

Evening Sermon Outline – October 29, 2017

God's Wonder-Filled Word

Psalm 119:129-136

I. *Note the wonderful nature of God's testimonies,
His wonderful Word –*

PE. Your testimonies are wonderful; (Psalm 119:129 A NKJ)

1. *In their truth, their freedom from error and / or falsehood –*
"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. (John 17:17 NKJ)
2. *In their glorious important subject matter –*
 - *What is God? God is a Spirit – John 4:24 / God is infinite – 1 Kings 8:27 / God is eternal – Psalm 90:2 / God is unchangeable – Malachi 3:6 / God is All-wise – Proverbs 4:24 / God is All-powerful – Psalm 147:5 / God is Holy – Exodus 15:11 / God is Just – Deuteronomy 32:4 / God is Love – 1 John 4:7-8*
 - *We are created in God's image – Genesis 1:26-28*
 - *We have all sinned – Romans 3:10-11*
 - *The Bible tells us about Heaven and Hell – Revelation 21:1-4; Revelation 14:10-11*
 - *It gives us roles for men and women, husbands and wives – Ephesians 5:22 & 25*
 - *It instructs us regarding right and wrong – Micah 6:8*
 - *It tells us the way of salvation – John 14:6*
3. *In their wonderful-ness, this portion of this Psalm is based on the Hebrew letter PE, equivalent to our letter P. The word translated wonderful is -*

פֶּה pele' {peh'-leh} **Meaning:** 1) wonder, marvel 1a) wonder

(extraordinary, hard to understand thing) 1b) wonder (of God's acts of judgment and redemption)

This seventeenth letter is the letter P. The section is precious, practical, profitable, powerful: peculiarly so.—*C. H. Spurgeon*

4. *In their power, even powerful to save, or judge –*

A. *God's Word is expressly called "powerful"*

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrew 4:12 NKJ)

B. *God's Word accomplishes God's purposes -*

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it. ¹² "For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands. ¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; And it shall be to the LORD for a name, For an everlasting sign *that* shall not be cut off." (Isaiah 55:11-13 NKJ)

Notice what the word of God accomplishes:

- C. *What God "pleases" it "prosper" according to His purpose, Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. (Genesis 1:3 NKJ)*
 - D. *In Isaiah 55:12-13 that purpose is the "joy" and "peace" of His people, the singing and clapping of all nature*
5. *God's word is wonderful in its unity / agreement, meaning one part of God's word agrees with the other parts –*

"Whence but from Heaven, could man unskilled in arts,

In several ages born, in several parts

Weave such agreeing truths, or how, or why?

Should all conspire, to cheat us with a lie?

Unasked their pains, ungrateful their advice

Starving their gains, and martyrdom their price!"

Dryden

What is written in Genesis 3 agrees with and is fulfilled in Romans 5!
What is written by Moses in Exodus 15, is applied and expounded on
again by Christ and the Apostle John in Revelation 15 –

They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!" (Revelation 15:3 NKJ)

II. *Note, God's wonderful word, has soul moving, motivating, enlivening power -*

PE. Your testimonies are wonderful; **therefore my soul keeps them. (Psalm 119:129 B NKJ)**

The Psalmist here is crediting God's word, for His keeping of His testimonies –

1. *He knows this is not the nature of his soul, nor is it ours –*

A. *By nature it clings to the dust, not to God's word, or heavenly things - DALETH. **My soul clings to the dust;** ... (Psalm 119:25 NKJ)*

B. *By nature it melts from heaviness -*

My soul melts from heaviness; ... (Psalm 119:28 NKJ)

C. *This fat, sluggish, dust-clinging thing is the essence of who we are -*

נֶפֶשׁ nephesh {neh'-fesh} **Meaning:** 1) soul, self, life, creature, person, appetite, mind, living being, desire, emotion, passion 1a) that which breathes, the breathing substance or being, soul, the inner being of man 1b) living being 1c) living being (with life in the blood) 1d) the man himself, self, person or individual 1e) seat of the appetites 1f) seat of emotions and passions 1g) activity of mind 1g1) dubious 1h) activity of the will 1h1) dubious 1i) activity of the character

2. *Notice the soul's NEEDS according to Psalm 119:*

:25 Revival, and it is God's word that revives –

DALETH. My soul clings to the dust; Revive me according to Your word. (Psalm 119:25 NKJ)

:28 Strength, and it is God's word that gives that strength

My soul melts from heaviness; Strengthen me according to Your word. (Psalm 119:28 NKJ)

3. *God's word is wonderful in its reviving, strengthening power, we KEEP it, because of it! What is keeping?*

A. *Keeping is remembering, storing, hiding - we remember great things, things and people dear to us –*

Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You! (Ps. 119:11 NKJ)

B. *Doing - "If you love Me, keep My commandments. (John 14:15 NKJ)*

4. *The Psalmist kept God's word, because of its wonder!*

III. *Note, God's wonderful word has an enlightening, revealing power –*

The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple. (Psalm 119:130 NKJ)

פֶּתַח pethach {pay'-thakh} **Meaning:** 1) opening, unfolding, entrance, doorway

What is pictured here is a doorway or opening to light and knowledge, a doorway that may unfold like a beautiful flower. We see this unfolding as the Prophets gradually told us more and more about Christ, until His coming shows us the brightness of God's glory, and shows us clearly the Way of salvation –

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;³ who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,⁴ having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. (Hebrews 1:1-4 NKJ)

IV. Note, a pellucid (CLEAR) picture of a proper response to God's law –

1. Panting, desire -

¹³¹ I opened my mouth and panted, for I longed for Your commandments.

