

Psalm 119

Week 4, v. 3 - 4

What are the characteristics of those who are blessed according to Ps 119:1-2?

Ps 119:3 They also do no unrighteousness; They walk in His ways.

1Jo 3:9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

1 Jo 5:18 We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him and the evil one does not touch him.

Those who are blessed do no unrighteousness <evil> (moral) evil: iniquity, perverseness, unjust, wickedness.

" They avoid all idolatry, injustice, and wrong; and they walk in God's ways, not in those ways to which an evil heart might entice them, nor those in which the thoughtless and the profligate tread. " Adam Clarke' s Commentary

To do unrighteousness means to habitually walk in evil. A child of God is ruled by His Spirit and practices only His ways.

What is the best way to avoid sin? Are you diligently committed to learning the will of God? Do you act upon what you' ve learned? Is there anything you need to be more careful to avoid?

Ps 119:11 Thy word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee.

Ps 37:31 The law of his God is in his heart; His steps do not slip.

Ps 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts;

Ps 26:2 Examine me, O LORD, and try me; Test my mind and my heart.

Ec 7:25 I directed my mind to know, to investigate, and to seek wisdom and an explanation, and to know the evil of folly and the foolishness of madness.

Jer 29:13 'And you will seek Me and find [Me,] when you search for Me with all your heart.

Do you knowingly and willingly choose sin over God? Do you keep the company of those who practice sin?

Again, we see the word walk <halak> meaning continually.

Walking in God' s way, the Word being the course of our life, is a constant practice.

Ps 1:1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

Notice how Ps 119:2 says those who seek Him with a whole heart are blessed. When we remain in close proximity to God then we will recognize temptation which leads to sin and are able to avoid poor choices. Instead of walking in unrighteousness, we will walk in righteousness. When we are dishonest, immoral, unjust, etc., it leads to pain, sorrow and fear. Having our eyes on Jesus will lead us to make honest, godly decisions which will produce happiness.

" They walk in his ways. They attend not only to the great main highway of the law, but to the smaller paths of the particular precepts. As they will perpetrate no sin of commission, so do they labour to be free from every sin of omission. It is not enough to them to be blameless, they wish also to be actively righteous. " Treasury of David

Walking in God' s ways is more than just not committing acts of sin. We might be able to say I have not hated my neighbor but what have we done to love them?

Ps 119:4 Thou hast ordained Thy precepts, That we should keep [them] diligently.

We have an obligation as God' s children to obey His word.

What does this look like in your daily life? How do we guard God' s law? This is not an attitude of ' Oh well, sometimes I get it right and sometimes I don' t. We are to be diligent in carefully following what God requires. We cannot begin to do this unless we know what He says.

What comes to mind when you think of an over-achiever?

Read Wikipedia' s definition of an overachiever: " The implicit presumption is that the "overachiever" is achieving superior results through excessive effort ...individuals who are deemed to be overachievers are those with the drive to complete tasks above and beyond expectations and who set very high...goals for themselves" .

Are you eager to know and serve God as much as humanly possible? Think of the things you do well. How much time and effort and energy goes into developing your talents or interests? Do you persevere to know God as you would persevere to meet an important deadline? Think of those times when you' ve been exhausted but somehow find the energy and wherewithal to complete a task – you stay up late even though you are tired, you keep working even though you are aching. Does this same type of fervor and energy go into your pursuit of knowing God?

" God' s words shall be on your heart" Deut 6:6

" Listen to Him" (Mat 17:5)

“ Seek from the book of the Lord, and read” (Is 34:16)

Do you only do what is necessary to check a box off and feel good?

“ His law demands the love of all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and a careless religion has none of these. We are also called to zealous obedience. We are to keep the precepts abundantly: the vessels of obedience should be filled to the brim, and the command carried out to the full of its meaning. As a man diligent in business arouses himself to do as much trade as he can, so must we be eager to serve the Lord as much as possible. Nor must we spare pains to do so, for a diligent obedience will also be laborious and self denying. Those who are diligent in business rise up early and sit up late, and deny themselves much of comfort and repose. They are not soon tired, or if they are they persevere even with aching brow and weary eye. So should we serve the Lord. Such a Master deserves diligent servants; such service he demands, and will be content with nothing less. How seldom do men render it, and hence many through their negligence miss the double blessing spoken of in this Psalm.”

Treasury of David

Psalm 119:4 gives us

a command (not a suggestion)

from God (not just anyone, our complete Authority)

to follow the laws He has given (no adding, no subtracting)

to keep those laws (not tucking them in our back pocket, but having them in front of our face, not carelessly reading then tossing them aside but guarding them as our treasure)

diligently (not sometimes, but all the times; not hesitantly, but quickly; not carelessly, but completely)

The word ‘ordained’ from <tsavah> means commanded. The KJV translation says: **Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently.**

We are to guard, to protect, to take heed of God’ s mandates – His Word – **with diligence** “ superlatively, to the uttermost.” vehemently, wholly, speedily, exceedingly, quickly.

“ God has never given a commandment, the observance of which he knew to be impossible. And to whatsoever he has commanded he requires obedience; and his grace is sufficient for us. We must not trifle with God.” Adam Clarke’ s Commentary

How carefully do you mind your faith? We are commanded to practice God’ s law with care and exactness. God requires us to obey Him and it is for our own good that we do so, for our blessing and happiness.

De 4:1 "And now, O Israel, **listen to the statutes and the judgments which I am teaching you to perform**, in order that you may live and go in and take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you.

De 5:29-33; 6:17; 11:13; 12:32; 28:1-14; 30:16

Joshua 1:7 "Only be strong and very courageous; **be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left**, so that you may have success wherever you go.

Jer 7:23 "But this is what I commanded them, saying, '**Obey My voice**, and I will be your God, and you will be My people; and you will **walk in all the way which I command you**, that it may be well with you.'

Mt 28:20 teaching them to **observe all that I commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Joh 14:15 "If you love Me, **you will keep My commandments**.

Joh 14:21 "**He who has My commandments and keeps them**, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him."

Php 4:9 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.

We are to habitually and repeatedly execute God's commands. We are to keep them exactly (through the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit, as much as we are able, be committed with our whole heart to obey). This means we are unwavering in our loyalty to follow God even when it is difficult or doesn't make sense to us. **How are you doing?**

" Especially when they will not be tempted to an evil action, though it were to gain the greatest good in this world; but constantly adhere to him in the way which he hath prescribed them." Patrick/Lowth/Whitby/Lowman Commentary

" Where the whole heart loves the testimonies of God, the whole life will be sanctified, and no habit of evil will be tolerated. Yet even those who keep his testimonies, have still need to seek him more and more. They are perfect in intention, but absolute perfection they have not attained." Spurgeon Devotional Commentary

A true child of God does not wilfully, knowingly and continuously do anything that is wicked, ungodly or unjust...they are honest, upright and chaste...when it comes to justice and morality they are blameless – therefore, they are happy.
Treasury of David

Application Questions

- 1) Why do you think it's important for us to understand what sin is?
- 2) Think about which sins tempt you the most, how can you improve your walk?
- 3) What does it mean to walk in His ways?
- 4) What hinders us from recognizing our sin?
- 5) What can I do today to be more diligent and follow God's laws?