

BETH – STANZA #2

The Psalm of the Bible – Psalm 119

Today we continue with a series that we started last week in what is commonly called, the Psalm of the Bible, Psalm 119. We learned last week that this is the longest chapter in Bible, containing 176 verses. This Psalm is broken down into 22 sections of eight verses each. Each verse in each section begins with a specific letter in the Hebrew alphabet. We began our study last week in the first section entitled “Aleph”, by focusing on God’s requirements for His blessings. Since it is God who blesses, it is God who can establish the rules of His blessing. We learned that all people need to be very careful in interpreting good things in their lives as the blessings of God. A wayward Christian may achieve good things based on his worldly wisdom, but it would be a mistake to think that God is blessing this wayward child. If God blessed the wayward, their way would never straighten out. Today we move into the second stanza entitled “Beth”. We begin with:

- 1. A question and answer in regards to holiness – Psalm 119:9 -.** This verse begins with a question. The word “wherewithal” means, “by what”. In other words by what means, may a young man or women cleanse their way? Before we get to the answer, it is important to see what is implied in the question – a young person can live a clean life before the Lord. The unsaved world likes to make excuses for their sin. One of the biggest excuses is that of inability. We are told over and over again, that a young person today does not have the ability to live a clean life before the Lord. We are told that teenagers are going to have sex anyway; in other words they do not have the ability not too, so as a result, we need to help them to do it safely. This question implies that a young person can live clean if they follow what the rest of the verse tells us, “By taking HEED thereto according to thy word”. A young person can keep a clean life before the Lord by “taking heed”, or acquiring a careful attention to the application of the Word of God. A clean life can be lived, by simply following the dictates of the Word of God. When it comes to this question, the world is clueless. A clean life that is approved by the Lord can only be lived by carefully understanding and applying what the Bible has to say about holy living. Don’t fall for the lie that says a young person can’t live right. They can, if they obey the Word of God.
- 2. A purpose and a request – vs. 10 -.** Notice first the purpose, “*With my whole heart have I sought thee*”. This is the second time in this Psalm that we have seen a reference to the “whole heart”. We saw it in verse 2, and here again in verse 10. The whole heart refers to the purpose of our entire being. In this verse it is the whole heart that is seeking God. The idea of seeking God is to find Him, to want His continual presence and to spend time with Him. This Psalmist is saying that this seeking of God, consumes his entire being. What a glorious pursuit that must be! Is our Christianity one of an all-consuming search for the presence and fellowship of God, or is it just squeezing God in after we have diligently sought after everything else? The second part of the verse is a request, “*O let me not wander from thy commandments*”. The idea of wandering is slowly and steadily moving away from the commandments of God. Wandering from the commandments of God, will lead to a willful rejection of the commandments of God. Just in the case of a child wandering away from the safety of his parents, so too can our wandering away from the commandments of God be. We may have no intention of getting lost, but it is the slow and steady forgetfulness of God’s laws that get replaced by the amazement of our surroundings that eventually take us to a place that we do not recognize. The Psalmist in this verse simply wants to stay close to the commandments of God because he fears getting lost in a world of sin.

3. **The greatest defense against sin – vs. 11 -.** This well-known verse is perhaps the greatest defense against sin. The Psalmist here tells us that he has “hid” or stored away in a safe place as a treasure, the Word of God. We are told that the Word of God must be stored up in a place that is inaccessible to everyone but us, (our heart). This place of storage becomes a vault to house the treasure of God’s Word in. It is to be stored as a defense against sin. When sin comes around, we are to go to the vault (our heart), and retrieve the Word of God to deal specifically with that sin that we are being tempted with. Hiding up the Word of God has to do with memorizing it for immediate use against the temptation of every sin. The best way to do this in your life is to identify what your weaknesses are, and then memorize Scripture that you can use as a defense.
4. **Loving God leads to a desire to learn of Him – vs. 12 -.** The Psalmist begins this verse with a statement that shows his love for the Lord – “*Blessed art thou, O Lord*”. You can almost imagine the Psalmist on his face in reverential awe, and love for God repeating this statement. I believe his awe was so powerful that it naturally led him to a desire to be taught by God. This Psalmist loved the Lord so much that he simply desired to know as much about God as possible, so that he could love Him that much more. There are many “teachers” that want to teach us many things, but the best course to take is “the Knowledge of God 101”! Is it your desire to know God better so that you can love Him more, or are you filling up your cranium with knowledge that leads to nothing?
5. **Private or public religion – vs. 13 -.** Another deception of the world in our day is the idea of keeping religion as a private matter. We are told that religion is one of two things that we should never talk about, the other being politics. Satan does this to stifle Christians from sharing their faith. The Psalmist had the opposite view. To the Psalmist, his religion was a very public matter – vs. 13 -. The Psalmist tells us in this verse that he has publically declared all the judgments of God from the lips of God. The “judgments” of God are those things that God has judged, to be necessary for His creation. These judgments are final and not open to debate. The world around us needs to know what God is telling His creation. The only way that gets done is if we publically declare those judgments to all. Don’t be afraid to publically declare your faith and the truths of God to a world that still doesn’t want them. It is a lie from the pits of hell to state that religion ought to be kept private. It would be great if the cults followed that, but for the Christian, our faith and the truths of God are meant to be shouted from the housetops – Matt. 10:27, “What I tell you in darkness, *that* speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, *that* preach ye upon the **housetops**”.
6. **The “I will’s” of the Psalmist – vs. 14-16.** In these closing verses of this second stanza, we will see the Psalmist making several clear statements of his intentions as a believer. In these three verses, the Psalmist states something that he has accomplished, “I have” and three things that he intends to accomplish, “I will”. These statements point to a purpose of heart. Far too many Christians stay away from this kind of commitment. We tend to say “I want to, I hope to, I will try, I’ll give it a shot, I’ll do my best”, but rarely do we see God’s people stating, “I will”. Satan wants to keep us buried in the quagmire of trying. God wants us scaling the mountain peaks of “I will”. Let us have the same purpose in our Christian lives as this Psalmist. It is high time for more “I will’s”. Notice the “I will’s” of the Psalmist, let them become ours too – vs. 14-16 -.