

## ***Psalms 119:1-8***

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- Psalm 119 is the longest of the Psalms.
- This Psalm is divided into 22 sections, each with 8 verses.
- Each section begins progressively, consecutively with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
- Each of the verses within each section begins with that same letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
- The Jews used this Psalm, which they had their children memorize, to teach them the alphabet .
- Since there are 22 sections with 8 verses in each section, that comes out to 176 verses, and in all but three of these verses the Word of God is mentioned in it's various forms.
- This Psalm is all about grandeur and the greatness of God's Word, which is why it is such a favorite to so many.

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V: 1 *"Blessed"* - *"Oh how happy"* describing a state of bliss and joyfulness - that is the state of those who are *"un-defiled"* or blameless in the *"way."*

- "Un-defiled" or "blameless" doesn't mean "sinless perfection," but whole hearted devotion to God.
- The *"way"* the path that is travelled.

Jesus describes Himself saying:

**John 14:6** "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man comes to the Father except through Me."

Jesus began the sermon on the mount describing the man that was blessed:

**Matthew 5:3** "Blessed are the poor in Spirit.."

The first Psalm starts out:

**Psalm 1:1-2** "Blessed is the man...who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners (their way), nor sits in the seat of the scornful. <sup>2</sup>But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night."

- There is inherent blessing in doing things God's way.
- Blessed are those *"Who walk in the Law* (Torah) *of the LORD."*

- Walking describes movement, movement in a direction - in this case in the Law of the Lord, in His ways, towards Him.
- As we move through this Psalm we come to the first description of God's Word, the "*Law*" the "Torah". As NT, Jesus loving, God fearing, Bible believing Christians who love God's Word we can have a prejudiced view of the Law as if it is somehow opposed to God's grace.
- God's Law is beautiful, because it was always intended to bring us to the throne of grace.

**Galatians 3:24** "Therefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith."

- The Psalmist will use a number of different terms to describe God's Word; the **Law**, the **Testimonies**, His **Precepts**, His **Statutes**, His **commandments**, His **judgments**, His **Word** (7) which one way or the other all boil down to "The Word" - but the Holy Spirit chose to use the "*Law*" to be the first word used.
- The "*Law*" (H-8451) "Torah" - literally means instruction or direction. Meaning we are instructed and directed, and it carries with it that connotation of "a binding authority" it's authoritative. Why - because it comes from God!
- *One of the things that we must get into our heads and into our hearts is that acceptance of the Word of God, the Law and all those things as being authoritative in our lives, in fact allowing it to be the final authority in our lives.*
- David describes the beauty of the Law, he uses different synonymous words as well. (Turn to Psalm 19.)
- The structure here is pretty cool: First the different words that represent the Word which is also the cause, then the adjective describing the Word, then the effect of the Word demonstrating it's power.

**Psalm 19:7-11** "7The **Law** of the LORD is **perfect**, converting the soul; the **Testimony** of the LORD is **sure** making wise the simple; 8The **Statutes** of the LORD are **right**, rejoicing the heart; The **Commandment** of the LORD is **pure**, enlightening the eyes; 9The **Fear** of the LORD is **clean**, enduring forever; the **Judgments** of the LORD are **true and righteous altogether**. 10More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward."

- The Law of the Lord is perfect, it's beautiful, it's wonderful!

V: 2 Again - “*blessed*” are those who keep His testimonies,...

*“Who seek Him with the whole heart!”*

**Matthew 22:37** “Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

- The law of God, the Word of God, His testimonies were all intended to bring us into a relationship with God, and with it comes the by-product of happiness and joy that isn't obtainable in any other way.

**1 John 1:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.”

- That joy is in relation to being in fellowship with God.

**Psalms 16:11** “You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

- God's intent in giving us His law, His commandments, and His precepts was to bring man into fellowship with Him. And these are the rules, if you want to walk and live in fellowship with God these are the rules, this is the way of God and the way that God wants us to be.
- To live in fellowship with him and to be in oneness with Him you have to come into harmony with Him and who He is.
- God is true, He is pure, and He is holy, He is un-defiled. So he wants you to be holy, and true, and pure, un-defiled, He is righteous and He wants us to be righteous all that we might enjoy true fellowship with Him.
- He gives us His word to accomplish this - His Word is a play on words - because the Word became flesh - The Word became a man, who would sacrifice Himself that we might be made the righteousness of God and enter into that very special and very personal relationship with Him.

