

## Psalm 119

week 13, v.73-74

What kinds of things do you like to make? What type of interest and care do you put into your handiwork? Describe the process of designing something.

To make something you need a designer to implement a plan then you need a creator to make it happen.

Ps 119:73 Thy hands made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn Thy commandments.

The first part of this verse answers the question, 'Who designed and created us'. David acknowledges God as his Maker. Do you praise God for creating you?

Ge 1:27 And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Isa 45:12 "It is I who made the earth, and created man upon it. I stretched out the heavens with My hands, And I ordained all their host.

According to the Bible, God created all things. But only man was created in God's own image and likeness. Man was created after everything was prepared for him. Man was created to have dominion over the things of earth (Gen 1:26). Man was created to bring God pleasure (Is 43:7).

In acknowledging God as Creator, we are recognizing our position as His creation. He is given glory for our existence. With this truth we also understand our allegiance to God.

What does it mean to have ownership? Ownership is possessing something you have control over. Therefore, God, as our Owner and Creator has the right to control us; yet, because He desires our sincere devotion, He gives us freedom. Have you acknowledged that you belong to God and everything He has created belongs to Him? How does this truth change the way you think about yourself and your possessions?

Ver. 73. Thy hands have made me and fashioned me. It is profitable to remember our creation, it is pleasant to see that the divine hand has had much to do with us, for it never moves apart from the divine thought. It excites reverence,

gratitude, and affection towards God when we view him as our Maker, putting forth the careful skill and power of his hands in our forming and fashioning. He took a personal interest in us, making us with his own hands; he was doubly thoughtful, for he is represented both as making and moulding us. In both giving existence and arranging existence he manifested love and wisdom; and therefore we find reasons for praise, confidence, and expectation in our being and well being. Treasury of David

Where do you go to get understanding of a difficult concept or involved directions? What does the second part of Psalm 119:73 say?

"...give me understanding, that I may learn Thy commandments."

understanding <biyn> to generally understand; discernment, information, instruction, intelligence, (cause to understand, make to understand...; view or deal wisely

We can agree but not understand. We can empathize but not understand. We can have knowledge but not understand. Sincere, heartfelt understanding of Who God really is, must result in a desire to learn His commands *in order to follow them*.

It's so much more than cognitive understanding. Spiritual understanding goes beyond the intellect and into the heart. It leads to a sincere effort to please God because He is our Savior and Lord.

Ps 100:3 Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; [We are] His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ps 119:34 Give me understanding, that I may observe Thy law, and keep it with all [my] heart.

Are you driven in your desire to understand God so that you may learn His instruction for your life?

Who best knows how a created thing should be used other than the creator itself?

Only God can give us his divine understanding of our purpose. He formed us therefore He knows us. He will follow through with His plan for us.

Ps 138:8 The LORD will accomplish what concerns me; Thy lovingkindness, O LORD, is everlasting; Do not forsake the works of Thy hands.

Php 1:6 [For I am] confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Often, men pursue understanding for their own benefit. Notice that David asks for understanding that he might please God.

Consider: I take no part in my existence, I take no part in my understanding, I take no part in my faithfulness to do His commands. It is all God!

Ver. 73. -- Give me understanding. Let us pray unto God that he would open our understandings, that as he hath given us consciences to guide us, so also he would give eyes to these guides that they may be able to direct us aright. The truth is, it is God only that can soundly enlighten our consciences; and therefore let us pray unto him to do it. All our studying, and hearing, and reading, and conferring will never be able to do it; it is only in the power of him who made us to do it. He who made our consciences, he only can give them this heavenly light of true knowledge and right understanding; and therefore let us seek earnestly to him for it. --William Fenner, 1600-1640.

Ver. 73. -- That I may learn thy commandments. That he might learn them so as to know the sense and meaning of them, their purity and spirituality; and so as to do them from a principle of love, in faith, and to the glory of God: for it is not a bare learning of them by heart or committing them to memory, nor a mere theory of them, but the practice of them in faith and love, which is here meant. --John Gill.

Thank you God for creating us, thank you for giving us understanding, thank you for teaching us to follow You. Your work in my life will cause those who know You to be encouraged.

When we acknowledge God as our Creator and Owner, when we understand and follow His commands, then others are encouraged by our testimony.

Our testimony authenticates the work of God in our life. We know this because of the next verse in our passage.

Ps 119:74 May those who fear Thee see me and be glad, because I wait for Thy word.

David had learned to hope in God; he was excited to encourage others to be led to that same hope as they witnessed God's faithfulness to him.

What specific group of people is David addressing? Are others encouraged by your example of trusting in God?

Having hope in God is to trust in Him and wait for His answers. God will see to fruition all His promises to His children. Hope is having confident expectation.

I remember the words in a children's song to the definition of having hope in God: "I anticipate the inevitable Supernatural intervention of God, I expect a miracle".

Lu 21:33 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

The grace experienced by one believer cheers others; indeed a good man is always a son of consolation to his brethren. He who comes forth perfumed with the spices of God's word, imparts delight to all with whom he associates. Spurgeon Devotional Commentary

Ps 142:7 "Bring my soul out of prison, So that I may give thanks to Thy name; The righteous will surround me, For Thou wilt deal bountifully with me."

Ps 34:2-6 My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; The humble shall hear it and rejoice. 3 O magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together. 4 I sought the LORD, and He answered me, And delivered me from all my fears. 5 They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces shall never be ashamed. 6 This poor man cried and the LORD heard him, And saved him out of all his troubles.

Jer 9:24 but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things, "declares the LORD.

Ps 66:16 Come [and] hear, all who fear God, And I will tell of what He has done for my soul.

When a man of God obtains grace for himself he becomes a blessing to others, especially if that grace has made him a man of sound understanding and holy knowledge. God fearing men are encouraged when they meet with experienced believers. A hopeful man is a God send when things are declining or in danger.

When the hopes of one believer are fulfilled his companions are cheered and established, and led to hope also. Treasury of David

The following is taken from *Hints to Preachers*.

Ver. 74. -- Converse with a tried but steadfast believer is a source of gladness to the children of God.

1. He has a thrilling tale of experience to tell.
2. He has valuable counsels and cautions to give.
3. He is a monument of God's faithfulness, confirming the hope of others.
4. He is an epistle of Christ, written expressly to illustrate the preciousness and the power of the gospel.

#### Application Questions

What information about God do you see in Ps 119:73?

How was the creation of man different than all other creation? (Gen 1:26-27)

God is the Creator of all things which means he is the rightful owner of all things. How does this truth affect the way you think about yourself and your possessions?

According to Ps 119:73, where do we get understanding? Where do you go for understanding? Why are we given understanding?

What's the difference between intellectual understanding and spiritual understanding? (Eph 2:10; Ps 119:34)

Read Ps 119:74. What is the result when other believers see you following God? Are others encouraged by your example? (Ps 34:2-6; Ps 66:16)

How would God have you apply the truths in Ps 119:73-74 to your life right now?