**Psalms V**

**Wisdom Psalms Psalm 119**

**Oh, How I Love Your Law**

Let us look at Psalm 119, which is an ode to the Word of God (by David?)

Ps 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible—by far.

It may or may not have been written by David, but I semi-assume he did.

It is an acrostic. It is grouped in 22 sets of eight verses, each beginning with successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

Imagine writing a song in praise of the Word of God with eight consecutive verses beginning with the letter q or z or x!!!

What are your thoughts about the Bible? Do you love God’s word? Do you have any plans specifically to take it deeper? Do you have any vision to understand the Bible more this year? We just did a class on Hermeneutics. Ken and Tianni took the class! Or will this just be another year for you?

Let’s look at David’s thoughts about the Bible.

Psalm 119:72 The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.

Two things here:

1. The law “from your mouth.”

2. Is precious to me.

1. David recognizes that the Bible is a word from God’s “mouth.”

I will be talking about this in this week’s midweek.

But do you recognize the privilege of studying the very words of God.

Who would you like to have a conversation with?

Abraham Lincoln? Martin Luther King? Oprah Winfrey? Albert Einstein? Michelle Obama? Snoop Dog? Taylor Swift?

David recognized that these were veritable words from the mouth of the Creator himself.

Who did you talk to today? God!

Psalm 119:160 All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.

The latest knowledge from science will be constantly updated.

History has many interpretations.

Philosophers have a wide variety of ideas.

First medical science said fat is really bad for you.

Then they said it is good for you.

But God’s word is

a. All true.

b. eternal.

There is no “misinformation” there. No social media bubble. Pure, unadulterated truth.

Now, there is something you can give yourself to.

Can you go all in to the Lakers, the Raiders?

What about the latest fashion trend?

What about the Democrat or Republical parties. Anyone going to go all in there?

What about even our greatest heroes?

But we can go all in with the Bible because it is

a. 100.000% absolutely true in all it says.

And

b. It will be the same today, tomorrow and to the day you die.

Note: All of it is true. The whole thing. We cannot take passages out of context to prove what we already believe.

Example: Just this past week, a couple of girls from another “Christian” group told one of our disciples she was going to hell because her baptism was incorrect.

She was baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

No! You need to be baptized in the name of Jesus or it is not valid!

Q: What Scripture might one use as a proof-text for this?

Answer Acts 2:38 “proves” that baptism must be in the name of Jesus.

A couple of rules we studied in our hermeneutics classes apply:

4. Always interpret a passage within the context of the passage, the book, and the

 situation.

7. Interpret every passage in the light of all others.

8. One passage will often explain another.

9. Let plain passages interpret difficult ones.

10. All passages on a subject must be studied before a conclusion is drawn.

Suggestions from the audience for a passage whose context might lead to a different conclusion?

Matthew 28:18-20 Note, Jesus said teach them to obey all I have commanded you (including the command to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit)

What should we do if someone faces us with a new teaching?

1. Consider the source. They are influenced by Oneness Pentecostals who deny the trinity and who teach that, unless one experiences charismatic gifts, one is not saved.

2. Ask yourself if it is possible a passage is being taken out of context. Do the Berean thing (Acts 17:11)

3. Talk to an expert.

Ephesians 4:11-15 My job is to equip y’all (v. 12)

The result: v. 14 Then we will not be “tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

Folks, let’s remember this: All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.

But back to Psalm 119:72 God’s word is

a. from the mouth of God.

and

b. precious.

Note: All of us agree that the Bible is precious.

But David said more precious TO ME than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.

Illustration: You can tell what is precious to a teenager or a college student by walking into their room. The posters on the wall tell the story.

How do we know what is precious to us?

Q: What do you value?

How precious are the words of God to you? What is precious to you?

Your play station 2?

Your 5-iron?

Your college diploma?

Your health?

Your cell phone?

Your house?

How do you know what is precious to you?

You think about it a lot.

Garek likes Brianna. Garek, do you ever think about Brianna?

