

Psalm 119

Delighting in the Law of the Lord

In verses 1-8

- The Psalmist sung of the joy of walking in the Law (torah) of the Lord
- And he sung of his desire to always walk in the way of the Lord
- And he sung a prayer that God would establish him in this way

In verses 9-16

- He begins exploring what this involves—how will a young man (and probably the psalmist is the young man) cleanse his way?
- How will he be pure, and not iniquitous? (119.3)
- By taking heed to God's word. To observe it, to do, to pay attention to it, to be diligent about it

There are 8 words used in this psalm to describe God's Word

- 1) Torah (119.1). It is always translated "law," and it means instruction or direction
- 2) Testimonies (119.2). It is sometimes translated "witness." This helps us understand the meaning. God's word is a faithful witness to us

- 3) Precepts (119.4). Sometimes translated statute, or commandment, this speaks to the authority of God's Word
- 4) Statute. (119.5). Translated ordinance, or "due" (Lev. 10.13), this emphasizes the enduring quality of God's Word (Lev. 10.15)
- 5) Commandment (119.6). God's Words are not options to be considered, they are commands to be obeyed

- 6) Judgments (119.7). Translated “right” (Genesis 18.25), and “manner” (Genesis 40.13). The idea is decision, or verdict
- 7) Word. (119.9). Word, speech. God’s words
- 8) Word. (119.11). Not the same Hebrew word as # 7. It means something spoken, and in Psalm 119, the psalmist is usually treating it as a promise (119.16)

About these 8 words

- At least one of them is found in almost every verse of the psalm (3, 37, 90, 122)
- They are used interchangeably; synonymously. For instance, 119.4-5
- The psalmist is writing a song, not a dictionary
- And it is a song from which we can learn about musical repetition, variety, and length

Throughout the entire psalm, the Word of God is an element of the covenant of God

- Exodus 19:5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:
- Jer. 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

- The covenant is bi-lateral.
- God obligates Himself to us
- We obligate ourselves to Him
- The psalmist sings of his desire to be faithful to God
- And prays, on the basis of God's faithfulness to the psalmist