

Psalm 119

week 6, v.42-44

What is the answer to the troubles you might encounter? What does it mean to have confidence in God's word? How is confidence in God's word acquired?

Ps 119:42 So I shall have an answer for him who reproaches me, For I trust in Thy word.

The love David has for the word of God continues to direct his prayers, praise and petitions. The sixth group of eight verses that began with Psalm 119:41 begin with the Hebrew letter *Vau*. It expresses firm trust and intense delight in God's word, and an earnest desire to see its full accomplishment; *vau* reveals the mercy and salvation of the Lord. (TOD).

According to verse 42, what is the Psalmist's answer to reproach? What does it mean to be reproached by someone?

reproach <charaph> to expose (as by striping); to carp at; defame

To reproach in our English language means to express criticism towards someone or something. To carp at means to raise trivial objections. To defame means to charge falsely or with malicious intent; to attack the good name and reputation of someone. In each of these definitions, there is hostility shown towards the subject.

1 Samuel 17:26-50. This is the familiar story of David and Goliath. Note in verse 26 we see the same word used for reproach translated as *taunt*. "For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should *taunt* the armies of the living God"?

Do you recall what happens in this story? Throughout the Bible, there are accounts of the people of God being reproached.

Psalm 119:42 says, "for I trust in Thy word". The writer is reproached because he has confidence in God. In the previous verse, David requests God mercies in his life. He knows with a certainty that God will prevail as his strength. How can David know this? What is he meditating on throughout this Psalm? What is the theme of Psalm 119?

How would you apply this example to your troubles or concerns?

So shall I be able to put to silence those that reproach me for my confidence in thee; which they call a vain presumption; but is an humble reliance on thy own gracious promises to me. Patrick/Lowth/Whitby/Lowman Commentary

Faith, by the help of realized joy and manifested holiness, shuts the mouths of gainsayers. Spurgeon Devotional Commentary

Should you be surprised if you are mocked for what you believe?

Ps 42:10 As a shattering of my bones, my adversaries revile me, While they say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"

Ps 109:25 I also have become a reproach to them; when they see me, they wag their head.

Matthew 27:40-43

In what ways might we see the reproach of others towards someone who trusts in God today? What should be our response when objections or skepticism come upon us because of our beliefs? When we are attacked because of our faith, Who is the real target?

Ps 56:4 In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can [mere] man do to me?

Ps 119:49 Remember the word to Thy servant, in which Thou hast made me hope.

If any reproach us for trusting in God, we reply to them with arguments the most conclusive when we show that God has kept his promises, heard our prayers, and supplied our needs. Even the most sceptical are forced to bow before the logic of facts. Treasury of David

How did Jesus reply to His adversary?

Mat 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"

Mt 4:7 Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'"

Mt 4:10 Then Jesus *said to him, "Begone, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'"

The word of God is our best weapon towards any criticism of who God is and what we believe, why we have hope and why we can trust.

Eph 6:10-17 ... 17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

When the heart realizes assured salvation, it is supplied with abundant answers to those who sneer at the delights of faith. Henry Law, TOD

How important is our trust and confidence in God's word and promises? Why?

Trusting in God's word assures me an answer to those who question what I believe; trust in God's word gives me assurance that God *is* the answer.

Ps 119:43 And do not take the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, For I wait for Thine ordinances.

This is David requesting that God helps him speak the truth that he knows. Do we readily profess our faith? Is the word of God on your heart and your lips ready to be proclaimed? What things might cause us to be ashamed or afraid to speak the Truth?

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms [and] hymns [and] spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

2Ti 2:2 And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

Ps 71:17-18 O God, Thou hast taught me from my youth; and I still declare Thy wondrous deeds. 18 And even when [I am] old and gray, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Thy strength to [this] generation, Thy power to all who are to come.

Ps 119:46 I will also speak of Thy testimonies before kings, and shall not be ashamed.

Think about this. How quick would we be to speak of God's truths if were ourselves not following them?

We may perhaps allege the plea of bashfulness or judicious caution in excuse for silence; which however, in many instances, we must regard as a self deceptive

covering for the real cause of restraint -- the want of apprehension of the mercy of God to the soul. Charles Bridges

Can we plea with David, 'oh never, ever, ever' allow my actions to be a hindrance to speaking of God's truths to others. If I am not following God, I will not want to share His truths with others. I need His strength and His promises working in my life to be bold with my witness for others.

David's resolve? [Ps 119:44 So I will keep Thy law continually, Forever and ever.](#)

He will guard God's word constantly and for eternity.

[How do we do this? How committed are we to understanding God's truths? Do we seek to obey His commands in all situations? Are we constantly putting ourselves in a position to learn more?](#)

Our efforts are necessary here; in heaven we will look forward to perfect obedience.

[Re 7:15 "For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne shall spread His tabernacle over them.](#)

God's grace alone can enable us to keep his commandments without break and without end; eternal love must grant us eternal life, and out of this will come everlasting obedience. There is no other way to ensure our perseverance in holiness but by the word of truth abiding in us, as David prayed it might abide with him. Treasury of David

[Does my desire for obedience towards God's commands reflect the love I confess towards Him?](#)

Application Questions

Think of those people in your life who don't readily accept the seriousness of your faith. Are you able to use God's word as your defense?

Does your testimony speak of God's work in your life? Is His faithfulness proclaimed in the words you use to encourage others?

Read Psalm 56;4. How can this truth be helpful when fear causes you to be silent about God?

What did Jesus use as his defense toward Satan? Read Matthew 4;4-10.

How important is it to become familiar with God' s word? Read Ephesians 6;10-17.

Look up Colossians 3;16. What does it say? How will you follow this command?

How would sin in your life affect your boldness of proclaiming Christ?

How is God speaking to you through His word? Read David' s resolve in Psalm 119;44. Is this the cry of your heart? What steps are you taking to honor God with your life right now?