

Psalm 119
week 7, v 96-97

Ps 119:96 I have seen a limit to all perfection; Thy commandment is exceedingly broad.

seen <ra'ah> to see, literally or figuratively; advise self, appear, approve, behold, consider, discern ...

limit <qets> border, finite, end; from <qatsats> to chop off, cut

perfection <tiklah> completeness

Ge 6:13 Then God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth.

There are several verse references with this same word translated 'end'. All speak of the end of a time period or border to something.

Most of the scriptures with the word for 'perfection' speak of completing a task.

So, it seems here that David is saying he has seen a limit to completion. **What does this mean?**

Ps 119:96 (BBE) I have seen that nothing on earth is complete; but your teaching is very wide.

Ps 119:96 (NKJV) I have seen the consummation of all perfection, [But] Your commandment [is] exceedingly broad.

Ps 119:96 (ESV) I have seen a limit to all perfection, but your commandment is exceedingly broad.

Look back at the beginning of this section. Ps 119:89-90 speaks of the word being settled in heaven *forever* and God's faithfulness continuing throughout *all* generations.

Then, there is a comparison between the eternal word and faithfulness of God with the earth's existence being fully dependent on God. It seems this contrast is between an earth that has limits and God's word which will go on forever.

You've heard the saying, 'All good things must come to an end'. There is some truth in that statement. **There are some wonderful and enjoyable things on the earth, but is there anything here on earth that will last forever?** Think beauty, knowledge,

pleasure, riches. Compare that thought to God's word: **Are there boundaries to His word?**

Who can ascend to the height of its excellency; who can fathom the depth of its mysteries; who can find out the comprehension of its precepts, or conceive the extent of its promises? Bp. Horne

There is no earthly thing, be it never so excellent, but I have observed it subject to change and corruption; but thy law, O Lord, is of infinite perfection, both for the wisdom and justice of it, as also for the eternal continuance of it. Hall's Explication of Hard Texts

Is there anything or anyone that the word of God cannot extend itself to?

I have observed by my experience that the greatest and most perfect accomplishments and enjoyments in this world, the greatest glory, and riches, and power, and wisdom, are too narrow and short lived to make men happy. Matthew Poole

God's commandments are described as 'exceedingly broad'.

How would you describe something that is broad?

Broad means in any and every direction; large. "Both for extent and for continuance; it is useful to all persons in all times and conditions, and for all purposes, to inform, direct, quicken, comfort, sanctify, and save men; it is of everlasting truth and efficacy;" Poole

So we have the earth which is finite compared to the word which is infinite.

The earth has boundaries while the word is without limits.

The earth offers temporary satisfaction, the word holds permanent satisfaction.

That is, I have seen that all human wisdom or knowledge, however extensive, noble, and excellent, has it bounds, and limits, and end; but Thy law, a transcript of Thine own mind, is infinite, and extends to eternity. The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge

Mt 24:35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away.

Isa 51:6 "Lift up your eyes to the sky, Then look to the earth beneath; For the sky will vanish like smoke, And the earth will wear out like a garment, And its inhabitants will die in like manner, But My salvation shall be forever, And My righteousness shall not wane.

1Pe 1:24-25 For, "ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF, ²⁵ BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ABIDES FOREVER." And this is the word which was preached to you.

Ps 144:4 Man is like a mere breath; His days are like a passing shadow.

Ps 90:10 As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, Or if due to strength, eighty years, Yet their pride is [but] labor and sorrow; For soon it is gone and we fly away.

2Pe 3:7 But the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

What action does the truth in Psalm 119:96 lead you to?

This is a reminder to me to place my hope, my trust, my purpose and my security in God because no matter what may seem good and promising on the earth, it is temporary. God's truths are for all time and his promises will last forever.

In Psalm 119:97, we begin the thirteenth section of eight verses.

Ps 119:97 O how I love Thy law! It is my meditation all the day.

Observe the grammar used. There is emphasis on the first statement because it is punctuated with an exclamation mark. We should consider David's statement of great importance and significance.

O how I love Thy law! How do you react to something you love? You have great affection for it, get pleasure and enjoyment from it, and are devoted to it. Think of those things you love to do or the people you love to spend time with. There is a certain anticipation of excitement when you plan for time spent with the people and things you love. Clearly, the love of God's law is what drives our Psalmist.

