

(Samekh)

- 113) I hate those who are double-minded,
But I love Your law.
- 114) You are my hiding place and my
shield; I wait for Your word.
- 115) Depart from me, evildoers, that I
may observe the commandments
of my God.
- 116) Sustain me according to Your
word, that I may live; And do not
let me be ashamed of my hope.
- 117) Uphold me that I may be safe,
That I may have regard for Your
statutes continually.
- 118) You have rejected all those who
wander from Your statutes, For their
deceitfulness is useless.
- 119) You have removed all the wicked of
the earth like dross; Therefore I love
Your testimonies.
- 120) My flesh trembles for fear of You,
And I am afraid of Your judgments.

We come now to our 15th letter of the Hebrew alphabet and our 15th eight verse section. Psalm 119 is an incredible Psalm that is written with one goal in view and that is to magnify the written Word of God. The Word of God is the most important thing we have on this earth because it presents to us God's eternal Word on every possible subject.

We have brought out many times that each eight verse section begins with a word that starts with the letter of the Hebrew alphabet for that section. There just is no way getting around this point; God wants His Word taken seriously and studied systematically.

We live in a day of weak compromise. There is a lack of fear, a lack of respect and a lack of reverence for God and His Word. People are almost afraid to call right-right and wrong-wrong and most are afraid to call sin-sin.

The vast majority of people don't dare to take a stand for anything or take a stand against anyone or anything. Well that certainly was not the philosophy of the writer of this Psalm. This was a man who knew the Word of God and desired to obey the will of God.

In this 15th section of Psalm 119, the writer expresses that he desires to achieve the greatest level of spirituality that is possible in this world. To achieve this demands, of course, the written Word of God and actually getting to this level requires him taking certain steps and stand and making certain requests.

THOSE WHO DESIRE TO ACHIEVE THEIR GREATEST LEVEL OF A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD WILL HAVE CERTAIN ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS TOWARD GOD AND TOWARD EVIL THAT ARE ALL CONSISTENT WITH THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD.

Now this passage breaks down into three main categories:

Category #1 - Four attitude statements. **119:113-114**

What we get here are attitudes he has about a variety of things.

(Attitude #1) - The attitude toward those double-minded. **119:113a**

Now we live in a world that says you are not supposed to hate. Obviously that idea did not come from the Bible.

The Hebrew word for “hate” is one that means to hate something in the sense of hating it and considering it to be an enemy of God and His Word and His righteousness.

Now in this text we learn that this writer hated “those” who were double-minded. He did not hate the sin; he hated “those.”

The word “doubleminded” is one that means to have a divided mind, a doubter and skeptic when it comes to God and His Word (i.e. I Kings 18:21) (*Ibid.*, p. 592).

This writer hated double-minded skeptics who doubted God and His Word. David believed in order for him to reach the highest level of spirituality in his relationship with God, he needed to hate certain things and certain people. Specifically, he hated those who were double-minded and those who were unstable when it came to God and His Word. Frankly, there are times we should hate ourselves.

(Attitude #2) - The attitude toward objective love. **119:113b**

What you love will determine what you hate. What is stated here is a stark contrast between what he hated and what he loved. He hated those who were skeptical of God and His Word and he loved God’s Word. He loved it himself and he valued this in others.

Not only did this writer have proper hatred, he also had proper love. He loved God’s Word. God’s Word is clear and true. God’s Word is straight, not double-minded. Double-minded people change their positions and opinions day in and day out, but God’s Word is rock solid. It never changes and the writer loved it. To reach the greatest level of spirituality, we must love God’s Word.

(Attitude #3) - The attitude toward God’s protection. **119:114a**

The writer believed that his greatest protection and his greatest hiding place and shield was God. He did not rely upon his own fighting abilities or military prowess for protection; he relied upon God. God was his hiding place and God was his shield. Great spirituality is spirituality that totally trusts God for protection and deliverance.

