Walking in the Word (1-2)

Blessing (1-2). The Psalm begins like **Psalm 1**, which opens up the book of Psalms by saying, "Blessed is the man.... But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates, day and night."

Psalm 1 is like a doorway into the book, saying that if you want blessing on your life, then delight in the law of the Lord. It doesn't mean "financial blessing" or "material blessing" (although God may do that), but **spiritual blessing**.

Spiritual satisfaction, joy, purpose, significance, hope, salvation. These are found by walking in God's word.

In Psalm 119, many blessings are listed like: guidance (105), life (73), wisdom (97), joy (111), strength (28), hope (43), and satisfaction (162), peace (165).

Blameless (1) – Notice that to be blameless means to walk in the law of the Lord. God's law teaches us to *love Him and neighbour, to do justly and love mercy*, and to be *holy as God is holy*.

Notice:

- The law is good. The Psalmist loves it. The Apostle Paul also said he delighted in the law of God (Romans 7:22). God's Word is the basis for living righteously.
- Yet, we are struck with a seemingly impossible standard - we don't always walk according to God's law perfectly. This leads to an important point...
 - As believers in Jesus Christ, we understand that only one lived out Psalm 119 perfectly. Through Him, in Him, because of Him, we can now live it out as well – not perfectly but faithfully.
 - The word points us to Jesus, and Jesus empowers us to keep his word; but if we fail we have an Advocate.
 - And we know that if we fail, God won't crush us, for He has already crushed His Son for us (Isaiah 53.5). Jesus fulfilled God's law for us, and now by the Spirit empowers and enables us to walk in accordance with God's word.

B. Experience the Sin-Killing Power of Walking In the Word (9, 11)

The Scriptures have the ability to change us, as God's Spirit works in us.

A. **Question:** "How can a young man keep his way pure?" (9a)

This is not a pressing question to the world. But it is the question for this young man, and God's people, **and it is still the question.** *Let's take a look at some verses, which express this deep desire for purity:*

- "Oh let me not wander.." – (10) –
"Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love, here's my heart, take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above" (**Robert Robinson** hymn, "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing")
- "Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to covetousness (selfish gain)" (36)
- "Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things" (37)
- "I have inclined my heart to perform your statutes" (112)
- "Let no iniquity have dominion over me" (133)

B. The Answer: By taking heed (keep watch and guard) according to your Word (9b)

God's word tells us what sin is. That's an important step for purity.

- Our culture is confused as to what sin is –
 - it is graded by degrees of seriousness;
 - classified with medical names; and called sickness, syndrome or condition
 - is even celebrated. "... [they]... also approve of those who practice them" (Romans 1:32)

God uses his word to change us from the inside out, as we read it. Verse 11 –
Your word I have hidden (*laid up or stored*) in my heart that I might not sin against You."

- Notice, who we sin against: God.
- Notice how we keep from doing it: the Word.
- Notice the place for storing it: the heart. The Scripture is inside of me, not just on a tablet (or in a book) outside of me. God's Words are to be kept on the inside.
 - Jesus said everything starts with the heart – not the physical heart but the invisible heart, the core of our being – out of the heart the mouth speaks. (Matthew 12.34)

C. We Obey by Walking in the Word (1-6, 8, 17, 21-22)

Blessed are those who keep his testimonies (2a)

Here again this point is reinforced. Blessing comes by keeping his testimonies. One can't miss the frequent emphasis on "**keeping**" or "**obeying**" God's word.

(21): Negativity is expressed from those who don't obey the word.

Again, this happens through Christ, who empowers our obedience. We obey by God's grace.

- "Deal bountifully with [me]" (17) or "be gracious to me" that I may keep your word. We pray for grace as we obey God's word.
- "I entreated your favour with my whole heart; be merciful [gracious] to me according to your word [*promise*]" (58)

It's important to remember that we express our love through obedience to God.

"If you love Me, keep my commandments" (John 14.15).

James says be a doer of the word (James 1.22).

What if I told my kids – go clean your room. Did you clean your room?– "No. I memorised what you said... I can say it in Greek – we're going to do a small group study

on it.” – However impressive that might be, it's just hearing and learning, but it's not doing.

The Psalmist speaks of perseverance under persecution and affliction throughout this Psalm (vss., 86-87; 157, 161). In the face of opposition, his heart is set on obeying him.

He also speaks about how God uses affliction to teach us His word. He's able to accept it because of this blessing. (God doesn't send the affliction but He uses it to teach us His word)

- "It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn your statutes." (71)

D. Pray for God's Help for Understanding the Word (12, 18)

Another repeated theme in Psalm 119 is the praying for God's help in understanding the word. The Psalmist does not trust in his own ability to do this.

- "Blessed are You oh Lord, *teach me* Your statutes" (12)
- "Open my eyes that I may see wondrous things from Your law" (18)
- "*Make me understand the way of* Your precepts" (27)
- "*Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes*" (33)
- "Give me understanding" (34, 73, 125, 144, 169)
- "teach me your statutes" (64, 68, 124, 135, 171)

These are wonderful prayers to pray each time you open up the Scriptures.

E. Faithfully Declare the Word (13)

- The Psalmist desires to not only know it and obey it, but to speak it to others.
 - "my lips" and "Your mouth" – He says in effect "May my mouth faithfully proclaim what you have said."
 - He is not *only a learner but a teacher*.
- Later he says, "I will speak of your testimonies before kings" (46)

Application:

- Everyone is to teach in some capacity (Matthew. 28:19-20)
- Talk about the word at home and away from home. Teach it to your family, take every opportunity to declare it (Deuteronomy 6.6-7)
- Be reproducers not just receivers.
- Psalm 96.3,10 – "Declare" it among the nations