Some Blessings Received from the Word

Psalm 119: 1-8

You are all probably aware that this particular Psalm is the longest chapter in the Bible. It contains 176 verses. Primarily the entire Psalm, with the exception of possibly a couple verses, offers praise for the Word of God. The 119th Psalm is devoted to the Word.

That is what we desperately need in our day. We need a hunger for the Word of God. We need a passion for it; we need to cherish God's Word and make it the emphasis and priority of our lives and services. Many today are focused on everything but the Bible. Our churches seem more concerned with programs, activities, or entertainment than the Word of God.

God's Word is the only thing that will remain when the world has been consumed with fire. It is steadfast and sure in an ever-changing world. We must build our lives upon the Word of God. I want to take a few moments tonight and discover the abundant truth in these verses. I want to preach on: Some Blessings Received from the Word.

<u>I. The Way of the Believer</u> (1-3) – If we will spend time in the Word and allow it to, the Word will affect our way. Notice:

<u>A. Our Position</u> (1) – Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. The psalmist realized that he was not just wandering along aimlessly in life. He wasn't just adrift on an endless sea without hope. He acknowledged that he was in the way, that he walked in the law of the LORD.

I am glad to be in the way this evening. I rejoice that I have been called out of a life of sin and placed on the straight and narrow way. We may not like to admit it, but everyone we know isn't in the way; not everyone is saved and on their way to heaven. Mat.7:14 – Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

<u>B. Our Purity</u> (1, 3) - V.3 - They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways. Those who walk in the way with God, walk in a way that pleases Him. Our lives are no longer dictated and consumed by the pleasures of the flesh. We no longer walk in the ways of the world, but according to the ways of God.

• <u>That does not imply that we live above sin, but rather that we no longer live condemned</u> by that sin. Our lives have been changed by the power of God and we now walk in fellowship with Him. Isn't it good to know that we can walk with God, in His forgiveness, and be counted worthy because of what Christ did for us? I am not able to live above sin, but my sin was forever judged on the cross of Calvary.

<u>C. Our Persistence</u> (2) – Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. The psalmist realized there was blessing in remaining committed to God. He knew that those who followed the Lord and received His blessing sought Him with their whole heart. They were completely sold out to the Lord and desired Him above everything else.

• We need those in our day who will seek the Lord with all their heart. A lot of people want to be affiliated with the Lord. They certainly desire to receive His blessings and they want His guidance and protection in their lives, but many are unwilling to really sell out unto the Lord. <u>Many will serve the Lord as long as it is convenient or comfortable</u>. We must be willing to seek God with all of our being. He must be the ultimate desire of our hearts.

I. The Way of the Believer (1-3)

II. The Word for the Believer (4-6) – These verses reveal the passion and perception the psalmist has for the Word of God. Notice:

<u>A. The Command</u> (4) – Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. The psalmist knew that studying and obeying the Word of God was not an option for the believer. It wasn't something he could take or leave. He knew that God had commanded all believers to keep the precepts of His Word. It was literally to dictate and direct their lives.

• That truth hasn't changed and it never will. We are commanded to keep the precepts of God's Word. We are to live our lives according to the Scriptures. It is to dictate and direct our paths.

• Have you ever heard someone say, "I know what the Bible says, but...?" That statement should never come from the mouth or heart of a believer.

<u>B. The Conviction</u> (5) – O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! Do you sense the hunger and desire in the psalmist voice? He was concerned for the needs in his life. We wanted to ensure that his life was lived according to the Word of God. He did not want to live life contrary to God's Word or His way.

• You would have to agree that there is little conviction in our day. <u>How many people do</u> you know that are concerned with their lives being lived according to God's Word? How many people are willing to admit a need, much less have a desire to see a change? We need a move of God in our day that will bring genuine conviction to our hearts.

<u>C. The Confession</u> (6) – Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments. The psalmist longed for a feeling of wholeness before the Lord. He wanted his life to be free of sin and anything that would hinder his walk with the Lord. He knew that living according to the Scriptures would lead to a life of hope and happiness.

