

PSALM 119

THE WONDER OF THE WORD

Psalm 119 has as its theme “The Word of God.” Some peculiarities about Psalm 119 are:

- It is the longest Psalm, having 176 verses;
- God is addressed or referred to in every one of the 176 verses;
- In every verse of this Psalm (except in 5 verses: 84, 90, 121, 122, 132) the Word of God is mentioned, using 10 different words in reference to it. These ten words are in alphabetical order, although they do not occur in that order in the Psalm. They are: *Commands, Decrees, Law, Judgments, Precepts, Statutes, Testimonies* (sayings in some translations), *Truth, Way* (path in some translations), *Word*.
- This is an Alphabetical Psalm. Each section begins with a different letter from the Hebrew alphabet. There are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet and 22 strophes or sections each containing 8 verses.

It’s Author.

It is presumed by most to have been written by David, but there is no concrete proof that he wrote it. It is Davidic in tone and expression. After long reading an author one gets to know his style. This is David’s style.

It’s Subject Matter. The subject matter is the written Revelation of God to men.

Charles H. Spurgeon, the renowned British pastor and author, said of the 119th Psalm, “Its dimensions and its depth alike overcame me. This marvelous poem seemed to me a great sea of holy teaching. Its depth is as great as its length. This great Psalm is a book in itself; a poem of surpassing excellence.” (From intro. To vol.3 “Treasury of David”)

Let us take the word, “WORD,” and see how the writer uses it. (I am using the NKJV):

THE PSALMIST’S APPROACH TO THE WORD.

1. **It is eternal - 119:89** “Forever, O LORD, Your **word** is settled in heaven.”
2. **It is pure - 119:140** “Your **word** is very pure; therefore Your servant loves it.”
3. **It is righteous - 119:123** “..... Your righteous **word**.”
4. **It is truth - 119:160** “The entirety of Your **word** is truth.....”

THE PSALMIST’S APPRECIATION OF THE WORD.

1. **Remembers it: 119:16** “I will not forget Your **word**.”
2. **He trusts it: 119:42** “I trust in Your **word**.”
3. **It has given him life: 119:50** “Your **word** has given me life.”
4. **He keeps it: 119:67** “Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your **word**.”
5. **He is offended by non-believers: 119:15** “I see the treacherous, and am disgusted, because they do not keep Your **word**.”
6. **He reverences it: 119:161** “My heart stands in awe of Your **word**.”
7. **He rejoices in it: 119:162** “I rejoice at Your **word** as one who finds great treasure.”

THE PSALMIST'S APPEAL CONCERNING THE WORD.

1. **He wants help to keep the Word: 119:17** “Deal bountifully with Your servant, that I may live and keep Your **word**.”
2. **He desires to be revived: 119:25** “Revive me according to Your **word**.”
3. **He requests strength: 119:28** “Strengthen me according to Your **word**.”
4. **He needs confirmation: 119:38** “Establish Your **word** to Your servant, Who is devoted to fearing You.”
5. **He asks for salvation: 119:41** “Let Your mercies come also to me, O LORD—Your salvation according to Your **word**.”
6. **He appeals for mercy: 119:58** “Be merciful to me according to Your **word**.”
7. **He prays for guidance: 119:133** “Direct my steps by Your **word**,”
8. **He craves understanding: 119:169** “Give me understanding according to Your **word**.”

THE PSALMIST'S APPLICATION OF THE WORD.

1. **He is cleansed by it: 119:9** “How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed to Your **word**.”
2. **He is guarded by it: 119:11** “Your **word** I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.”
3. **He is comforted by it: 119:7** “Let, I pray, Your merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to Your **word** to Your servant.”
4. **He hopes in it: 119:114** “You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your **word**.”
5. **He is enlightened by it: 119:105** “Your **word** is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”
6. **He meditates on it: 119:148** “My eyes are awake through the night...that I may meditate on Your **word**.”
7. **He speaks of it: 119:172** “My tongue shall speak of Your **word**.....”

SUMMATION

The Psalm writer testifies to what God's Word is and what it can do. It is evident that he had a great love for the Word of God. He wrote: ***“Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.”*** Dr. G. Campbell Morgan explained that verse as follows:

- *“Your Word”* – **The best book;**
- *“I have hidden in my heart”* – **The best place;**
- *“that I might not sin against You.”* – **The best purpose.**

Let Us Love It, Learn It And Live It!

How Do I Do That? You Cultivate An Appetite For The Word!

“As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.” (I Peter 2:2,3)

1. **Hold it before your eyes** - read it regularly;
2. **Have it in your minds** – memorize it gradually;
3. **Heed it in your lives** – obey it consistently.

Illustration:

When the Canadian Pacific Railroad was ready to lay tracks from Medicine Hat to Calgary in southern Alberta, Canada, it had to negotiate with Crowfoot, the Chief of the Blackfoot Indian confederacy that controlled the land. Crowfoot granted permission, in return for a lifetime railroad pass on the Canadian Pacific. He put the pass in a leather case and carried it around his neck until he died -- but he never used it!

The person who carries a leather-bound Bible but does not regularly utilize it is missing the most blessed adventure a human can have while living on the earth.

“The way you treat your Bible is the way you treat your Lord, for it is His Word.”
(W.W.Wiersbe)

JdonJ