

## Psalm 119

week 10, v. 63-64

Psalm 119:63-64 ends our section of eight verses that begin with the Hebrew letter CHETH. Let's do a quick review beginning with verse 57.

- 57 - expands on the truth found in verse 56. God is our inheritance.
- 58 - requests God's favor and the promises given to him in the Word.
- 59 - sincerely searches himself and turns towards God's commands.
- 60 - does not delay in following God
- 61 - remains faithful to God in the midst of trouble
- 62 - praises God in the middle of the night and/or through difficulties

What helps David in remaining strong in his faith on the earth? How does he describe his friends?

Ps 119:63 I am a companion of all those who fear Thee, And of those who keep Thy precepts.

What kind of company do you keep? How would you describe your most intimate friends? Are you spiritually encouraged by them?

companion <chaber> an associate: companion, fellow, *knit together*.

What happens when you knit yarn together? Think of the words, tie, link, entwine, interlace. When you have yarn that is knitted together, material that is sewn together, wood that is nailed together or items that are glued together – they must act as a unit for the same purpose. Why would it be important for David to state who he hangs out with? Is there wisdom in this verse to follow? David's friends fear God and keep His commands.

fear <yare' > to fear; morally, to revere ... reverence

What does the Bible say about fearing God?

Ex 18:21 "Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able *men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain* ; and you shall place [these] over them, [as] leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens.

Ec 8:12 Although a sinner does evil a hundred [times] and may lengthen his [life,] still I know that *it will be well for those who fear God, who fear Him openly*.

Ec 12:13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, [is:] *fear God and keep His commandments, because this [applies to] every person*.

We have spoken of the word 'keep' several times in studying Psalm 119. It is seen in verse 4 – "keep them (thy precepts) diligently" ; verse 8 – "I shall

keep Thy statutes" ; verse 17 - " and keep Thy word" ; verse 34 - " that I may observe Thy law, and keep it with all my heart" ; verse 44 - " so I will keep Thy law continually" ; verse 55 - " and keep Thy law" ; verse 57 - " I have promised to keep Thy words" ; and verse 60 - " and did not delay to keep Thy commandments" . Within a span of 63 verses, this word is repeated 9 times. Every instance refers to God' s commands.

Do you remember what the Hebrew word <shamar> or keep means?

to hedge about (as with thorns); guard; to protect; to attend to; to observe, preserve and regard

How can you guard and protect God' s commands? What does this look like in your life?

Ps 119:63 (BBE) I keep company with all your worshippers, and those who have your orders in their memory.

Are you willing to set aside the friends and acquaintances that influence you towards the world? Have you adopted relationships that hold you accountable and encourage you spiritually?

The communion of the saints. Delight in their company is an evidence of belonging to them. Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Commentary

Ps 16:3 As for the saints who are in the earth, They are the majestic ones in whom is all my delight.

Heb 3:13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is [still] called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Why he loved them; not so much because they were his best friends, most firm to his interest and most forward to serve him, but because they were such as feared God and kept his precepts, and so did him honour and helped to support his kingdom among men. Our love to the saints is then sincere when we love them for the sake of what we see of God in them and the service they do to him. Matthew Henry' s Commentary on the Whole Bible

Those who love good company have some good thing in their own hearts. We ought to choose those for our companions with whom we should be willing to dwell for ever and ever. An aged woman once said, "I cannot believe that the Lord will shut me up with the ungodly, for I have never loved such company. His people have been my friends on earth, and I expect to dwell with them forever in heaven. Spurgeon Devotional Commentary

Pr 13:20 He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will suffer harm.

2Co 6:14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

What says the reader? Does he relish holy society? Is he at home among gracious people? If so he may derive comfort from the fact. Birds of a feather flock together. A man is known by his company. Those who have no fear of God before their eyes seldom desire the society of saints; it is too slow, too dull for them. Be this our comfort, that when we are let go by death we shall go to our own company, and those who loved the saints on earth shall be numbered with them in heaven. Treasury of David

Who do you choose to walk with? Who do you choose to talk with? Are your closest friends those who fear God?

One more thing worthy of note here is the inclusive quality of David's companions. He doesn't choose them according to earthly standards – position, appearance, etc. – he chooses those who fear God. David was a king and yet it didn't matter to him to associate with the like-privileged as much as those who were like-minded. We are all in the same need of Christ, there is no distinction. Are your friendships with believers without prejudice? Are you willing to be a companion to all who fear God?

Ps 119:64 The earth is full of Thy lovingkindness, O LORD; Teach me Thy statutes.

The last verse in this section ends with a statement of praise towards God accompanied by a request for instruction from God.

Even in a world filled with sin and grief, God's mercy shines on the earth. His mercy is extended to His children by giving them the ability to understand His Word.

Ps 33:5 He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the lovingkindness of the LORD.

