

## Attitudes and Actions Regarding God's Word

Steve Hogan – January 22, 2023

Hope Bible Church of Tampa  
Christ'sKingdom.org

A few weeks ago, we talked about the fundamental, absolute importance of God's word for your life, and specifically for 2023. And we're talking about how God's word is essential if we are to be spiritually healthy, if we are to be a strong Christian, if we're to do what God wants you to do, if we are to be blessed by God. Matt. 4:4, 24:35

The most important chapter in the Bible that speaks about God's word is Ps. 119. The truths of Ps. 119 are a spiritual catalyst, motivating you to read God's word, and to learn it and apply it to your life. Today I want to go over the first 16 vss., but I need to say a few things about Ps. 119 before we look at them.

- 1st, you'll see that the same point is often repeated, or restated differently, for that is God's way of teaching you a particular truth.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, some of the sections, and each section has 8 vss., have one basic theme, but others have several different themes in one section.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>, these vss. will help you to rightly think about God's word and help you to obey it.

Psalm 119:1. This is the theme of Psalm 119 – it sums up the main message God wants you to know. Now there are five key words in this verse.

- There's the word blessed, which is defined as "*a spiritual state of well-being and prosperity, a deep, joy-filled contentment that cannot be shaken by anything.*"
- There's the word way, which is translated as road, a course, a journey. This speaks of of your conduct, your way of life, the direction you're headed, where you're going in life.
- There's the word walk, which also means to go, and it means you're going someplace, you're taking steps in a certain direction. And there's a connection between the word walk and the word way. That is, how you walk determines your way, your way of life, your conduct, what your life looks like. Ps. 119:32
- There's the word blameless, which means without defect, holy, pure, or perfect.
- Finally, there's the word law which refers to God's word. Ps. 1:1-2

Vs. 1 is what you get when you put all this together, and this is what God wants for you. That is, as you know God's law, and then walk according to God's law, that is live your daily life according to His law, then you'll be on the way, the road, the course God wants you to be on, and your life will be blameless and holy, and the result is that you'll be blessed, you'll be spiritually prosperous and successful.

Vs. 2. Again, we see God's promise that He'll bless you, and what are the conditions? First, you need to observe, to obey His testimonies, His word. Vss. 4, 5, 8.

- And so God repeats this instruction that you're to obey Him, for He knows that the only way to be truly blessed is by keeping His word, by doing what He says.

You also need to seek God with all your heart. This means you need to call on God, to pursue God, to go after God, and passionately and desperately so. That is, you really want to know God, and talk to God, and learn from God, and you want to do what He wants you to do. Pr. 8:17, Ps. 34:10b, Heb. 11:6  
And if you're seeking God, then you're reading His word, for you want to know what He says, you want to know what He wants you to do, and then you do what He wants. You have to seek God if you're going to obey God and be blessed. Pr. 2:1-6  
- The first 2 vss. are foundational, that God will bless you if your way of life, your lifestyle is blameless, and that happens if you're seeking God and obeying His word.

Verse 3. Another condition for being blessed is that you're not doing anything wrong or unrighteous. And not doing anything wrong means you're living a holy life, you're staying away from sin. But it also means you're doing what's right, you're obeying God - and the result of obedience is that you're walking in God's ways, in the way He wants you to live. Now vs. 3 complements vs. 1. You see that the words walk and way are in both vss. And vs. 1 is talking about the person whose way is blameless, who is walking in the law of the Lord, which means, as vs. 3 says, that He's walking in the Lord's ways.

Now a person can do his own thing, and walk in his ways, the ways of the flesh and the ways of the world, or he can walk in the ways of God - and you do that by not doing what is wrong as vs. 3 says, and by doing what is right as vs. 1 says. Ps. 119:12, 33  
And when you walk in God's ways, you'll be blessed by God. Matt. 5:3-11 - nine

Verse 4. God has ordained, has ordered, has commanded that His precepts be kept, be obeyed. God wants us to realize the importance of obeying His word. We should diligently keep, diligently obey His word. The word diligently is also translated as greatly or fully. You should greatly obey God's word, you should fully keep His word, and you should keep His word all the time. Following God, living for God, isn't to be done casually, occasionally, or once in a while but is to be what you do every day, what you do all the time. Your obedience isn't to be half-hearted, but wholehearted. You are to obey God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength. Deut. 10:12-13

Vss. 5-6. Vss. 1-4 talk about what we're to do, that we're to obey God's word, with the promise that God will bless us as we're obeying Him. But vss. 5-6 is a prayer. The writer is asking God to help him be obedient. He knows he isn't there yet, he isn't all that God wants him to be, but this is what he really wants, really desires - *"O that my ways may be established to keep your statutes."*

Again, there's the word "ways", which means your way of life, your direction, your course in life is one of obeying God, of consistently doing what He wants you to do. This word established is also translated as prepared - and the point is that we should want our life to be prepared, that is, be ready to do whatever God wants us to do.

