

Psalms 119
week 9, v. 115

'Since God is my protection and defense and I have learned to patiently trust in His word, (Ps 119:114) and I can say',

Ps 119:115 Depart from me, evildoers, That I may observe the commandments of my God.

Picture a kid on the playground being bullied by a dozen other children. He finds the biggest, strongest most feared person in the school and stands next to him. Now this kid who was being bullied has confidence because of his position and protection. Our Psalmist confidently knows that he will not be derailed because he is depending on God's promises to keep him. His message to those who would devise evil is 'you might as well leave because you have no business here'.

Ps 6:8 Depart from me, all you who do iniquity, for the LORD has heard the voice of my weeping.

Ps 28:6 Blessed be the LORD, because He has heard the voice of my supplication.

Ps 139:19 O that Thou wouldst slay the wicked, O God; depart from me, therefore, men of bloodshed.

Who fights your battles with sin? Are you successful on your own? We see an example of confidence in God's power and promises. We see an example of a heart desiring to be obedient to God's commands. We see a resolve to walk in a direction that pleases God and places trust in Him. David has better things to do – following God's commands – than to be bullied by sin and those who try to derail him.

Think! What people or things hinder your obedience to God? How do you respond?

'Depart from me' *Odi profanum vulgus, etarceo*, I abominate the profane, and will have no communion with them. I drive them away from my presence. Adam Clarke's Commentary

Are you resolved to live a life set apart to God? No matter who or what tries to derail you?

Note, those that resolve to keep the commandments of God must have no society with evil-doers; for bad company is a great hindrance to a holy life. We must not choose wicked people for our companions, nor be intimate with them; we must not do as they do nor do as they would have us do. Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible

Ps 1:1 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!

Pr 4:14-15 Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not proceed in the way of evil men. ¹⁵ Avoid it, do not pass by it; turn away from it and pass on.

Ps 26:4-5 I do not sit with deceitful men, nor will I go with pretenders. ⁵ I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked.

Eph 5:11 And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

1Co 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

Ver. 115. And therefore [I] will avoid your society and conversation, lest I should be hindered from that which is good, and drawn to sin by your evil counsel or example. Matthew Poole's Commentary

Do not persuade me any longer, O ye evil doers, to join with you; but get you gone from me: for I will follow none of your counsels; but strictly observe the commandments of my God, who hath hitherto most graciously delivered me. Patrick/Lowth/Whitby/Lowman Commentary

Ps 119:106 I have sworn, and I will confirm it, that I will keep Thy righteous ordinances.

Joshua 24:15 "And if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Think back to our illustration of the child being bullied on the playground. The biggest, strongest most feared person in the school happens to be the Principal who happens to be his Father.

Look at the words used at the end of David's statement in Psalm 119:115. "My God". <elohiym> The Supreme God, The Almighty God, The Great God. My: belonging to me; personal

David is not just following a god or any god but *his* God, the One True God, and he can claim a personal relationship with Him!

Think of the special affection you have with *your* parents, *your* children, *your* grandchildren, *your* church, even *your* neighbors, *your* co-workers. These are all relationships that have personal investment. There is a sense of belonging. These relationships are different than just an ambiguous parent, child, grandchild, etc.

Ver. 115. – Of my God. As a man can esteem of anything which he knows is his own; so if once he knows that God is his, he cannot but love him, and carefully obey him: neither is it possible that any man can give to God hearty and permanent service, who is not persuaded to say with David, He is my God. All the pleasures, all the terrors of the world cannot sunder [break apart] that soul from God, who can truly say, The Lord is my God. –W. Cowper.

Ex 15:2 “The LORD is **my** strength and song, and He has become **my** salvation; this is **my** God, and I will praise Him; **my** father’s God, and I will extol Him.

2Sa 22:3 **My** God, **my** rock, in whom I take refuge; **my** shield and the horn of **my** salvation, **my** stronghold and **my** refuge; **my** savior, Thou dost save me from violence.

2Sa 22:7 “In my distress I called upon the LORD, Yes, I cried to **my** God; and from His temple He heard my voice, and my cry for help [came] into His ears.

1Ch 28:20 Then David said to his son Solomon, “Be strong and courageous, and act; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD God, **my** God, is with you. He will not fail you nor forsake you until all the work for the service of the house of the LORD is finished.

Ps 18:28-29 For Thou dost light my lamp; The LORD **my** God illumines my darkness.
29 For by Thee I can run upon a troop; and by **my** God I can leap over a wall.

Ps 22:10 Upon Thee I was cast from birth; Thou hast been **my** God from my mother’s womb.

Ps 31:14 But as for me, I trust in Thee, O LORD, I say, “Thou art **my** God.”

Ps 143:10 Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art **my** God; let Thy good Spirit lead me on level ground.

Isa 25:1 O LORD, Thou art **my** God; I will exalt Thee, I will give thanks to Thy name; for Thou hast worked wonders, plans [formed] long ago, with perfect faithfulness.

Da 6:22 “**My** God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime.”

Keil gives an interesting account of a lions’ den such as has been found in more modern times. Keil observes, “We have no account by the ancients of the construction of lions’ dens. Ge. Host, in his work on *Fez and Morocco*, p. 77, describes the lions’ dens as they have been found in Morocco. According to his account, they consist of a large square cavern under the earth, having a partition-

wall in the middle of it, which is furnished with a door, which the keeper can open and close from above. By throwing in food, they can entice the lions from one chamber into the other, and then, having shut the door, they enter the vacant space for the purpose of cleaning it. The cavern is open above, its mouth being surrounded by a wall of a yard and a half high, over which one can look down into the den. This description agrees perfectly with that which is here given in the text regarding the lions' den."309 Keil goes on to explain that there was a door in the wall surrounding the cavern through which both the keepers and the lions could enter except when the stone was in place. This accounts for the fact that Darius was able to converse freely with Daniel before the stone was removed from the door. Bible.org

Think! None of the claims by David or by us make sense unless we have a personal relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ. *Who is your God? Do you really know Him or do you just rely on what you know of Him?*

Oil and water don't mix. We can't live to follow sin and live to follow God. Pray that we truly desire the influence of sin to be removed from our lives so that we can be devoted to following God's truths.

Application Questions

Think of the things you truly dislike. How do you react to them? What lengths do you take to keep them out of your life?

How do you react to those who persuade you to sin? How does the Psalmist react in Psalm 119:115?

Something to think about: are we more concerned with offending people or offending God?

Will God hear your cry for help when you are weak? Psalm 6:8; Psalm 28:6

Does your confidence rest on your own strength or on God's strength?
What is the proof of your answer?

What does scripture say about close relationships with the world?
Proverbs 4:14-15; Psalm 26:4-5; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Corinthians 15:33

What is your resolve towards God's commands? Can you make the same statement as David in Psalm 119:115?

What is the significance of the words 'my God'? Read Exodus 15:2 and 2 Samuel 22:3 for inspiration. How has God's word encouraged you through the study of Psalm 119:115?