

Subject: *God's Treasure Chest of Blessing*

Scripture: *Psalm 119:1-8*

This is one of the most amazing chapters in the Bible. There are 1,189 total chapters in the Bible, but this chapter one stands out as unique for several reasons:

- Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible

It has a total of 176 verses and so it is longer than 30 entire books of the Bible.

- Psalm 119 is an alphabetical psalm

Each section begins with a different Hebrew letter (22 sections of 8 verses each).

- Psalm 119 is the ultimate tribute to God's Word

It reveals what the Scripture does for us and what we must do with the Scripture. God's Word is mentioned in every one of the 176 verses except verses 84, 90, and 132. Psalm 119 is similar to Ps. 1 and Ps. 19. From sunrise to beyond sunset, God's Word dominated the psalmist's life. He spent time in the Word before dawn (vs. 147), daily (vs. 97), seven times a day (vs. 164), nightly (vs. 55, 148), and at midnight (vs. 62).

- Psalm 119 refers to God in every verse

God and His Word are not identical, but they are inseparable.

- Psalm 119 is a personal psalm

The writer refers to himself 325 times in this psalm. He describes the love he has for God's Word and how it is the focus of everything in life.

- Psalm 119 is a collection of prayers and meditations

After verses 1-3, everything else is a personal prayer or meditation. The writer makes about 70 requests in this psalm.

- Psalm 119 deals with suffering and affliction

The writer refers to his troubles in 65 verses (about one third of all verses). This great chapter is not about fair weather faith. It speaks of real faith going through real trials.

In this first section of eight verses I want you to understand the blessings God has for you when you love God's Word, learn what it says, and choose to live by it. This is God's Treasure Chest of Blessing.

THE CHARACTER OF THOSE WHO ARE BLESSED (vs. 1)

The "undefiled" are not sinless, but they are blameless (NLT, "people of integrity"). They are serious about God and what He expects of them. They walk in God's ways, not their own.

Psalms 128:1 *Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways.*

James 1:27 *Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.*

THE COMMITMENT OF THOSE WHO ARE BLESSED (vs. 2)

They keep (observe, obey) His testimonies and they seek Him with their whole heart. This refers to the whole inner person (mind, will, and emotions).

THE CONDUCT OF THOSE WHO ARE BLESSED (vs. 3)

“Walk” (vs. 1, 3) refers to the way you conduct yourself and live your life each day. In the Book of Ephesians we learn how we should walk:

- Walk worthy of your calling (Eph. 4:1)
- Walk not as other Gentiles walk (Eph. 4:17)
- Walk in love (Eph. 5:2)
- Walk as children of light (Eph. 5:8)
- Walk in wisdom (Eph. 5:15)

This is a good prayer to put us on the right path every day...**Psalms 143:8** *Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.*

THE COMMAND FOR THOSE WHO ARE BLESSED (vs. 4)

The teachings of God’s Word are not suggestions or advice.

THE CONFESSION OF THOSE WHO ARE BLESSED (vs. 5)

Notice the change of pronoun in these verses (vs. 1-3, they; vs. 4, us; vs. 5-8, I). This is the confession of an honest struggler (NLT, “Oh, that my actions would consistently reflect your principles!”). It is the same struggler that Paul described in **Romans 7:18-23**.

THE CONFIDENCE OF THOSE WHO ARE BLESSED (vs. 6)

To “not be ashamed” means not disappointed. To “have respect” is to look into or seriously consider. When we take God’s Word seriously, when we read and study and apply it seriously, we will not be disappointed. I have never heard anyone say they were disappointed that they learned God’s Word and lived by it. On the other hand, many people live with the disappointment and regret of neglecting God’s Word.

THE CONTENTMENT OF THOSE WHO ARE BLESSED (vs. 7)

God’s Word causes praise and worship with joy and gratitude. God’s Word is a reflection of His character, especially His righteousness (vs. 40).

THE CALLING OF THOSE WHO ARE BLESSED (vs. 8)

They all for God's help and cry out for God's patience. They see the importance of living by the Book. As we explore the riches of truth found in Psalm 119, let us remember that God has given His written word not just to inform us, but ultimately to transform and equip us for life.

Romans 12:2 *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

All scripture must be applied to our daily life as suggested in this prayer: "Help me to carry into ordinary life portions of divine truth and use them on suitable occasions, so that its doctrines may inform, its warnings caution, its rules guide, its promises comfort me" (Arthur Bennett, ed., *The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotions*, 201).

The book you hold in your hand is THE HOLY BIBLE. The Holy Spirit uses the Holy Bible to shape our lives and make us holy people. We need to pray, "Lord, reveal your holiness to me and make me holy through your Holy Word."

Martin Luther said that he prized this psalm so highly that he would not take the whole world in exchange for one leaf of it. Matthew Henry said of his father, Philip Henry: "He advised us to take a verse of this psalm (Psalm 119) every morning to meditate upon, and so go over the psalm twice in the year; and that, saith he will bring you to be in love with all the rest of the Scriptures. All grace grows as love to the word of God grows" (cited in Spurgeon, *Treasury of David*). It would be a wise thing for all of us to follow the godly advice of Philip Henry, Matthew Henry's father. Take a verse of this psalm every morning and think about it over and over all day long. Begin Monday with verse 1, Tuesday with verse 2, and so on every day of the week.