*“<sup>1</sup>Blessed - Oh how happy are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the Law of the Lord! <sup>2</sup>Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart!*

V: 3 The Bible tells us that none of us is in this category of not doing any iniquity.

**Romans 3:10** “As it is written: there is none righteous, no, not one;”

**Romans 3:23** “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

**1 John 1:8** “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

- For the Psalmist to make this bold statement is profound:

*“They also do no iniquity; they walk in His ways.”*

- Those who are walking in the way of the Lord, walking by faith, trusting in God - in the sight of God, they / you do no iniquity.
- He sees your heart and your heart is holy towards Him. It doesn't mean that we don't fail, we know that we do - what it means is that He's not keeping score.
- Truly the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all our sin!

**Psalm 32:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. <sup>2</sup>Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.”

- This is a tremendously awesome statement. There are those people that God does not keep a record of their iniquities, He doesn't account it against them.

Paul picks up on this in his letter to the Romans:

**Romans 4:6** “Just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works.”

- Meaning that is the man who is trusting in Jesus Christ.
- One of the benefits of a personal relationship with Jesus, of trusting in Him is that God is not keeping a list of offenses - blessed is that man!

**1 John 1:6-7** “<sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup>But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

- The word “cleanses” is in the present tense and it expresses a continual cleaning, that is ongoing.

**Ephesians 1:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, <sup>4</sup>just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.”

- **This is not a license to sin**, since God's not keeping score. This verse is couched on both sides <sup>2b</sup>describing those who seek Him with their whole heart, and <sup>3b</sup>those that walk in His ways. So there is that qualifier.

- Oh how happy is the man who has this kind of relationship with God!

*"They do no iniquity"* because they checked the records and found none!

V: 4 You have commanded "us" / italicized to keep your precepts diligently.

- The "us" being added in for clarification could just as easily be You have commanded "me" making it personal.
- The commandments of God are His enablements. He enables us to do His will.

**1 John 5:3** "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome."

- To keep His precepts, we have to know what they are. This would require diligence and study.

V: 5 Oh that you would just take control and direct me!

**Philippians 2:13** "For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."

The prayer of Jabez:

**1 Chronicles 4:9-10** "9Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "because I bore him in pain." 10And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested."

- The Psalmist is asking for God to take control.
- Like the Apostle Paul, he wants to do the right thing, but he's limited, the flesh wars against it, he knows what to do, it's just the doing of it!

**Jeremiah 10:23** "O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps."

- To me this is what “Lordship” is all about, not just a “salvation” experience, but allowing God to be Lord and Master in my life, being yielded and submitted to His perfect will. Lord, take over, take control. For that to work we have to yield it.
- We need the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives to empower and enable us to do those things which are pleasing to God.

V: 6 His understanding is that if as V: 5 states, if he was directed and enabled to keep God’s statutes then he wouldn’t end up being ashamed, when he looks into all God’s commandments.

- There have been those times in the life of every believer who devotes their lives to the study of God’s word that we will come across scriptures that cause us to be ashamed, that bring conviction, and that understanding that we have sinned.
- When we come to that place of seeing our sin for what it is, then it is simply an opportunity to un-burden our selves and confess it, and be free of it.

**1 John 1:9** “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

- This is a good thing, and we need to gain more understanding, and potentially know our Lord all the better, but also jettison more of the sin that is revealed in the process.

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

- Notice that it says “*all Your commandments*” meaning the whole counsel of God, not cherry picking favorite parts out or excluding parts that we’re not comfortable with.

V: 7 Worship is a response to revelation. Revelation prompts adoration and worship, it’s the natural response to the revelation of His righteousness, His holiness, as His character and person is revealed to a greater extent we become more aware of who and what He is - our natural response is to worship Him

**Psalms 33:1** “Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous! For praise from the upright is comely.”

**Psalms 147:1** “Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful.”

V: 8 Commitment: I will keep Your statutes - not I think I might... it’s a choice we make.

**Deuteronomy 30:19-20** “<sup>19</sup>I 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; <sup>20</sup>that 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...”

*“Do not forsake me utterly!”* Remember me Lord! The Lord always does!

**Deuteronomy 31:8** “And the LORD, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.”