

Psalm 119 – Session 2

Week 13, v. 27-28

What action do you take when there is a need to understand something more thoroughly?

Ps 119:27 Make me understand the way of Thy precepts, so I will meditate on Thy wonders.

“ Make me to understand” <biyn> to separate mentally (or distinguish); generally understand: attend, consider, be cunning, diligently, direct, discern, eloquent, feel, inform, instruct, have intelligence, know, look well to, mark, perceive, be prudent, regard, skillfull, teach, think, view, deal wisely

To separate mentally would mean to classify something or to differentiate.

Ps 119:27 (BBE) Make the way of your orders clear to me; then my thoughts will be ever on your wonders.

To be able to subscribe to the actions considered in the above definition, what is necessary?

First and foremost we must have a right relationship with God – acceptance of His grace through faith in what He has done through His Son to pay what we owe. We may understand God’ s word intellectually, we may diligently study it, we may be able to intelligently speak about it, we may be able to give instruction concerning it, we may even be able to follow some of it. But, without a sincere heart devoted to Christ, we cannot truly understand His ways.

Matthew Poole’ s Commentary suggests the meaning is “ more thoroughly and more practically” .

1. The full mind and meaning of thy precepts, which are exceeding broad
2. The way wherein I may walk according to thy precepts; how to demean myself in all the varieties of my condition, and in all my affairs actions, so as is most agreeable to thy precepts

Give me such a right understanding, that I may ever be preserved in the way of thy precepts: then shall I escape the snares of my enemies; and my ordinary discourse shall be, what wonderful deliverances thou hast given me.

Patrick/Lowth/Whitby/Lowman Commentary

Can we understand God’ s word on our own without His help? Can we make someone else understand God’ s word? Why is this important to recognize? What is the

difference between our own understanding and God' s understanding? Where do we get our instruction? Whom do you trust more?

We can be quick to give our opinion on matters, but is it always based on the truths of God? We need to take time to pray and listen to His direction in all things. Only God has all the answers. Only God' s direction is always right.

Ver. 27. Make me to understand the way of thy precepts. Give me a deep insight into the practical meaning of thy word; let me get a clear idea of the tone and tenor of thy law. Blind obedience has but small beauty; God would have us follow him with our eyes open. To obey the letter of the word is all that the ignorant can hope for; if we wish to keep God's precepts in their spirit we must come to an understanding of them, and that can be gained nowhere but at the Lord's hands. Our understanding needs enlightenment and direction: he who made our understanding must also make us understand. The last sentence was, "teach me thy statutes," and the words, "make me to understand," are an instructive enlargement and exposition of that sentence: we need to be so taught that we understand what we learn. It is to be noted that the Psalmist is not anxious to understand the prophecies, but the precepts, and he is not concerned about the subtleties of the law, but the commonplaces and everyday rules of it, which are described as "the way of thy precepts." Treasury of David

Think of those you have heard speak without intelligence, without true information. Some speak without really ever saying anything of value. Talking without understanding has no value. *With what attitude do you communicate? What do you communicate? What are your conversations centered on?*

When our heart has been opened to understand, our lips should be opened to impart knowledge; and we may hope to be taught ourselves when we feel in our hearts a willingness to teach the way of the Lord to those among whom we dwell. Treasury of David

Job 15:3 "Should he argue with useless talk, or with words which are not profitable?"

Pr 10:19 When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, But he who restrains his lips is wise.

Pr 14:23 In all labor there is profit, but mere talk [leads] only to poverty.

Ps 145:5-7 On the glorious splendor of Thy majesty, and on Thy wonderful works, I will meditate. And men shall speak of the power of Thine awesome acts; and I will tell of Thy greatness. They shall eagerly utter the memory of Thine abundant goodness, and shall shout joyfully of Thy righteousness.

How often do you meditate on the wonderful ways God works in your life and the lives of others around you? Do you take the time to consider Who God Is and What He Has Done for you personally?

Php 4:8-9 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you.

Ps 119:28 My soul weeps because of grief; Strengthen me according to Thy word.

Here, just as in Psalm 119:25, we are given a look into David's suffering. Think of a time you have felt that your soul would melt under heaviness. Perhaps because of sin or affliction or another's difficult circumstances.

How did you respond? What example do we get from this scripture?

David requests that God strengthen him. The meaning of this request is like David saying, "raise me up above the problems", "continue to help me endure", "help me, hold me". There is a definite confidence displayed that God's grace is the answer.