Literally panting for God's word might seem crazy to some people, at the least fanatical and yet the ungodly PANT after sin; why should not God's people pant after and desire God's Word and Righteousness?

Verse 131.—“I longed for thy commandments.” This is a desire which God will satisfy. “Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it”: Ps. 81:10.—*Thomas Manton.*

I am the LORD your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt; Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it. (Psalm 81:10 NKJ)

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. (Matthew 5:6 NKJ)

2. Prayer –

A. For God's attention – ¹³² Look upon me ... (Psalm 119:132 A NKJ)

“If a look from us to God has saving efficacy in it, what may we not expect from a look from God to us.” C. H. Spurgeon

When Spurgeon said, “a look from us to God has saving efficacy in it, he was probably referring to -

“Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. (Isaiah 45:22 NKJ)

This was the text Spurgeon's hearers would have known was the one God used to save Spurgeon –

The preacher that day was not the regular minister, Spurgeon describes him – “but this man was really stupid. He was obliged to

stick to his text, for the simple reason that he had little else to say. The text was,— “LOOK UNTO ME, AND BE YE SAVED, ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH”

He did not even pronounce the words rightly, but that did not matter. There was, I thought, a glimpse of hope for me in that text. The preacher began thus:—“My dear friends, this is a very simple text indeed. It says, ‘Look’. Now lookin’ don’t take a deal of pains. It ain’t liftin’ your foot or your finger; it is just, ‘Look.’ Well, a man needn’t go to College to learn to look. You may be the biggest fool, and yet you can look. A man needn’t be worth a thousand a year to be able to look. Anyone can look; even a child can look. But then the text says, ‘Look unto *Me.*’ Ay!” said he, in broad Essex, “many on ye are lookin’ to yourselves, but it’s no use lookin’ there. You’ll never find any comfort in yourselves. Some look to God the Father. No, look to Him by-and-by. Jesus Christ says, ‘Look unto *Me.*’ Some on ye say, ‘We must wait for the Spirit’s workin’.’ You have no business with that just now. Look to *Christ.* The text says. ‘Look unto *Me.*’ ”

Then the good man followed up his text in this way:—“Look unto Me; I am sweatin’ great drops of blood. Look unto Me; I am hangin’ on the cross. Look unto Me; I am dead and buried. Look unto Me; I rise again. Look unto Me; I ascend to Heaven. Look unto Me; I am sittin’ at the Father’s right hand. O poor sinner, look unto Me! look unto Me!” C.H. Spurgeon Autobiography

If salvation is gained through our looking to Jesus, the Question is what do we have when God looks at us?

Answered prayer! His sweet favor! Blessings promised to those whose ways God knows –

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish. (Psalms 1:6 NKJ)

B. For God's mercy - and be merciful to me, As Your custom is toward those who love Your name. (Psalm 119:132 B NKJ)

*Mercy is something God is known to give - The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.⁹ He will not always strive *with us*, Nor will He keep *His anger* forever.¹⁰ He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our*

iniquities. ¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; ¹² As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. ¹⁴ For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. (Ps. 103:8-14 NKJ)

C. For God's direction, of his steps –
133 Direct my steps by Your word (Psalm 119:133 A NKJ)

D. For God's protection:

- from sin and his own sin nature –

... And let no iniquity have dominion over me. (Psalm 119:133 B NKJ)

- from the oppression of men –

Redeem me from the oppression of man, ... (Psalm 119:134 A NKJ)

E. All this he prays, in order that -

That I may keep Your precepts. (Psalm 119:134 B NKJ)

F. He prays for God's favor, for His shining face, His smile -

Make Your face shine upon Your servant, ... (Psalm 119:135 NKJ)

"Whenever I see your smiling face, I have to smile myself, because I love you!" James Taylor

God's shining face usually is reference to His favorable providence, the Puritans used to refer to God: (F1.) Having us under the foot of His providence (a frowning providence) or (F2.) Bouncing us on the knee of His providence (like a loved child) a smiling providence -

Yet, God can show us His smiles, even when providence is frowning - In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, (1 Peter 1:6-8 NKJ)

G. He prays for God's teaching – ... And teach me Your statutes. (Psalm 119:135 NKJ)

Note he is writing about God's Word / Statutes so you might say he is a kind of expert on them, yet he is still a STUDENT of God's statutes.

V. Note, the fact that God's Wonderful Word, LAW is not kept by everyone is a matter for a lot of tears – Rivers of water run down from my eyes, because men do not keep Your law. (Psalm 119:136 NKJ)

"The sins of sinners are the sorrows of saints. We must mourn for that which we cannot mend." Matthew Henry

Two Reasons for tears:

1. God is dishonored when His law is not obeyed / kept
2. Those who disobey God's laws are on a fast track to Hell

Look to Jesus –

A. Sorrows characterized His earthly life, not for Himself, but for the lost -

He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. ⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. (Isa. 53:3-4 NKJ)

B. He wept for Lazarus, for the fact of death, caused by sin – Jesus wept. (John 11:35 NKJ)

C. He directed the women who wept for Him as He went to the cross to weep for themselves and the judgment to come –

And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and women who also mourned and lamented Him. ²⁸ But Jesus, turning to them, said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, `Blessed are the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!' ³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!" ³¹ For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?" (Luke 23:27-31 NKJ)

Arnold A. Brevick