

Psalm 119 – Session 2

Week 4, v.16

Last week we addressed what it means to meditate (to take the time to know) on God' s word and to regard (respect it enough to put it to practice) His ways. This week we will continue to look at the resolve David has towards God' s truth. His example is for us to follow.

Ps 119:16 I shall delight in Thy statutes; I shall not forget Thy word.

It is easy to understand what it means to delight in something. We take delight in many things and for many reasons. We should be pleased to look at God' s word to learn who we are in Him and what He wants from us. The word used here for delight means " I will skip about and jump for joy" . In our understanding it would be the " Oh my goodness, this is the best thing that' s ever happened to me" experience. We have all had circumstances that have caused us to experience delight. Every one of these circumstances however is momentary. The exciting thing about the delight we experience in God' s commands is that it keeps on going! The joy of our salvation is not just momentary, it is a way of life forever.

In last week' s application questions, there were three questions to think about:

What has God done for you?

What has God done to you?

What has God promised to continue to do?

If you spent time responding to these questions, what were your thoughts? How do you think remembering God' s testimony in your life might help in times of uncertainty, sadness or fear? Phil 4:6-9

Ps 40:8 I delight to do Thy will, O my God; Thy Law is within my heart."

Ps 119:14 I have rejoiced in the way of Thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.

Ps 119:24 Thy testimonies also are my delight; [they are] my counselors.

Ps 119:35 Make me walk in the path of Thy commandments, for I delight in it.

Ps 119:47 And I shall delight in Thy commandments, which I love.

Ps 119:77 May Thy compassion come to me that I may live, for Thy law is my delight.

Ro 7:22 For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man,

Ver. 16. I will delight myself, etc. He protested before that he had great delight in the testimonies of God: now he saith he will still delight in them. A man truly godly, the more good he doth, the more he desires, delights and resolves to do. Temporisers, on the contrary, who have but a show of godliness, and the love of it is not rooted in their heart, how soon are they weary of well doing! If they have done any small external duty of religion, they rest as if they were fully satisfied, and there needed no more good to be done by them. True religion is known by hungering and thirsting after righteousness, by perseverance in well doing, and an earnest desire to do more. TOD

Years ago, Dale used the analogy of eating potato chips as hungering for God's word. Once you taste a small amount, you can't get enough! You are drawn to it with an insatiable need.

Search your heart. Do you hunger for God's word? Do you have a healthy appetite to know Him more?

Psalms 119:16 says, "I will not forget Thy word" .

What causes you to forget something?

Forget <shakach> to mislay, to be oblivious of, from want of memory or attention

When we speak of not forgetting the Word, it comes with the assumption of previously having known it. How many times have we memorized scripture just to forget it at a later date? What does this say about our memory?

We can mislay the Word. The closest thing I can think of to explain this is when I know what the Word says but can't remember the location of a specific verse or concept – perhaps due to age ☺, perhaps due to lack of concentration or even just human imperfection.

What would it mean to be oblivious to the Word? WordWeb defines oblivious as 1. Lacking conscious awareness of; 2. Failing to keep in mind. The closest synonyms would be forgetful and unmindful.

Someone who is oblivious is unaware, inattentive or incognizant. This word carries with it the idea that I never really knew something well enough in the first place to remember it or that it was never important enough to me for me to really digest it. I can choose to be oblivious or inattentive to God's word.

We can also be forgetful because there was a lack of attention and time devoted to understanding something. A common example would be remembering someone's name. Many times we are engaged in several conversations at once and we may acknowledge someone's name but haven't the time to properly register the new information in our brain.

Whether it is a lack of concentration, a case of forgetfulness or a lack of devotion, we need God's help in order to live in a way that is pleasing to Him. **Ps 119:10, 12**

"As a man must become holy in order to be happy, he [David] shows how this holiness is to be attained, and adduces his own experience.

1. Seek God with thy "whole heart." Be truly sensible of your wants.
2. Keep and remember what God says: "Thy words have I hidden," &c.
3. Reduce all this to practice: "That I might not sin against thee."
4. Bless God for what he has given: "Blessed art thou," &c.
5. Ask more: "Teach me thy statutes."
6. Be ready to communicate his knowledge to others: "With my lips have I declared."
7. Let it have a due effect on thy own heart: "I have rejoiced," &c.
8. Meditate frequently upon them: "I will meditate," &c.
9. Deeply reflect on them: "I will have respect," &c. As food undigested will not nourish the body, so the word of God not considered with deep meditation and reflection will not feed the soul.
10. Having pursued the above course, he should continue in it, and then his happiness would be secured: "I will not forget thy word. I will (in consequence) delight myself in thy statutes."

Above commentary taken from Adam Clarke

Ps 119:11 Thy word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee.

Ps 119:93 I will never forget Thy precepts, for by them Thou hast revived me.

Ps 119:141 I am small and despised, [yet] I do not forget Thy precepts.

Jas 1:23-24 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for [once] he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.

I will not forget thy word. Men do not readily forget that which they have treasured up, that which they have meditated on (Ps 119:15), and that which they have often spoken of (Ps 119:13). Yet since we have treacherous memories it is well to bind them well with the knotted cord of "I will not forget." TOB ...but obedience is changed from a thing of force into a thing of freeness. It is moulded to a higher state and character than before. ***We are not driven to it*** by the God of authority. ***We are drawn to it*** by the regards of a now willing heart to all moral and all spiritual excellence. Thomas Chalmers, 1780-1847. (emphasis mine)

Ver. 16. I will not forget. Delight prevents forgetfulness: the mind will run upon that which the heart delighteth in; and the heart is where the treasure is (Mt 6:21). Worldly men that are intent upon carnal interests, forget the word, because it is not their delight. If anything displeases us, we are glad if we can forget it; it is some release from an inconvenience, to take off our thoughts from it; but it doubles the contentment of a thing that we are delighted in, to remember it, and call it to mind. In the outward school, if a scholar by his own averseness from learning, or by the severity and imprudence of his master, hath no delight in his book, all that he learns is lost and forgotten, it goeth in at one ear, and out at the other: but this is the true art of memory, to cause them to delight in what they learn. Such instructions as we take in with sweetness, they stick with us, and run in our minds night and day. So saith David here, I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word. Thomas Manton.

Application Questions

We' ve looked at four actions in verses 15 and 16. How do they link together?

I will meditate –

I will regard –

I will delight –

I will not forget –

How does David' s plan of action fit into your daily consumption of the Word?
Do you have a plan that is similar and is working for you?

Disciplining a child takes purposed, thoughtful and consistent actions that point towards a clear goal (at least to the parents). Eventually, with hard work and a major dose of God' s grace, the child will begin to obey less from the fear of consequence and more because he/she understands it is good for them.

Where is your daily time with God? How can you use this section of scripture to encourage others to grow in their time and application of the word?

Are there additional thoughts God has placed on your heart through this study?

Where would He have you concentrate the application of His word?