

Psalm 119
Week 3, v.2

Ps 119:2 How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, Who seek Him with all [their] heart.

We are continuing to look at the characteristics of those who are blessed or happy.

Verse 1 said those who are blessed

- 1) are blameless in the way
- 2) they walk in the law of the Lord

Verse 2 adds those who are blessed

- 3) observe His testimonies
- 4) seek Him with all their heart

What does it mean to observe something?

WordWeb: determine the existence, presence, or fact of; speak of something; pay close attention; watch attentively

The KJV uses a better translation of this word. It says 'keep' <natsar> to guard, to protect, maintain, obey.

To keep means more than just paying attention or watching, it means knowing something and then acting accordingly. In our mind we know, in our heart we are diligent to obey. We guard the integrity of the Word by knowing it, understanding it and following it.

" The stricter they keep to that rule (wherein he hath testified his will unto us), most heartily studying to please him, entirely devoting themselves to seek his favor in this way alone, the happier still they are." Patrick/Lowth/Whitby/Lowman Commentary

De 6:17 "You should diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and His testimonies and His statutes which He has commanded you.

1Ki 2:3 "And keep the charge of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the law of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn,

Joh 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him.

Do you treasure God' s testimonies? What evidence supports your answer? Do you search the Scriptures for understanding, do you love the Word and wholeheartedly desire to practice it – in *all* areas of your life?

Remember, all means all! With everything included or counted, everything possible, the totality of one' s possessions, entirely with no exceptions.

" We must first get a thing before we can keep it. In order to keep it well we must get a firm grip of it: we cannot keep in the heart that which we have not heartily embraced by the affections. God's word is his witness or testimony to grand and important truths which concern himself and our relation to him: this we should desire to know; knowing it, we should believe it; believing it, we should love it; and loving it, we should hold it fast against all comers. There is a doctrinal keeping of the word when we are ready to die for its defense, and a practical keeping of it when we actually live under its power ... If we keep God's testimonies they will keep us; they will keep us right in opinion, comfortable in spirit, holy in conversation, and hopeful in expectation." Treasury of David

God' s word here is referred to as His testimonies.

God' s testimonies - God' s commands or admonitions to us, as a witness to His holiness, **against sin**. from <edah> testimony, witness. The word of God testifies against sin and for truth. " the witnesses of God' s mind and will, and of man' s duty" Matthew Poole' s Commentary

When we know God' s word, understand His word and act upon it, we are blessed!

Psalms 119:2 says those who are blessed also seek God with all their heart.

Seek <darash> to tread or frequent, usually to follow (for pursuit or search); to seek or ask; specifically to worship: seek diligently, inquire, make inquiry

What types of things are you interested in? How would others know your interests?

WordWeb- seek: try to get or reach; try to locate or discover; make an effort

How often do you pursue the things of the Lord? Look at the Hebrew definition of the word seek, above. It carries the idea of pursuing frequently and diligently God' s word.

Most of us have books or reading material of some sort in our home. When we are interested in something, we gather information and frequently read about that particular thing. If you enjoy cooking you probably have a collection of recipe books and may diligently pour through them. If there are items you collect you probably have gathered quite a bit of information about them and could carry on a knowledgeable conversation with others. All these interests are fine but what holds your priority? Does God get our best time or the leftovers? Is He our first pursuit above all else?

How blessed are those who not only keep God' s commands but who seek Him *with all their heart or in the KJV with the whole heart.*

The whole of something includes all components without exception. We cannot compartmentalize God. We cannot take part of His word and not the whole. He cannot be a part of our life – He must be the reason we live. We cannot go to Him just when things become too difficult, we must abide in Him always. I do not share the throne of my heart with God, it is His alone. Does God have your whole heart? How do you know? How does your life testify to your answer?

De 6:5 "And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

De 10:12-13 "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, [and] to keep the LORD'S commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?

Mic 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?

Notice there are no exceptions to obedience towards God. Your obedience is dependent on you alone, not on others. We are not called to be kind if others are kind in return, or to act justly only when we are treated fairly. I am responsible for my actions, thoughts and words regardless of others around me and how they are acting towards me.

Do you seek Him with a desire to know His will, to be conformed to the image of His Son?

Bottom line –

We will be happiest when we keep God's commands, when we carefully and consistently follow His instructions. We will be happiest when we seek Him in everything we do, sincerely and fervently desiring to know Him above all else. We will be happy because our focus is on the blessings He bestows upon us, our trust is in His greater plan. Even amidst trying and troubling circumstances we will be happy in our soul because we know God is ordering all things.

Consider these questions:

Do my actions bless or belittle? Do my words encourage or discourage? Are my thoughts pure or polluted? Am I thinking of myself or others? Do I strive to keep God's commands constantly or just when convenient? Do I seek to follow with my entire being or do I make exceptions?

Application Questions

Read Psalms 119:1-2. Review your memory verses that you have chosen. You may want to have your journal, apply-it bookmark and a dictionary available in addition to your Bible.

According to Psalms 119:2, what are some characteristics of those who are blessed or happy?

What does it mean to observe God's testimonies? Do we just acknowledge as spectators or is there more? Look up Deuteronomy 6:17, 1 Kings 2:3 and John 14:23.

Is there an area in your life where you need to act upon what you know? Consider the times you are most likely to act, think or speak ungodly. How can you begin to change this response to be more honoring to God? Is there scripture you need to memorize?

Do you frequently and diligently pursue the Word? How can your time spent reading and praying improve? Do your priorities throughout the day need to be shuffled around?

Do you desire to follow God with undivided loyalty?

Read Deuteronomy 6:5; Deuteronomy 10:12-13; and Micah 6:8. Are there additional scriptures that encourage you in this area?

Additional questions to consider: Do my actions bless or belittle? Do my words encourage or discourage? Am I more concerned about myself or others? When people or circumstances become difficult am I still wholeheartedly following God?