

Psalm 119

week 16 v. 79-80

What kind of example are you? Do you represent what you believe? Why does this matter?

Php 2:14-15 Do all things without grumbling or disputing; 15 that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,

- being an example of godliness is commanded
- it proves we are children of God
- it sets us apart from the world

Mt 5:16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

- our good example glorifies God

Php 3:17 Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

- our example is a model for others

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.

- when we represent God in our example, we are rewarded with His peace

Col 3:12-13 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

- our example should show the character of one who is chosen by God
- it is marked by forgiveness

Ps 119:79 May those who fear Thee turn to me, even those who know Thy testimonies.

Those who fear God are those who know Him and show reverence towards Him.

turn <shuwb> to turn back, bring back, draw back, fetch home again, recover, refresh, rescue, restore, retrieve

Sometimes adversities in a believer's life can cause others to question God's presence and even existence. As they see His faithfulness in a life lived out for Him, they are encouraged to turn towards that example. This was David's prayer.

Does the example of others' faithfulness bring you comfort when you are feeling weak? Does your example encourage others to remain faithful?

Spurgeon comments on this verse, "let me be a magnet to gather good company, not a besom [broom] to sweep them away".

David has two descriptions for the saints, they are God fearing and God knowing. They possess both devotion and instruction; they have both the spirit and the science of true religion. We know some believers who are gracious, but not intelligent; and, on the other hand, we also know certain professors who have all head and no heart: he is the man who combines devotion with intelligence. We neither care for devout dunces nor for intellectual icebergs. When fearing, and knowing walk hand in hand they cause men to be thoroughly furnished unto every good work. If these are my choice companions I may hope that I am one of their order. Let such persons ever turn to me because they find in me congenial company. Treasury of David

Look back to Ps 119:63. What kind of company does David keep? Does it pain you to consider the discouragement you may have caused others in the faith because of your sin? Or perhaps, difficulties that have encompassed you are looked upon as judgment from God and that causes others to shy away from you. In either case, because our family in Christ is so important to us, we may pray that God would cause them to once again see His work in our life and be encouraged.

Ps 119:80 May my heart be blameless in Thy statutes, that I may not be ashamed.

blameless <tamiym>

this word speaks of our entire being – literally, figuratively or morally; also integrity, truth, without blemish, sincerely

statutes <choq> an enactment, commandment, decree, task

this seems like it is more than just the subject of God's commands but also the active carrying out of them

ashamed <buwsh> to pale, be ashamed, disappointed

If we try to put these meanings together into one thought it might read something like this:

Let my entire being – thoughts, actions, speech – be modeled by integrity so as not to have any cause for shame.

Why would David be praying this?

Ps 25:21 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for Thee.

Ps 32:2 How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit!

De 26:16 "This day the LORD your God commands you to do these statutes and ordinances. You shall therefore be careful to do them with all your heart and with all your soul.

2Ch 12:14 And he did evil because he did not set his heart to seek the LORD.

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.

Ps 119:5-6 Oh that my ways may be established to keep Thy statutes! 6 Then I shall not be ashamed when I look upon all Thy commandments.

Are you dependent on God? Are you devoted to God? Is everything you do determined by His word and dedicated to His glory?

Ver. 80. -- Let my heart be sound. What is a sound heart? It notes reality and solidity in grace. The Septuagint hath it, Let my heart be without spot and blemish. It implies the reality of grace, opposed to the bare form of godliness, or the fair shows of hypocrites, and the sudden and vanishing motions of temporaries. Treasury of David

If you would have me unfold what this sound heart is, there is required these four things: --

1. An enlightened understanding; that is, the directive part of the soul; and it is sound when it is kept free from the leaven and contagion of error: "A man of understanding walketh uprightly," Pr 15:21. A sound mind is a good help to a sound heart.

2. There is required an awakened conscience, that warns of our duty, and riseth up in dislike of sin upon all occasions: "When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, -- it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee" (Pr 6:22): to have a constant monitor in our bosoms to put us in mind of God, when our reins preach to us in the night season (Ps 16:7): there is a secret spy in our bosoms that observes all that we do, and think, and speak; a domestic chaplain, that is always preaching to us. His heart is his Bible.

3. There is required a rightly disposed will, or a steadfast purpose to walk with God in all conditions, and to do what is good and acceptable in his sight: "He exhorted them all that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord," Ac 6:15. Many have light inclinations, or wavering resolutions; but their hearts are not fixedly, habitually bent to please God; therein chiefly lieth this sound heart, that it doth inseparably cleave to God in all things.

4. There is required that the affections be purged and quickened: these are the vigorous motions of the will, and therefore this must be heedfully regarded; purged they must be from that carnality and fleshliness that cleaveth to them. This is called in Scripture the circumcision of the heart (De 30:6). --Condensed from Manton.

1Jo 3:18-21 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. 19 We shall know by this that we are of the truth, and shall assure our heart before Him, 20 in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;

Do you have confidence before God? Let us pray for a sincere heart so that there is no occasion in our lives to be ashamed before God or man.

Application Questions

Ps 119:79 May those who fear Thee turn to me, even those who know Thy testimonies.

How does your example cause others to want to be with you as you honor God's commands? Look up Philipians 2:14-15; Matthew 5:16 and Colossians 3:12-13 for some qualities that will draw others to God as they see your example.

Read Psalm 119:63. What kind of company does David keep? In what ways are you following his example?

Psalm 119:80 uses the words blameless and ashamed. The first we want to be, the second we don't want. How do you try to be blameless in your thoughts, speech and actions?

What is the difference between knowing and even understanding God's commands and actually doing them?

Think about the word integrity. What do these verses say about being the same inside and out?

Ps 25:21

Ps 32:2

2 Cor 1:12

Is your dependence placed on God alone? What does your devotion to God look like?