

Psalms 119
week 6, vs 94-95

Ps 119:94 I am Thine, save me; For I have sought Thy precepts.

89 – Thy word is forever settled in heaven

90 – Thy faithfulness is to all and secure as the earth

91 - All things are under God's command

92 – The delight of God's commands keeps us from living in misery

93 – Giving attention to God's commands revives me

What do the words 'I am yours' implicate? belonging, possessives, devotion, commitment

Ps 86:2 Do preserve my soul, for I am a godly man; O Thou my God, save Thy servant who trusts in Thee.

Isa 41:9-10 You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, And called from its remotest parts, And said to you, 'You are My servant, I have chosen you and not rejected you. ¹⁰ 'Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

Isa 44:2 Thus says the LORD who made you And formed you from the womb, who will help you, 'Do not fear, O Jacob My servant; And you Jeshurun whom I have chosen.

Isa 64:8 But now, O LORD, Thou art our Father, We are the clay, and Thou our potter; And all of us are the work of Thy hand.

Zep 3:17 "The LORD your God is in your midst, A victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.

Ro 6:16 Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone [as] slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

We are the Lord's by creation, election, redemption, surrender, and acceptance Treasury of David

God made us, He chose us, He redeemed us, He opens our eyes to His truth and He causes us to follow Him.

What do we receive from our relationship with God; what does David's request to 'save' him mean?

save <yasha'> to be safe, be free, defend, deliver, help, preserve, rescue, salvation, victory

We have a description of the Psalmist's relationship to God – 'I am thine'

We have a description of the benefits of that relationship – safety

We have a description of the proof of that relationship – 'I have sought thy precepts'

It is God who causes us to seek Him. We do not choose Him ourselves. If we have a desire to know God and to follow Him, that is proof of our relationship to Him.

Mal 3:18 So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.

What is the process of seeking something?

We search, we look for, it takes effort, we ask questions, we ask direction; seeking implies active involvement and diligence; it is not passive.

sought <darash> to tread or frequent, usually to follow for pursuit or search; to seek or ask; to worship, diligently, inquire, question

What does the Psalmist seek? 'thy precepts'

precepts <piquwd> commandments, statutes

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

Ps 119:40 Behold, I long for Thy precepts; Revive me through Thy righteousness.

Ps 119:20 My soul is crushed with longing After Thine ordinances at all times.

Ps 119:173 Let Thy hand be ready to help me, For I have chosen Thy precepts.

Ps 119:159 Consider how I love Thy precepts; Revive me, O LORD, according to Thy lovingkindness.

Do your affection and actions prove that you belong to God?

Consider this, we can seek to know something for knowledge sake or to claim the benefits thereof but that does not mean we have embraced what

we are seeking. To seek understanding in order to follow God's commands speaks of a heart that truly belongs to God.

When we belong to God, – I am Thine

we are obedient to God, – I have sought Thy precepts

and we can look to God for protection. – save me

Ps 119:95 The wicked wait for me to destroy me; I shall diligently consider Thy testimonies.

Focusing on God's truths brings security to His children. Focusing on God's word sustains us through difficulties. Pursuing God's word diligently keeps us from wandering away.

Do wicked people encourage righteousness in others? What do they encourage? Why do you think this is so? Would an ungodly person rejoice in the spiritual discernment of another?

wicked <rasha'> morally wrong; an actively bad person; condemned, guilty, ungodly

Let's go all the way back to the beginning of sin. In Genesis chapter 3, the serpent led Eve astray. Eve, in turn, led Adam astray.

2Co 11:3 But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity [of devotion] to Christ.

2Pe 3:17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness,

Ps 10:8-10 He sits in the lurking places of the villages; In the hiding places he kills the innocent; His eyes stealthily watch for the unfortunate. ⁹ He lurks in a hiding place as a lion in his lair; He lurks to catch the afflicted; He catches the afflicted when he draws him into his net. ¹⁰ He crouches, he bows down, And the unfortunate fall by his mighty ones.

Ungodly people are comfortable with ungodly people. They wait for the destruction of others. In Psalm 119:95, the wicked are waiting for David to fail in his devotion to God. In the same way, satan would love to see all God's children become ineffective in their devotion to God.

