

Psalms for the Soul

The Word

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Class work

What is the most profound or interesting thing you have discovered about the bible?

Our approach.

1. *Psalms that tell us of MERCY. (Psalm 123)*
2. *Psalms that tell of God's PROTECTION. (Psalm 121)*
3. *Psalms that tell us of PRAYER. (Psalm 3)*
4. *Psalms that tell of God's BLESSING. (Psalm 1)*
5. *Psalms that tell us about LOVE. (Psalm 36)*
6. *Psalms that tell us God's MAJESTY. (Psalm 97)*
7. *Psalms that tell us of PEACE. (Psalm 120)*
8. *Psalms that tell of God's WORD. (Psalm 119)*
9. *Psalms that tell of the MESSIAH. (Psalm 110)*
10. *Psalms that tell of WORSHIP. (Psalm 89)*
11. *Psalms that tell of PRAISE. (Psalm 145)*

Psalm 119 is the longest psalm as well as the longest chapter in the Bible. It is referred to in Hebrew by its opening words, "Ashrei temimei derech" ("happy are those whose way is perfect"). It is the prayer of one who delights in and lives by the Torah, the sacred law. Each verse of the psalm employs a synonym for the Torah, such as dabar ("word, promise") mishpatim ("rulings"), etc.

The 176 verses of the Psalm are divided into 22 stanzas of eight lines each: one stanza for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. In the first stanza, each of the 8 lines begin with aleph, the first letter of the alphabet; in the next stanza, each of the lines begin with bet, the second letter, and so on through the entire alphabet. Poems that use patterns involving the initial letter of a line are called acrostics; Psalm 119 is one of about a dozen alphabetic acrostic poems in the Bible.

Ps 119:2

*2 Blessed are those who keep His testimonies,
Who seek Him with the whole heart! NKJV*

- *There is a blessing attached to those who try to align their lives with the word of God.*
- *The original word for 'keep' here, although Hebrew, carries the same meaning as the original Greek word translated 'keep' in 1st John 2:3.*
- *We observe what God has to say and we try to comply. We all falter many times, but our desire to obey does not change.*

Ps 119:2

*2 Blessed are those who keep His testimonies,
Who seek Him with the whole heart! NKJV*

- *There is also a blessing associated with seeking God with our whole heart.*
- *God is not hiding, but neither is he so visible that he cannot be missed. (we do it all the time)*
- *Notice too that the blessing is pronounced upon those who seek wholeheartedly. God will be found when we demonstrate that we want to find him.*

Ps 119:2

*2 Blessed are those who keep His testimonies,
Who seek Him with the whole heart! NKJV*

Jer 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

14 I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; NKJV

*Ps 119:10 With my whole heart I have sought You;
Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!
NKJV*

- *Here we see that the psalmist did wholeheartedly seek the Lord and it seems like a place he wants to stay.*
- *He tells us that by seeking God he has found himself in a place he that does not want to leave.*
- *He understands that he will enjoy God's presence the most when he obeys God's word the best.*

*Ps 119:10 With my whole heart I have sought You;
Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!
NKJV*

- *And I believe the reverse is also true; we obey him the best when we enjoy his presence the most.*
- *When we wander, we walk in an uncertain path; we stray, we give little thought to where we are going or what we are doing.*
- *He is wise enough to ask God to help him to stay seeking for if we seek him we will find him.*

Ps 119:18

*18 Open my eyes, that I may see
Wondrous things from Your law. NKJV*

- *We are by nature blinded to the things of God; we often need him to open our eyes so that we see the things that count.*
- *As for the ‘wondrous’ things in the bible, who or what is more wondrous than Jesus?*
- *Isa 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. NKJV*

Ps 119:27

Make me understand the way of Your precepts; So shall I meditate on Your wonderful works NKJV

- *And then once we see the wonderful things, we also need to understand them.*
- *Too often we are so shackled by our earthy thinking that we need the Holy Spirit to show us what the bible has to say to us. (John 16:13)*
- *When we understand the word of God we are inclined to meditate (think upon) the person of God.*

Ps 119:43

43 And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, For I have hoped in Your ordinances. NKJV

- *Lord cause me to repeat your testimonies to myself so that I can remember them.*
- *When I recite your promises I am reminded that you are God, and you are good.*
- *Without your word, I am without hope. It is your word that teaches me about life and it is your word that gives me hope.*