- You get up in the morning, and your mindset, your thinking for that day should be to do what God wants you to do. There's nothing in your mind, in your plans for the day that has to do with disobedience - your whole day is focused on God and obeying Him.

And the result of diligently obeying God, of keeping His word, is that you won't be put to shame, you won't be ashamed, you won't feel bad about your Christian life, for you won't be seen as a wayward, disobedient, or ungodly Christian. But notice it says, "*all your commandments.*" The godly Christian does all that God wants. He's not obeying just one or two of God's commands but all of them. God's standard for us is high, it's perfection. And we all know we can't be perfect, but this should be our goal, what we pray for, and what we strive for. Matt 5:48

Vss. 7-8. This is the Psalmist's commitment, what he'll do in view of what's been said.

- 1<sup>st</sup>, he's going to be thankful when he learns God's judgments, God's word. And he wants God to teach him so He can learn God's word, for then he'll know what God wants him to do, how God wants him to live. John 14:26, 16:13
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, he promises to keep God's word, His statutes. We too need to promise, to commit to God that we'll obey His word, that we'll keep all His commandments. We need to say, "*Yes God, I will do whatever you say, whatever you want me to do.*" Ps. 119:44
- 3<sup>rd</sup>, he prays to God, "*Don't forsake me, don't leave me.*" And God won't ever leave us. He's always with us whether we feel like it or not, and he'll be with us forever and ever.

Psalm 119:9-16. These vss. start off with the question about how we can live a holy life, and as we know, living a holy life is vitally important. And vss. 1-8 told us some things about how to live a holy life, but vss. 9-16 tells us more. And so what does God say?

- Vs. 9 gives the general, overall answer of how to be holy, that we need to live according to God's word, according to His truths, commands, and promises. 2 Tim. 3:16-17
- Vs. 10 tells us we need to wholeheartedly seek the Lord - we need to pursue Him and get time with Him and pray to Him. This results in us not wandering or drifting away from God, but having a close relationship with God. John 14:21, 23

Vs. 11 says we need to treasure, to hide, to store up God's word in our heart. NIV - "*I have hidden your Word in my heart.*" Unbelievers hide fleshly and worldly things in their hearts, but believers need to hide, to store up God's word in their hearts. Vs.

- Vs. 12 says we need to ask God to teach us His word, for we sure can't learn it on our own. And we should bless God, we should praise Him that He does. Ps. 119:67, 71

Vs. 13. Sharing God's word with others, telling them what God has taught you, helps to further establish it in your heart, which results in you being strengthened, in you being holy and upright. Ps. 19:13-14

- Vs. 14. Obeying God's word puts you on a spiritual path, a spiritual roadway, the course, the way God wants you to travel on. And you're to rejoice in His ways, to be excited about the fact that you can live the life God Himself wants you to live. And you're to love and rejoice in God's ways more than being rich, more than being a billionaire. Ps. 119:72. And rejoicing in God's ways is another key to being holy.

Vs. 15. You need to meditate, to think about God's word and you need to regard, to consider God's ways. This is so important, that you think about God's word, but that you also think about the ways of God, which is the result of obeying His word. That is, you think how God's word will affect your life, and specifically, that it'll help you be holy and God-glorifying.

Vs. 16. The word delight is similar to the word rejoice in vs. 14. We're to delight in God's word, we're to rejoice and be excited about God's word, we're to love His word. Vss. 24, 47. Then it says, "*I shall not forget God's word,*" and this is the conclusion to these 8 vss. Not forgetting God's word, but remembering His word, hiding His word in your heart is essential to living a successful Christian life. Plan to review, go over. Verse sheets.

All we've talked about in these vss., seeking the Lord, treasuring His word, learning from God, rejoicing in His ways, telling others His word, and delighting in His word, are keys to not forgetting His word, are keys to not wandering away from God, and are keys to keeping your way pure, to living a holy and blessed life.

- Notice that these last 7 vss. are a prayer. And you see that the word "*I*" is used 7 times. And so make these vss. your prayer to God.

Psalms 119:33-40 – this is another prayer.