How much attention do you give to the Bible on a daily basis?

Psalm 119:97 Oh how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.

Two points:

a. Do you love the Scripture?

b. Will you meditate on it as David did?

Two different things: Loving God and Loving the Scripture, which is words from God.

Loving God is more essential to Christianity. It is the greatest commandment.

But do you Love the scriptures?

Some of us love God a lot, but his Scriptures so-so.

God is a person, the Bible is not.

Like loving your wife vs Loving something you do.

Does thinking about the Bible warm your heart?

Do you anticipate time in the scriptures?

If you love it, you will probably meditate on it.

If you love spending time with the grandkids or fishing or shopping or football, or playing video games, you will think about them a lot.

I remember a guy at work who LOVED running. That was all he would talk about.

Talk about work, a movie, …. Hey what about the latest idea in running.

a. Love the scripture and

b. Meditate on it all day long.

We are not talking about having a quiet time. We are talking about meditating on it as we go through our days.

What is required for that?

We must memorize scriptures.

I started young and still know 100+ by heart.

Ex: Titus 1:15-16 To the pure all things are pure. But to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

Suggestion: Pick 1-2 passages per week and write them on an index card.

I know…. That is really old-fashioned, but….

Psalm 119:16 I delight in your decrees: I will not neglect your word.

Q: Have you neglected God’s word this past month/year/decade? Let’s turn that around.

Let’s look more deeply into how David felt about God’s Scripture:

Psalm119:53 Indignation grips me because of the wicked, who have forsaken your law.

Indignation = anger

You now have official permission to get ticked off when people disrespect God’s words.

People who deny that the Bible is true and eternal.

People who say that they are Christians, but do not take the Bible seriously.

Honestly, right now, I am angry at these well-meaning, sincere people who are abusing the Word of God to take people away from the truth.

Do you want to come to a Bible study? I’m good! What’s wrong with you!!!

Illustration: That lady in the van who laughed at the Scripture.

Psalm 119:136 Streams of tears flow from my eyes, for your law is not obeyed.

Similar to v. 53, but different. Anger. Intense sadness.

David did not just tear up when people did not respond to God’s Word. Streams of tears.

Q: What has brought streams of tears to your eyes?

Death of a loved one. Loss of a relationship.

Those who reject God’s word really are lost/dead.

I am learning that properly loving God’s word involves my emotions.

Psalm 119:139 My zeal wears me out, for my enemies ignore your words.

Anger, sadness, zeal.

Of the three, perhaps this is the most productive emotion to feel.

Last Wed. Elena Araneo explained her zeal to share God’s word!!!

David was zealous for people to take the Bible seriously, so what did he do?

He wrote psalms.

He tried to convince people otherwise.

He got into Bible studies with people.

He did an in-depth study on a topic.

When there was a question he could not answer, he dug until he found the answer.

What will your zeal for God’s word lead you to do? Not just feel but do something out of zeal for the Bible—for the truth.

Read a commentary, study out a book really carefully, read through the entire Bible in a year. Up to you!

Psalm 119:9 How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. (also v. 11)

This is my second suggested memory verse.

David specifically points out young people?

Why? Because they particularly need help to stay on the path of purity.

They say that the frontal cortex is not fully developed until we are 25.

Young people: When you decide who to hang with, what to read, how to spend your time, what career to pursue let me suggest this:

Live according to God’s word!!!

Should I take up this major? Should I take this job? Should I seek this relationship?

Guard your path by God’s word.

Last passage:

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path.

Have you ever felt lost?

Have you ever felt “Lost in a lost world” (Moody Blues)

Have you ever felt that the world is a dark place?

Have you ever wondered what you should do, where you should go.

God’s word is a lamp.

God’s word clearly lights the way to go.

It is a beacon. It is a lighthouse. It is a flashlight.

Is your flashlight on? Are you letting the Bible light your way—determine your path?

Ps 119:18 A good prayer. Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.

Let’s end with a prayer.