What is our defense to this?

I shall diligently consider Thy testimonies.

Our grip on God's truths needs to be strong. Then, when others are against us, we will continue to hold on and persevere.

What does it mean to diligently consider something?

<biyn> to separate mentally (or distinguish), understand; attend, consider, be cunning, diligently, direct, discern, eloquent, feel, inform, instruct, have intelligence, know, look well to, mark, perceive, be prudent, regard

Perhaps there are a few questions we could ask ourselves when we feel threatened or weak or uncertain as to our reaction or defense.

What is the truth in this situation? How would God have me understand this information so I can rightly address it? Is there deception I need to be aware of? Do I have the correct information? How would I apply God's word/wisdom?

Diligence requires perseverance. That means no giving up. Continued focus on the One who has all the answers even if we don't readily recognize them. God will give us what we need to honor Him when we need it.

Do you give careful attention to God's commands? God's word will comfort us when we are afflicted; it will counsel us when we need guidance; and it will defend us when we need protection.

If we choose not to give careful consideration to God's word we give the enemy opportunities to destroy our testimony.

Can we sometimes get so busy figuring out how to fix a problem or change a situation that we forget to consider God's word first?

Spurgeon, in his devotional commentary says: "Faith continues her meditations undisturbed by the rage of her adversaries".

Ps 119:24 Thy testimonies also are my delight; [They are] my counselors.

Ps 119:31 I cleave to Thy testimonies; O LORD, do not put me to shame!

Ps 119:69 The arrogant have forged a lie against me; With all [my] heart I will observe Thy precepts.

Ps 119:77 May Thy compassion come to me that I may live, for Thy law is my delight.

Ps 119:85-87 The arrogant have dug pits for me, [Men] who are not in accord with Thy law. ⁸⁶ All Thy commandments are faithful; they have persecuted me with a lie; help me! ⁸⁷ They almost destroyed me on earth, but as for me, I did not forsake Thy precepts.

Amidst the virulent persecution of the wicked, the Psalmist considered the sure testimonies of God, or his truths and promises; till his fears were allayed, and his heart was established in confidence and obedience. Thomas Scott

Ps 119:2-3 How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, who seek Him with all [their] heart. ³ They also do no unrighteousness; they walk in His ways.

Ps 119:11-14 Thy word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against Thee. ¹² Blessed art Thou, O LORD; Teach me Thy statutes. ¹³ With my lips I have told of All the ordinances of Thy mouth. ¹⁴ I have rejoiced in the way of Thy testimonies, As much as in all riches.

Ps 119:111 I have inherited Thy testimonies forever, For they are the joy of my heart.

Psalms 19:7-11

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

Isa 51:7 "Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, A people in whose heart is My law; Do not fear the reproach of man, Neither be dismayed at their revilings.

They were like wild beasts crouching by the way, or highway men waylaying a defenceless traveller; but the Psalmist went on his way without considering them, for he was considering something better, namely, the witness or testimony which God has borne to the sons of men. He did not allow the malice of the wicked to take him off from his holy study of the divine word. He was so calm that he could "consider"; so holy that he loved to consider the Lord's "testimonies"; so victorious over all their plots that he did not allow them to drive him from his pious contemplations. If the enemy cannot cause us to withdraw our thoughts from holy study, or our feet from holy walking, or our hearts from holy aspirations, he has met with poor success in his assaults. The wicked are the natural enemies of holy men and holy thoughts; if they could, they would not only damage us but destroy us, and if they cannot do this today they will wait for further opportunities, ever hoping that their evil designs may be compassed. Treasury of David

What is the wicked man's purpose according to verse 95?

Wait, destroy.

What is the response of God's child?

To keep focused on Truth.

Application Questions

Can you say you belong to God? How do you know? How has your life changed?

According to Psalms 119:94, what is the request you can make of God as His child?

see also Ps 86:2; Is 41:9-10

What does it mean to seek God's precepts? What does this look like in your life?

Look up Ps 119 27, 40, 20, 173

What does Ps 119:95 say about the wicked?

Do we need to live in fear of those against us? Why/Why not?

Read Ps 119:2-3, 11-14; Ps 37:31; Is 51:7

What is your plan to remain focused on Truth in all circumstances?