

Psalm 119

Week 8, v. 9

Verse 9 of Psalm 119 begins the next section of eight verses. These all start with the second letter of the Hebrew Alphabet, BETH which means house.

Every verse in the section begins with beth, a house. The subject of the section is, The Law of Jehovah purifying the Life. Key word, (zakah), to be pure, to make pure, to cleanse. F. G. Marchant, TOD

Ps 119:9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping [it] according to Thy word.

As we look at the verse above, the first thing we see is a question. There are some assumptions in this question. There is a need to keep something clean (keep <zakah>) so there is recognition of sin. This cleaning needs to be addressed early on – a young man.

Young man (concretely) a boy (as active), from the age of infancy to adolescence; by implication, a servant; also (by interch. of sex), a girl (of similar latitude in age): --babe, boy, child, damsel (from the margin), lad, servant, young (man).

In general, we are speaking of a child from birth through adolescence.

Why do you think this age group needs to be targeted? Think about the youth you know, what things can easily affect their thinking? How about when you were young – what things were likely to persuade your decisions?

The following are passages concerning the temptations of young men. According to these scriptures, what are some weaknesses that ensnare a young man into sin? Is there a solution mentioned in these verses?

1 Kings 12:6-15

Prov 1:1-33

Prov 3:1-35

Prov 7:1-27

Prov 10:1

Prov 13:1

Prov 15:5

Prov 19:26-27

Prov 23:15-35

Prov 28:7

Matt 19:16-22

Luke 15:11-32

2 Tim 2:22

Young man; or, any man. But he names the young man, because such are commonly void of wisdom and experience, heady and wilful, and impatient of admonition, full of violent passions and strong lusts, and exposed to many and great temptations. Matthew Poole's Commentary

What follows in verse 9 is the answer: **by keeping it according to Thy word.**

The solution to the problem is observing and doing what God's word says. Temptations surround us: the world, the flesh and the devil. **How do we fight against temptations? What was Jesus' example?**

Mt 4:1-11

You must take heed to your daily life as well as study your Bible, and you must study your Bible that you may take heed to your daily life. With the greatest care a man will go astray if his map misleads him; but with the most accurate map he will still lose his road if he does not take heed to it. Treasury of David

The KJV of Psalm 119:9 says,

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?

Cleanse his way is an interesting phrase. The word "way" refers to a well-trodden road. In biblical times, a road that was frequently used would have tracks or ruts made by the wheels of carts or chariots. The picture here is of a young man following in the path that God has already carved out before him; the path that is laid out in the Word.

He who takes the Bible for his guide will walk in safety, purity, and love; and will be preserved from manifold dangers to which he would otherwise be exposed. Family Bible Notes

This verse contains a weighty question and a satisfactory answer: let all young people lay both of them to heart. Grace in the heart is the young man's best life insurance. Spurgeon Devotional Commentary

How important is it to teach our children what God wants from us?

Ps 78:4-8; Deut 6:6-9

How do we keep our way pure according to the word?

Ps 119:11; Ps 119:97-105; Ps 1:1-3; Ps 19:7-11; Josh 1:7; 2 Tim 3:16-17;

Ja 1:21-25

1. The question is put. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? The way of all flesh is corrupt and polluted, and young persons exposed to especial temptations from fleshly lusts that was against the soul, defile the conscience, and plunge them into perdition and destruction; great need therefore have they to inquire how they may be preserved from the pollutions of the world?

2. The answer is given. By taking heed thereto according to thy word, or, by observing what is according to thy word; this chart will enable him to steer clear of the rocks, on which others make shipwreck of faith and a good conscience. Thomas Haweis

What applications can you make to your own life from this verse?