What is God's law? His precepts, His statutes. His commandments. His teachings. His instructions.

In this Psalm we are studying, what does David mention over and over again?

Go back to the beginning of Psalm 119.

- **Psalms 119:1** "Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD."
- **Psalms 119:10** "With my whole heart have I sought you: O let me not wander from your Commandments."
- **Psalms 119:18** "Open you mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law."
- **Psalms 119:19** "I am a stranger in the earth: hide not your Commandments from me."

- **Psalms 119:35** "Make me to go in the path of your Commandments; for therein do I delight."
- **Psalms 119:47** "And I will delight myself in your Commandments, which I have loved."
- **Psalms 119:48** "My hands also will I lift up unto your Commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in your statutes."
- **Psalms 119:60** "I made haste, and delayed not to keep your Commandments."
- **Psalms 119:61** "The bands of the wicked have robbed me: but I have not forgotten your law."
- **Psalms 119:66** "Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed your Commandments."
- **Psalms 119:70** "Their heart is as fat as grease; but I delight in your law."
- **Psalms 119:71** "It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn your statutes."
- **Psalms 119:72** "The law of your mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver."
- **Psalms 119:73** "Your hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn your Commandments."
- **Psalms 119:77** "Let your tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for your law is my delight."
- **Psalms 119:96** "I have seen an end of all perfection: but your Commandment is exceeding broad."
- **Psalms 119:97** "O how I love Thy law! It is my meditation all the day."

The object of David's love is God's law. **What does he do with it?** He meditates on it all the day.

What does it mean to meditate on something?

<siychah> reflection; be extension, devotion, meditation, prayer

To give a lengthy and careful consideration; to contemplate, to give thoughtful observation. An extension of something is to expand it, to elongate or stretch out.

How often does our Psalmist meditate on God's law?

All the day. Meaning continually.

Ps 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

What does it mean to do something continually? without interruption; being persistent, recurring, relentless, repetitive

Jos 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

Ps 1:1-3 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! 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. 3 And he will be like a tree [firmly] planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.

We see that the object of David's love is God's law; what is the object of your love? Do you delight in it? Do you frequent it? Do you read it and digest it? What evidence in your life proves the object of your love?

"O how I love!" We not only reverence but love the law, we obey it out of love, and even when it chides us for disobedience we love it none the less. The law is God's law, and therefore it is our love. We love it for its holiness, and pine to be holy; we love it for its wisdom, and study to be wise; we love it for its perfection, and long to be perfect. Those who know the power of the gospel perceive an infinite loveliness in the law as they see it fulfilled and embodied in Christ Jesus. ... He meditated in God's word because he loved it, and then loved it the more because he meditated in it. Treasury of David

This most precious jewel is to be preferred above all treasure. If thou be hungry, it is meat to satisfy thee; if thou be thirsty, it is drink to refresh thee; if thou be sick, it is a present remedy; if thou be weak, it is a staff to lean unto; if thine enemy assault thee, it is a sword to fight withal; if thou be in darkness, it is a lantern to guide thy feet; if thou be doubtful of the way, it is a bright shining star to direct thee; if thou be in displeasure with God, it is the message of reconciliation; if thou study to save thy soul, receive the word engrafted, for that is able to do it: it is the

word of life. Whose loveth salvation will love this word, love to read it, love to hear it; Edwin Sundys, TOD

Application Questions

According to verse 96, what has limits? What does not?

Is there anything on this earth that will last forever? Are there boundaries to God's word? See Matthew 24:35; Isaiah 51:6; 1 Peter 1:24-25

How are you led to respond to Psalm 119:96?

An obsession is usually considered an unhealthy preoccupation. What would you think of someone who was obsessed or preoccupied with God's word – knowing it, understanding, applying it?

What does meditating on God's law look like in your life? Look up the English definition for meditate. What words stand out to you? Does this apply to your consideration of God's word?

How do the following scriptures encourage you?

Joshua 1:8

Psalm 1:1-3

We typically spend frequent time thinking upon what or whom we love. Can you exclaim with David, 'O how I love Thy law'?