

Psalm 119 – Session 2

Week 5, v. 17

We've been talking about how important it is to desire to understand God's word, to put forth effort to remember His word and then to act upon it. We've also addressed how weak we are to do this on our own. Even our best attempts fall short. David's request in Ps 119:17 shows his understanding of needing God's intervention to apply His statutes.

Ps 119:17 Deal bountifully with Thy servant, that I may live and keep Thy word.

Are you able to join in this prayer? Do you recognize the gravity of your need?

Deal bountifully <gamal> to treat a person (well or ill), i.e. benefit or requite; by implication (of toil), to ripen, i.e. (specifically) to wear: -- bestow on, deal bountifully, do (good), recompense, requite, reward, ripen, + serve, mean, yield.

This is like saying pour on me the ability to understand, to remember and to fulfill Your word. Think about who you are without Christ. Hopefully, the conclusion we all come to quickly is that we are in desperate need of everything God has to offer in order to do anything or be anything that pleases Him.

What is the result of God's grace to us?

Look at the rest of this verse:

That I may live and keep Thy word. David had enemies trying to kill him, he literally needed God's physical protection. We have the world directing us to look at everyone and everything except the true Giver of Life.

Look at what Timothy says:

1Ti 1:12-17 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service; even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. And yet I was shown mercy, because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are [found] in Christ Jesus. It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost [of all.] And yet for this reason I found mercy, in order that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience, as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, [be] honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

2Co 3:5 Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as [coming] from ourselves, but *our adequacy is from God,*

Joh 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for *apart from Me you can do nothing*.

1Co 15:10 But *by the grace of God I am what I am*, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

Php 2:12-13 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for *it is God who is at work in you*, both to will and to work for [His] good pleasure.

Ps 103:2-4 Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits; Who pardons all your iniquities; Who heals all your diseases; Who redeems your life from the pit; Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;

Ps 119:124 Deal with Thy servant according to Thy lovingkindness, and teach me Thy statutes.

Ro 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

2Co 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

Pr 8:35 "For he who finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the LORD.

Pr 12:28 In the way of righteousness is life, and in [its] pathway there is no death.

Pr 16:22 Understanding is a fountain of life to him who has it, but the discipline of fools is folly.

Pr 21:21 He who pursues righteousness and loyalty finds life, righteousness and honor.

Mt 19:17 And He said to him, "Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is [only] One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments."

Joh 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Eph 2:4-5 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)

Is your desire to live for your own gain or to serve the One who gave you life?

Ask yourself these questions: " Why do I do the things I do" ? " Who benefits " ? " What is my goal in all my busyness" ?

Turn verse 17 around: " I am able to live and keep Thy word because You have dealt bountifully with me. "

Without God, we die –

We die physically since He provides the air we breathe, the food we eat, etc.

We die spiritually because without His mercy we are condemned to death.

"Not that I may live and grow rich, live and be merry, but that I may live and keep thy word, may observe it myself and transmit it to those that shall come after, which the longer I live the better I shall do." Matthew Henry' s Commentary

How often do you get hungry? How often do you eat? We can suppress our desire for food in many different ways. Exercise, medications, supplements, and even just staying really busy may be things we do/use to lessen our appetites. Do you hunger for God' s word or have you suppressed your hunger for righteousness with the things of this world? Do you hunger for understanding; do you hunger to talk about Him to others?

Our lives are preserved by God's bounty, and should be devoted to his service. True life is the product of rich grace, and always reveals itself by holy obedience to the divine will. Spurgeon Devotional Commentary

That I may live. Without abundant mercy he could not live. It takes great grace to keep a saint alive. Even life is a gift of divine bounty to such undeserving ones as we are. Only the Lord can keep us in being, and it is mighty grace which preserves to us the life which we have forfeited by our sin. It is right to desire to live, it is meet to pray to live, it is just to ascribe prolonged life to the favour of God. Spiritual life, without which this natural life is mere existence, is also to be sought of the Lord's bounty, for it is the noblest work of divine grace, and in it the bounty of God is gloriously displayed. The Lord's servants cannot serve him in their own strength, for they cannot even live unless his grace abounds towards them. Treasury of David

Another question we might ask ourselves is who are we that we can even go to God with a request. David refers to himself as " Thy servant" .

Servant <ebed> bondage, bondman, bond-servant

To be in bondage to another being is to under their control by force, influence or power. A servant is a person working in the service of another. As God' s children we are under His power to be used for His purpose.

Where do you see God' s power in your life? Where do you see God' s purpose in your life? What type of position does a servant usually have?

God bestows His good gifts upon us because He loves us; we can use those gifts to honor His commands.

Application Questions

Read thru Psalm 119:1-17.

In what ways are you God' s servant? How does serving Him show in your life?

Spend time thinking about the abundant blessings God has given you. Do you thank Him for His grace when you pray? Do you recognize His hand in your life?

Who or what are you living for? Does your verbal answer match your " to-do" list?

How do you protect the integrity of God' s word in your life?

Are there additional questions/thoughts God has placed on your heart that you need to address?