Ps 104:13 He waters the mountains from His upper chambers; The earth is satisfied with the fruit of His works.

Ps 145:9 The LORD is good to all, And His mercies are over all His works.

God created the world. He gave us seasons. He gives beauty to nature. He gives colors to enjoy, smells to savor, sights to amaze and on and on and on. Where does our food come from? Where does our air to breathe come from? It is an amazing thing to think that God, who sacrificed His Son to a horrible, unmerited death for us, extends blessings to the very people who rejected His gift. He shows an inexplicable mercy to all creation.

Ac 14:17 and yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."

Ps 147:8 Who covers the heavens with clouds, Who provides rain for the earth, Who makes grass to grow on the mountains.

Mt 5:45 in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on [the] evil and [the] good, and sends rain on [the] righteous and [the] unrighteous.

God blesses all the earth, all the peoples on the earth, even those who choose not to honor Him. How can you use this truth to share with someone who does not follow God? How can we practically thank God for His tender mercies? What direction does David take? Who is our instructor?

Ps 119:12 Blessed art Thou, *O LORD; Teach me* Thy statutes.

Ps 25:4 Make me know Thy ways, *O LORD; Teach me* Thy paths.

Ps 86:11 *Teach me Thy way, O LORD;* I will walk in Thy truth; Unite my heart to fear Thy name.

Isa 48:17 Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; "*I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to profit, Who leads you in the way you should go.*"

Mt 11:29 "Take My yoke upon you, and *Learn from Me,* for I am gentle and humble in heart; and YOU SHALL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.

Joh 13:15 "For *I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.*"

Why is it important to recognize God alone as our teacher? What do people tend to follow? Are we able to understand God without His favor? Do you know people who have great knowledge of the Bible yet do not understand God? Do we thank God for his blessing of understanding Him?

Joh 13:15 "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. Joh 17:2 even as Thou gavest Him authority over all mankind, that to all whom Thou hast given Him, He may give eternal life. Joh 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.

We began this section of eight verses with the truth that God is our portion; our inheritance of unlimited resources is available now in part and fully in heaven. Do our actions speak of our destiny and riches? Lawyers pour over the laws of our government being careful to know each section thoroughly so as to represent their side fully. Might we do the same with the word of God so we represent Him correctly?

From G. S. Bowes's "Illustrative Gatherings," 1869:

Ver. 64. -- The earth, O LORD, is full of thy mercy. " The molten sea, the shewbread, the sweet incense, the smoke of the sacrifices, Aaron's breastplate, the preaching of the cross, the keys of the kingdom of heaven: do not all these proclaim mercy? Who could enter a sanctuary, search conscience, look up to heaven, pray or sacrifice, call upon God, or think of the tree of life in the midst of the paradise of God, if there were no mercy? Do not all visions,

covenants, promises, messages, mysteries, legal purifications, evangelical pacification, confirm this? Yes, mercy is in the air which we breathe, the daily light which shines upon us, the gracious rain of God's inheritance; it is the public spring for all the thirsty, the common hospital for all the needy; all the streets of the church are paved with these stones. What would become of the children if there were not these breasts of consolation? How should the bride, the Lamb's wife, be trimmed, if her bridegroom did not deck her with these habiliments? How should Eden appear like the Garden of God, if it were not watered by these rivers? It is mercy that takes us out of the womb, feeds us in the days of our pilgrimage, furnishes us with spiritual provisions, closes our eyes in peace, and translates us to a secure restingplace. It is the first petitioner's suit, and the first believer's article, the contemplation of Enoch, the confidence of Abraham, the burden of the Prophetic Songs, the glory of all the apostles, the plea of the penitent, the ecstasies of the reconciled, the believer's hosannah, the angel's hallelujah Ordinances, oracles, altars, pulpits, the gates of the grave, and the gates of heaven, do all depend upon mercy. It is the load star of the wandering, the ransom of the captive, the antidote of the tempted, the prophet of the living, and the effectual comfort of the dying: -- there would not be one regenerate saint upon earth, nor one glorified saint in heaven, if it were not for mercy. "

### Application Questions

What tools do you use to persevere in God' s truths?

Take the time to think about each of your closest relationships. Do they encourage your walk with God, discourage your walk with God or is God even a common denominator in your discussion? What wisdom do we gain from David regarding his companions? See Psalm 119:63.

What does it mean to fear God? Refer to Ecclesiastes 8:12 and 12:13. How does the fear of God express itself in your life?

Read Proverbs 13:20; 2 Corinthians 6:14. What do these verses say about the company you keep?

According to Psalm 119:64, how far do Gods blessings reach? How can you use this truth to encourage others to praise God even for the 'smallest' of things?

Understanding the love that is poured out upon us creates a desire to learn more about the Giver of that love. How are you doing with studying God's word? Is your desire to know Him increasing?