• A lot of folks are struggling with their lives because they have not been living according to God's Word. Their lives have been dictated by the desires of the flesh, resulting in sin, and ultimately shame. The believer cannot sin and get by with it. We may choose to engage in sin, but the Holy Spirit will deal with us regarding that sin. The only way for a believer to enjoy life is to be in fellowship with the Lord. That will never happen if we are not living according to the Word!

I. The Way of the Believer (1-3)

II. The Word for the Believer (4-6)

III. The Worship of the Believer (7) – I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments. His love for the Word and a desire to fulfill it brought about worship unto the Lord. Notice the aspects of worship revealed in the verse.

<u>A. It is Deliberate</u> – I will praise thee. The psalmist made a conscious decision to worship and praise the Lord. He worshipped God because he was compelled to. He had pondered the goodness of God and His Word and it brought about a desire to worship.

• We too need that passion and commitment to worship the Lord. We ought to be determined every time that we gather at His house that we are going to worship the Lord. Our worship should not be dictated or hindered by anything. We ought to determine that if nothing else is accomplished, we will achieve worship.

<u>B. It was Directed</u> – I will praise thee. The psalmist' praise was not offered unknowingly or without regard. He did not offer praise to just anyone. <u>His praise was reserved for the God of heaven</u>. He desired to praise the King of glory. He wanted to worship the Lord!

• That serves as a blessed reminder for us tonight. I am not suggesting that we would intentionally worship anyone other than Jesus our Lord, but we must ensure that our praise and worship is directed solely at Him. We have not met tonight to honor men or praise them. We have not met tonight to be seen or heard; we have met to praise the Lord!

 Could I say that He is worthy of our praise? None have done for me what Christ has. No one has loved me like Jesus. None delivered me, bringing hope and redemption until I met Jesus. <u>He is worthy of our praise</u>!

<u>C. It was Disciplined</u> – I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments. The psalmist knew that his heart had to be right with God if he was to offer worship and learn of Him. His heart had to be upright, free of sin and rebellion.

• Here we find another timeless truth that will never change. <u>Real worship must be</u> <u>offered from a pure heart</u>. Our lives must be disciplined, free of unconfessed sin if we are to please the Lord and worship Him. I am convinced that many never worship the Lord because their hearts are not in tune with Him. It is impossible to worship the Lord if your heart is not right with Him. <u>You may go through the motions in an effort to worship, but real worship will</u> <u>elude you if your heart is not right</u>. I want to live my life in such a way that I can offer real worship to my worthy Lord.

I. The Way of the Believer (1-3)

II. The Word for the Believer (4-6)

III. The Worship of the Believer (7)

IV. The Want of the Believer (8) – I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly. This last verse of the first stanza of Psalm 119 reveals the desire of the psalmist. He desired a couple of things.

<u>A. Obedience to God</u> (8a) – I will keep thy statutes. His heart's desire was to keep the statutes of God. <u>He wanted to live according to the precepts of God's Word in obedience to</u> <u>Him</u>. He wanted to ensure that every area of his life was lived according to the Word.

• What do our lives reveal this evening? If we were to be honest with ourselves before the Lord, do we desire to keep His statutes? Are we really concerned with being obedient to the Lord? Do you want to live the life that God desires for you?

B. Guidance from God (8b) – O forsake me not utterly. He couldn't imagine life without the Lord. He had no desire to live apart from the Lord's grace and guidance. He pleaded with the Lord to remain near unto him and never leave him. The psalmist truly desired to walk with the Lord in every aspect of life. He wanted God to guide his steps while in the way.

• We are promised that our Lord will never leave us nor forsake us. What a promise we have in His Word. I want to live so that I can sense His presence and discern His will for my life. The Lord will not utterly forsake us, but we can allow sin to hinder our fellowship and His guidance in our lives.

Where do our lives stand with the Lord tonight? Do we hunger after His Word as the psalmist did? Do we desire to live according to His Word and seek His will for our lives? Do you enjoy the fellowship that you desire with Jesus? <u>Is He the priority of life or just a small part</u>?

I trust that you will be obedient to His call tonight. If He has spoken to your heart, please come. If you have never been saved and the Lord is calling, I urge you to come to Him in salvation.