

Psalm 119 – Session 2

Week 10, v. 22-24

Think about a time when you have been falsely accused or greatly misunderstood. Sometimes this requires us to humble ourselves by recognizing we are coming across the wrong way. Other times we may be truly innocent of accusation and need to trust in God's vindication of our character. He alone knows our motivations and our heart.

Ps 119:22-23 Take away reproach and contempt from me, for I observe Thy testimonies. Even though princes sit and talk against me, Thy servant meditates on Thy statutes.

Ps 42:10 As a shattering of my bones, my adversaries revile me, While they say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"

Job 16:20 "My friends are my scoffers; my eye weeps to God.

Ps 7:8-10 The LORD judges the peoples; vindicate me, O LORD, according to my righteousness and my integrity that is in me. O let the evil of the wicked come to an end, but establish the righteous; for the righteous God tries the hearts and minds. My shield is with God, Who saves the upright in heart.

Ps 25:2-3 O my God, in Thee I trust, Do not let me be ashamed; Do not let my enemies exult over me. Indeed, none of those who wait for Thee will be ashamed; those who deal treacherously without cause will be ashamed.

How would you begin to apply this section of scripture? Read Psalm 119:22-23 again carefully.

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1. The assumption is rebuke and shame are undeserved. Ps 119:1 How blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD. We need to work on being blameless. We all fail. What is our response when rebuke is warranted? Do we humbly accept it and recognize areas we need to address?

2. The way to be certain of innocence is to observe God's laws. We can't wholeheartedly follow that which we have little knowledge of. To keep God's commands means action must follow knowledge.

3. If I am innocent in my character/behavior it is not up to me to prove myself to others by vindicating myself. My responsibility is to continue to keep focused on God.

4. David refers to himself as God's servant. What does this mean? Who is in control? Have you ever thought that something wasn't fair or shouldn't have been done a certain way? How does this thinking change your attitude? Where does it place your focus? There is peace in being God's servant and trusting in Him.

" But thy servant did meditate in thy statutes. This was brave indeed. He was God's servant, and therefore he attended to his Master's business; he was God's servant, and therefore felt sure that his Lord would defend him. He gave no heed to his princely slanderers, he did not even allow his thoughts to be disturbed by a knowledge of their plotting in conclave. Who were these malignants that they should rob God of his servant's attention, or deprive the Lord's chosen of a moment's devout communion. The rabble of princes were not worth five minutes' thought, if those five minutes had to be taken from holy meditation. It is very beautiful to see the two sittings: the princes sitting to reproach David, and David sitting with his God and his Bible, answering his traducers by never answering them at all. Those who feed upon the word grow strong and peaceful, and are by God's grace hidden from the strife of tongues.

" Treasury of David

Ver. 23. -- Meditation.

1. Our best employment while others slander.
2. Our best comfort under their falsehood.
3. Our best preservative from a spirit of revenge.
4. Our best mode of showing our superiority to their attacks. Taken from the TOD, Hints to Preachers.

We should be careful what we say and think about others – it is not our position to judge another's heart, only God fully knows the heart's intention. We are not to spend time vindicating ourselves if we are judged falsely – that is also God's role. We are to be focusing on God's commands in order to live a life that is blameless; when we do err, we need accept correction humbly.

Take a moment to think: How is God speaking to your heart through these verses?

Remember Psalm 119 is broken up into 8 verse sections, each section beginning with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet. So before we finish the 3rd section with Psalm 119:24, let's do a quick review of Psalm 17 through 23.

119:17 David knows his weaknesses and prays for grace that he might live and keep God's word.

- 119:18 David realizes he needs God to remove the blinders from his eyes to understand God' s word.
- 119:19 David recognizes he is a stranger in the earth and needs God to survive.
- 119:20 David understands his weakness and prays that he would always desire God' s judgments.
- 119:21 David saw pride in others and knew he could not afford to wander from God' s commands lest he fall victim to pride himself.
- 119:22 David suffered the consequences of being different – trying to live a godly life in the midst of ungodly people. He recognizes that the only way to keep from “ getting back” at those who were against him was to cling closer to God.
- 119:23 Even the leaders of the land plotted against David; he understood that the only way to bear this reproach was to remain strong in his faith by constantly meditating upon God.

David' s answer to the last 7 verses? – delight in God, take counsel from the word of God.

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

Delight: enjoyment, pleasure

Do you enjoy God' s word? Do you take pleasure in His commands? When you' re at church or growth group or reading the Bible, are you really engaged in learning or do you fidget, daydream, pay more attention to those around you? Do you understand the value in knowing God?

Let' s say you were desiring to be a great chef. Where would you get counsel? Where would you go to learn the skills you needed to develop? How would you make the decision on where to get your training? How closely would you pay attention to each detail in the process of preparation? Of course, the answer to these questions would be to get the very best training and to obtain the very best skills. Then you would be completely prepared to handle any situation in the kitchen that may develop. In the heat of the moment you will function correctly and make good decisions if you are confident in your training and skills. Added to a good foundation of training would be the need to continually grow in your skills to keep them sharpened. You would probably have an array of chef and cooking journals that you frequent.

Where do you get counsel? When you are struggling or feel others may be against you where do you get comfort?

The example we' ve been given in the word is to cleave to God when we feel weak or sad, confused or even persecuted. God is at work, He understands. His counsel is always true. Because He created us, He is the source with the best information.

In consequence of his meditating in the word, David was kept both from sadness and perplexity. We can only gain comfort from the Bible by following its directions, and living upon its doctrines. Spurgeon Devotional Commentary

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

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

Ps 119:92 If Thy law had not been my delight, Then I would have perished in my affliction.

Ps 119:143 Trouble and anguish have come upon me; [Yet] Thy commandments are my delight.

Ps 119:162 I rejoice at Thy word, As one who finds great spoil.

Ps 119:97-98 O how I love Thy law! It is my meditation all the day. Thy commandments make me wiser than my enemies, For they are ever mine.

Jos 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

If obeying God' s laws is our delight and counselor we need to ask ourselves how close we follow His guidance: in some things or in all things? Do we follow God joyfully or reluctantly?

Application Questions

Read Psalm 119 through verse 24.

What does it mean to be humble? How would humility be applied to verses 22 and 23?

According to this section of scripture, what would be the correct response towards someone who has falsely accused you?

Do you spend time justifying or explaining your actions? Is this necessary? Read Psalm 7:8.

How does David refer to himself in Psalm 119:23? How does being God's servant change your attitude towards those who may have wronged you?

In Psalm 119:24, David says his delight and comfort are found in God's testimonies. Why is this example important to follow? Compare the consistency of man with the consistency of God.

Read Joshua 1:8. How would you incorporate this verse with Psalm 119:22-24?

How would God have you apply His word to your circumstances right now?