

Psalm 119 – Session 2

Week 9, v. 21

Ps 119:21 Thou dost rebuke the arrogant, the cursed, who wander from Thy commandments.

First, let's look at the character of the person described. The arrogant. The KJV of this verse says "the proud". We know from the verse they are cursed. **What else do we know about them from the verse?** It also says they wander from God's commandments.

Arrogant <zed> presumptuous, proud

Ps 19:13 Also keep back Thy servant from presumptuous [sins]; Let them not rule over me; Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be acquitted of great transgression.

Pr 21:24 "Proud," "Haughty," "Scoffer," are his names, who acts with insolent pride.

Isa 13:11 Thus I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud, and abase the haughtiness of the ruthless.

Mal 4:1 "For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze," says the LORD of hosts, "so that it will leave them neither root nor branch."

The definition of arrogant from WordWeb: having or showing feelings of unwarranted importance out of overbearing pride. Syn – self-important. Wiktionary says "having excessive pride in oneself, often with contempt for others. Conceited, condescending, disdainful, haughty, overbearing

This is the opposite of being humble or modest. **In what ways can we show pride? Have you ever caught yourself sounding condescending to others? Can your attitude or behavior show pride? Do you tend to be overbearing towards others? Are there people who are hesitant to approach you because they fear your judgmental response?**

Psalm 119:21 says the proud err from God's commandments.

Err <shagah> to stray (causatively, mislead), usually (figuratively) to mistake, especially (morally) to transgress; by extension (through the idea of

intoxication) to reel, (figuratively) be enraptured: --(cause to) go astray, deceive, err, be ravished, sin through ignorance, (let, make to) wander.

How do we show pride against God? How do we protect ourselves from the sin of pride?

Back up to Psalm 119:10. Our plan is clearly written out for us. We are to seek after God with all our heart. If we are busy looking to His commands in all situations, we will understand better who we are and who He is. There will be no room for pride when we understand our need for His grace and mercy.

According to Psalm 119:21, what is the consequence of pride? God will rebuke us. He will admonish us or "call us on the carpet" if you will. We will not be allowed to live a life that is centered on our importance without experiencing His strong displeasure in our lives.

Throughout the Bible, God has recorded His rebuke of those who display a willful disobedience towards God. The British Family Bible says the proud always means "the contemptuous disregards of God and His laws".

The idea is being so full of oneself that you see yourself above God and His commands.

David took notice of the rebukes proud men were under, and it made him cleave the more closely to the word of God and pray the more earnestly that he might not err from God's commandments. Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible

Ps 101:5 Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy; No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure.

Ps 138:6 For though the LORD is exalted, Yet He regards the lowly; But the haughty He knows from afar.

Pr 16:5 Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; Assuredly, he will not be unpunished.

Isa 2:11 The proud look of man will be abased, And the loftiness of man will be humbled, And the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.

Eze 28:2-10

Ps 119:118 Thou hast trodden down all them that err from thy statutes: for their deceit is falsehood. KJV

Jer 44:10 "But they have not become contrite even to this day, nor have they feared nor walked in My law or My statutes, which I have set before you and before your fathers."

There are several accounts recorded of God dealing with the pride of men. Think of plagues of Pharaoh, the massacre at the parting of the Red Sea, the turning

of Nebuchadnezzar into a field animal and so on. The Treasury of David says that accounts such as these " led David to abhor pride; he dreaded the rebuke of God and the curse of the law. "

What type of hearts are obedient?

In the *Treasury of David*, Spurgeon says: " Only humble hearts are obedient, for they alone will yield to rule and government. Proud men' s looks are high, too high to mark their own feet and keep the Lord' s way. Pride lies at the root of all sin: if men were not arrogant they would not be disobedient. "

Oh, let us look seriously into the corners of our false hearts, even with the lantern of God's law, and find out this subtle devil; and never give peace to our souls till we have dispossessed him. Down with your proud plumes, O ye glorious peacocks of the world: look upon your black legs, and your snake like head: be ashamed of your miserable infirmities: else, God will down with them and yourselves in a fearful vengeance. There is not the holiest of us but is this way faulty: oh, let us be humbled by our repentance, that we may not be brought down to everlasting confusion: let us be cast down upon our knees, that we may not be cast down upon our faces. For God will make good his own word, one way; "A man's pride shall bring him low. " Joseph Hall, 1574-1656.

Do you prefer your will to God' s will?

As the humble man saith, Not unto us, Lord, not unto us, but to thy name give the glory, **Ps 115:1**; so the proud man saith, Not unto Him, not unto Him, but unto us give the glory. ... Therefore proud men may be called God's enemies, because as the covetous pull riches from men, so the proud pull honour from God. Beside, the proud man hath no cause to be proud, as other sinners have; the covetous for riches, the ambitious for honour, the voluptuous for pleasure, the envious for wrong, the slothful for ease; but the proud man hath no cause to be proud, but pride itself, which saith, like Pharaoh, "I will not obey," **Ex 5:2**. Henry Smith, 1560-1591.

This use of God's judgments upon others must we make to ourselves; first, that we may be brought to acknowledge our deserts, and so may fear; and, next, that we may so behold his justice upon the proud that we may have assurance of his mercy to the humble. Richard Greenham

Let' s summarize what we can pull from this verse.

We learn the character of the proud.

They wander from God' s commandments – by neglect or abuse of them.

They place themselves, their reasoning and their will above God.

We learn how God deals with them.

They are punished.

What is your response? How will you apply this verse to your life?

Application Questions

What does Psalm 119:21 tell us about those who are proud?

Another word for arrogant in this verse is presumptuous. What does this word mean?

Read Ps 19:13; Pr 21:24; Isa 13:11 and Mal 4:1.

What additional information do we get from these verses about those who are proud?

What is the definition of humility?

Do you choose your will above God's commands in any circumstance?

Do you see yourself better than others?

Read Psalm 101:5

How would God have you apply this verse to your life?