

Psalm 119: 9-32

Beth, Gimel, Daleth

- The wisdom of God's Word, the practicality of God's Word, and the benefit of God's Word.
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Beth:

V: 9 How can a young man cleanse or purify his ways? By taking heed, by hearing with the intent of putting it into action.

The cleansing power of God's Word:

John 15:3 "Now you are clean because of the Word which I have spoken to you."

Ephesians 5:26 "That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the Word."

- How is a young man to conduct themselves:

Proverbs 1:10, 15-16 "10My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent." - "15My son, do not walk in the way with them, keep your foot from their path; 16For their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood."

V: 10 That declaration: I've sought you with my whole heart - not with a divided heart or compromised loyalties!

- Keep me on the right path Lord, don't let me wander.

As dumb and foolish sheep, that is our natural tendency:

Isaiah 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray;"

V: 11 Scripture memorization is so vital; that which we commit to memory, that which we put in - the Holy Spirit seems to bring it back out at just the right moment.

- The Word of God, hidden in our hearts is the best defense we have against the attacks and temptations of the enemy - Jesus used it!

As we memorize scripture it becomes part of who we are:

2 Corinthians 3:3 "For as much as you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart."

- It's important that we protect our hearts, that we guard what gets in - because that is what is going to come out.

Proverbs 4:23 "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it springs the issues of life."

Matthew 12:34 "... for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."

- "God's word will keep you from sin; and sin will keep you from God's Word."

V: 12 Blessed is the Lord! Blessed is his holy name.

- Teach me your statutes, teach me your ways Oh God!

John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

V: 13-14 He's declared or repeated God's judgments, and rejoiced in the way of His testimonies.

Psalm 51:15 "O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise."

- He has placed great value on the word of God, above all riches:

Job 23:12 "I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food."

V: 15-16 To meditate on something you have to know it or already be familiar with it.

- To delight in something is to hold it in high esteem and to find pleasure in it.

Psalm 1:1-3 "¹Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ²but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. ³He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season, his leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper."

- I will not forget your word because as V: 11 states, he's hidden it in his heart, he's committed it to memory, he's made it a point not to forget it.

James 1:25 "But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."

Gimel

V: 17 Deal bountifully, bless me, provide for me - that I may keep Your Word.

Proverbs 30:7-9 “⁷Two things I request of You (Deprive me not before I die):
⁸Remove falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches -
feed me with the food allotted to me; ⁹Lest I be full and deny You, and say, “Who
is the LORD?” Or lest I be poor and steal, and profane the name of my God.”

V: 18 What a prayer! Open my eyes to see! Kind of like that chorus we used to sing:
“Open the eyes of my heart Lord!”

Ephesians 1:17-19 “¹⁷That the God or our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,
may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,
¹⁸the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is
the hope or His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the
saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe,
according to the working of His mighty power.”

Isaiah 42:6-7 “⁶I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your
hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the
Gentiles, ⁷to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who
sit in darkness from the prison house.”

- Isn't that the gist of “Amazing Grace?” “I once was blind but now I see...”

V: 19 A stranger, a sojourner - this place isn't my home, I'm just passing through.

1 Peter 2:11 “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims (strangers), abstain from
fleshly lusts which war against the soul.”

- Help me to learn your ways, help me to understand your commandments.

Our citizenship is in heaven:

Philippians 3:20 “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly
wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Later in this Psalm he is more direct:

Psalm 119:73 “Your hands have made me and fashioned me; give me
understanding, that I may learn Your commandments.”

V: 20 “My soul wastes away longing after your judgments...”

Psalm 42:1-2 “¹As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for
You, O God. ²My soul thirsts for God, for the living God...”

V: 21 Correlation: the proud are cursed.

- The proud, those who think they know better than God, stray or turn away from God's Word thinking they don't need it, or that they somehow know better.

Proverbs 16:5 “Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD.”

Proverbs 13:13 “He who despises the word will be destroyed, but he who fears the commandment will be rewarded.”

V: 22 Remove the reproach of the enemy, those that criticize and taunt him because he has kept God’s testimonies. What it boils down to is that they despise God’s Word.

Isaiah 5:24 “Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, and the flame consumes the chaff, so their root will be as rottenness, and their blossom will ascend like dust; because they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.”

V: 23 Princes, rulers, important people speak against the servant of the Lord - but in spite of all that Your servant meditates on Your statutes.

Jesus said:

John 17:8, 14 “⁸For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.” - “¹⁴I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.”

John 15:20 “Remember the Word that I said to you, a servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My Word, they will keep yours also.”

- The Psalmist is saying that he won’t be swayed by this criticism or push back - he will continue to meditate in God’s Word, he will continue to study, and to abide in God’s Word.

Reminds me of that old song:

“Tho none go with me, still I will follow - no turning back, no turning back!”

V: 24 God’s testimonies are his delight! I pray they would be mine and yours as well!

- God’s Word is his counselor - God’s Word is where he gets the answers to his questions, where he gets his direction, his understanding of things.

Psalm 119:104-105 “¹⁰⁴Through Your precepts I get understanding;...” “¹⁰⁵Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”

Daleth

V: 25 I’ve been laid low, my soul clings to the dust... speaking of being near death.

Speaking of death:

Ecclesiastes 12:7 “Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.”

- His soul is clinging to the dust, he’s near death - then he says “revive me according to your Word.”

John 6:63 “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”

- God’s Word is life to us!

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is quick and powerful..,” His word is alive, and it makes us alive!

Psalm 143:11 “Revive me, O Lord, for Your name’s sake! For Your righteousness’ sake bring my soul out of trouble.”

V: 26 I have declared, I have confessed - and You answered me. Teach me your statutes.

David’s prayer:

Psalm 25:4-5 “⁴Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. ⁵Lead me in Your Truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; (life) On You I wait all the day.”

- Show me Thy ways...
- Lead me in Thy truth...
- Teach me: for Thou art the God of my salvation... life.

Jesus said:

John 14:6 “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man comes to the Father, except by Me.”

V: 27 Help me to understand you correctly, your word correctly.

2 Timothy 2:15 “Study to show yourself approved of God, a worker who needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.”

- Teach me your statutes, give me wisdom.

James 1:5 “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

V: 28 I am dissolving from heaviness - strengthen me according to Your Word."

Jesus said:

Matthew 4:4 "It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

V: 29 Jesus is the Truth; so make me a man of Truth - remove the way of lying from me.

"Grant me Your Law graciously." Give me what I don't deserve, give me your Word.

- That prayer has been answered in Jesus:

Jesus said:

John 17:8 "8For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me."

V: 30-31 I have chosen you, the way of truth - your judgments are ever before me - I cling to your testimonies - because of that put me not to shame.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 "19I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; 20that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days..."

V: 32 I will run the course, the path, the way of your Word - For you shall enlarge my heart, my love for you.

Psalms 37:4 "Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart."

- Through this last stanza we see a cause and effect relationship.
- This Psalm starts out with the psalmist clinging to the dust of death, but at the end, after a steady diet of God's Word - he's running strong and asking God to enlarge his heart.

Psalms 18:36 "You enlarged my path under me, so my feet did not slip."

- Don't ease my burdens Lord, give me a stronger heart!