Ps 119:43

43 And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, For I have hoped in Your ordinances. NKJV

- *When I look at my life and when I consider my sin problem, I am more than thankful that we have a savior.*
- *Without your word, how would I know that we have a savior and what hope would I have?*
- *No where else can we get the answers to life's riddles and problems; your word gives me reasons to hope.*

Ps 119:55

I remember Your name in the night, O LORD, And I keep Your law. NKJV

- *Whether we are having a dark time in our lives or whether it's simply that time of day, the name of the Lord is a strong tower.*
- *Sometimes we need the night (or dark times) to cause us to seek him and his word.*
- *When we recognize that darkness has fallen we find his word that much more inviting.*

Ps 119:71

It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes. NKJV

- *There are few things that will cause us to learn to apply the word of God to our lives as quickly as pain in our lives.*
- *A wise person recognizes that whatever it takes in our lives to draw us close to God is ultimately good for us.*
- *Better to hurt near to God's presence than to prosper far from him.*

Ps 119:75

I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are right, And that in faithfulness You have afflicted me. NKJV

- *Whoa! What? God afflicted him? What kind of God is that?*
- *The same kind of God who like a loving parent brings pressure to bear when correction is needed.*
- *Instead of saying 'why me?' David says 'correct me' because he trusted that whatever God sent was a blessing.*

Ps 119:88

Revive me according to Your loving kindness, So that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth. NKJV

- *We need to be revived and David asks that this time it be by his kindness.*
- *Our best hope of living a life that pleases God is personal revival.*
- *A sure sign of revival, whether it's a person or a church, is obedience to the word of God.*

Ps 119:93

*I will never forget Your precepts,
For by them You have given me life. NKJV*

- *In the bible we find out how to be saved and have a new life.*
- *In the bible we also find out how to make the most of our new life.*
- *Jesus told us that he came to give us life and that we might have it in abundance.*

Ps 119:93

*I will never forget Your precepts,
For by them You have given me life. NKJV*

- ***So how are we doing?***
- ***Are we using the life that he gave us to serve him, or are we using it to spoil us?***
- ***Remember, we operate in the upside down, inside out, backward kingdom of God where the only way to really live is to really die.***

Ps 119:98

You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me. NKJV

- ***The enemies of the believer are the world, the flesh, and the devil.***
- ***Jesus used the word of God to defeat his opponents, we should follow his lead.***
- ***The only way his commands are always with us is when we memorize them.***

Ps 119:105

*Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path. NKJV*

- *The word of God is able to illuminate a path for us; it warns us of the ungodly path and encourages us to take the godly path.*
- *The word of God, while great for the mind, is also a voice that calls us to walk in the Spirit. (action)*
- *It is one thing to know what the word says and another thing altogether to do what the word says. (be doers and not just hearers)*

Ps 119:105

*Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path. NKJV*

- *A lamp can be picked up and held in our hands as we move forward in our walk.*
- *It's a lamp that lights the next step, but not necessarily all of the steps that lie ahead.*
- *Ps 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way. NKJV*

Ps 119:120

*My flesh trembles for fear of You,
And I am afraid of Your judgments. NKJV*

- ***“God is good, but he is not safe” ... C.S. Lewis of Aslan (Jesus) in The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe.***
- ***Too many of us have lost our awe of God. The fact that he is a friend has been emphasized far more than the God who is also our judge.***
- ***David knew God, and knew him well yet he admits here that he was a little fearful of him.***

Ps 119:120

*My flesh trembles for fear of You,
And I am afraid of Your judgments. NKJV*

- ***A god who need not be feared is no god at all.***
- ***We want a god that is powerful enough to fear, strong enough to insist of his ways being followed, and sure enough to judge wrong.***
- ***Our God is just such a god; he is very, very good, but he is not safe.***

Ps 119:136

*136 Rivers of water run down from my eyes,
Because men do not keep Your law. NKJV*

- *All of the things that make this world uncomfortable for us are due to men not obeying the laws of God.*
- *It ought to break our hearts for two reasons; (1) because sin is an affront to God and (2) because it destroys men.*
- *Our sin disgusts us, and the sin of others should motivate us to pray for them, witness to them, or pursue them in some way for the kingdom.*

Ps 119:162
I rejoice at Your word
As one who finds great treasure. NKJV

- ***The word of the Lord is a great treasure;***
 - ***It points us to Jesus***
 - ***It tells us of His love***
 - ***It helps us to make good decisions***
 - ***It enables us to discern good from evil***
 - ***It blesses us with hope for tomorrow***
 - ***It keeps us from sin***

What do you think?