What is God's grace?

I like the acrostic used in Evangelism Explosion:

God's Riches At Christ's Expense.

What are God's riches?

1Co 1:30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us *wisdom* from God, and *righteousness* and *sanctification*, and *redemption*,

Col 2:2 that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and [attaining] to all the wealth that comes from the *full assurance of understanding*, [resulting] in a *true knowledge of God's mystery*, [that is,] Christ [Himself], in whom are hidden all the treasures of *wisdom and knowledge*.

Pr 10:22 It is the *blessing* of the LORD that makes rich, And He adds no sorrow to it.

Mt 5:8 "Blessed are the *pure in heart*, for they shall see God.

Jas 2:5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world [to be] rich in *faith* and *heirs of the kingdom* which He promised to those who love Him?

Ex 20:6 but showing *lovingkindness* to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Mt 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is *the kingdom of heaven*.

2Ti 4:8 in the future there is laid up for me *the crown of righteousness*, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Jas 1:12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive *the crown of life*, which [the Lord] has promised to those who love Him.

What is meant by " Christ' s expense" ?

Isa 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Php 2:7-8 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

God is the author of grace.

1Pe 5:10 And after you have suffered for a little while, *the God of all grace*, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen [and] establish you.

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore draw near with confidence to *the throne of grace*, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

He is the giver of grace.

Ps 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; *The LORD gives grace* and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Jas 1:17 Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow.

1Co 1:4-5 I thank my God always concerning you, for *the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus*, that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge,

Eph 2:7 in order that in the ages to come *He might show the surpassing riches of His grace* in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

God' s grace is abundant.

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;

2Co 9:14 while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of *the surpassing grace of God* in you.

Ro 5:17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive *the abundance of grace* and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Ro 5:20 And the Law came in that the transgression might increase; but where sin increased, *grace abounded all the more*,

1Ti 1:14 and *the grace of our Lord was more than abundant*, with the faith and love which are [found] in Christ Jesus.

God' s grace is sufficient.

2Co 12:9 And He has said to me, "*My grace is sufficient for you*, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

God' s grace is the source of our salvation.

Ac 15:11 "But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are."

Eph 2:5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, [it is] the gift of God;

We are called by God' s grace.

Ga 1:15 But when He who had set me apart, [even] from my mother's womb, and called me through His grace, was pleased

We are justified by God' s grace.

Ro 3:24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

Ro 4:4-5 Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness,

Ro 11:6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

Tit 3:7 that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to [the] hope of eternal life.

Our faith is a result of God' s grace.

Ac 18:27 And when he wanted to go across to Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him; and when he had arrived, he helped greatly those who had believed through grace;

1Co 3:6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.

1Co 1:30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

Our sins are forgiven because of God' s grace.

Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace,

Col 1:14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

God' s grace gives us comfort and hope.

2Th 2:16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace,

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

We are unable to serve God without His grace.

Heb 12:28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;

2Th 1:11 To this end also we pray for you always that our God may count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power;

We are protected by God' s grace.

Ro 6:14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace.

It is to God' s glory because of His grace that we do anything good.

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.

2Co 1:12 For our proud confidence is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you.

How have you seen God' s grace manifest itself in your life? Can God forgive your sins? Can God bear your burdens and strengthen you? Where does your hope lie?

Note how David records his inner soul life. In Ps 119:20 he says, "My soul breaketh;" in Ps 119:25, "My soul cleaveth to the dust;" and here, "My soul melteth." Further on, in Ps 119:81, he cries, "My soul fainteth;" in Ps 119:109, "My soul is continually in my hand;" in Ps 119:167, "My soul hath kept thy testimonies;" and lastly, in Ps 119:175, "Let my soul live." Some people do not even know that they have a soul, and here is David all soul. What a difference there is between the spiritually living and the spiritually dead. Treasury of David

Application Questions

What is the most important thing needed in order to begin to understand God' s ways?

Who gives us understanding?

Think of your personal relationship with God and describe how important it is to you to grow in your understanding of Him. What steps have you taken to support your answer?

Read Psalm 145:5-7. What actions are listed? Which of these actions are you encouraged to apply to your own life in praising God?

When you are sorrowful, where do you go? What example are we given in Psalm 119:28?

How would you explain God' s grace to someone? (1 Cor 1:30; 1 Pet 5:10; Eph 2:5; Ro 11:6; Eph 1:7; Ro 6:14)

What additional thoughts and applications has God shown you through His word?