(Attitude #4) - The attitude toward God's Word. **119:114b**

Not only did the writer love God's Word, he waited for God's Word. Now these ideas that the writer got about God came from God's Word. This writer knew that God was his shield and protection because that is what the Word of God said.

Category #2 - Four personal requests. **119:115-117**

There are five critical requests the writer makes:

(Request #1) - He makes a request concerning evildoers. **119:115**

The writer aimed his first request straight at evildoers. He requests that they depart from him and go away. This writer knew that the wrong crowd can pull you down and pull you away from God's Word.

This was a determined decision to separate himself from those who did and promoted evil.

There is no fellowship between light and darkness (II Cor. 10:16). Godly people must eventually separate themselves from ungodly and unruly people if they are to develop.

The reason why he wanted to separate from skeptics is because he wanted to obey the Word of God. Notice at the end of **verse 115**, he says this is "my God."

(Request #2) - He makes a request concerning sustenance. **119:116a**

The word "sustain" is one that means to support, to uphold and to aid. It is the idea of resting on something else to hold you up (*Ibid.*, pp. 590-591). Life is full of twists and turns. It is filled with trials and temptations.

The writer knew what he was made of and he knew he could not hold himself up, so he asks God to help him in accordance with His Word. To be spiritual requires the sustaining work of God. The more we are in the Word the more we will be sustained.

(Request #3) - He makes a request about shame and hope. **119:116b**

There are many things for which we should be ashamed. We should be ashamed of our thoughts, our actions and ourselves. But we should never be ashamed of our hope in God and His Word.

The writer asks God to hold him up and never let him be ashamed of his hope. Notice not being ashamed of our hope is a work of God. We should never blush over our hope and confidence in God and His Word.

(Request #4) - He makes a request about safety. **119:117a**

That word “uphold” is an interesting word. It means to prop up, to support, to aid and to help (*Ibid.*, p. 592). The writer realized that in order to be safe in this world, God must support us and help us.

Again, this is a request for God to keep him from falling into the trials and temptations of life. God and His Word are the keys to our safety.

(Request #5) - He makes a request about God’s Word. **119:117b**

Now closely connected to being safe is to have a proper regard for the Word of God. Great safety comes from knowing the Word of God. This writer realized this.

He asks God to always keep him reverencing the Word of God.

Category #3 - Four judgment statements. **119:118-120**

There are four judgment statements that the writer makes:

(Judgment Statement #1) - Statement concerning God’s rejection. **119:118**

Note this and note this well. God rejects those who reject His Word. There are deceitful people and deceitful religions who twist His Word; they are useless and they are rejected by God.

In the mind of God, those who reject God and His Word are considered by God to be nothing. They are of no account to Him.

(Judgment Statement #2) - Statement concerning God’s removal. **119:119a**

There is a day of judgment coming when God will remove the wicked from the earth. There will come a day when all will be gone. God will one day cause the wicked to cease from existence.

(Judgment Statement #3) - Statement concerning his love. **119:119b**

Wise are those people who love the Word of God. This is the second time in these verses where this writer has stated that (**119:113, 119**).

(Judgment Statement #4) - Statement concerning his fear. **119:120**

There are two specific areas of fear spelled out here:

Fear Area #1 - He had a fear concerning his flesh. **119:120a**

If you are thinking right, you will be very concerned about what you are doing with your flesh. The thought of coming judgment should cause us to think very seriously about what we are doing in our flesh.

There should be a reverent fear about the thought of facing God for what we did in our flesh. Anyone who is not intimidated by this thought is delusional.

Fear Area #2 - He had a fear concerning God's judgment. **119:120b**

The thought of facing God should be intimidating for us all. The judgments of God are forever, so when we get before God and are judged, we will be judged forever.

There is a healthy balance between loving God and fearing God. There is a healthy balance between loving God's Word and reverencing God's Word.

Reverential fear is always a mark of a true relationship with God.