

Psalm 119
week 12, v. 121-122

We now begin a new section of eight with verse 121. This section begins with the Hebrew letter AIN and marks the sixteenth division of Psalm 119.

Think of the words integrity and honesty. **What does it mean to have integrity?**

Integrity is having moral soundness. It is being who you say you are inside and out, when others are watching and when they are not. It is being whole. Integrity requires complete honesty with yourself and others. No deception, complete truth.

In Psalm 119:121 David states his case for requesting God's protection. David states he has acted in an equitable way concerning others.

I have done <'asah> to accomplish, fulfill, perform

justice <mishpat> judgement, verdict, sentence, justice, discretion

and righteousness <tsedeq> justice, the right (natural, moral or legal); equity

In 2nd Samuel we read the same description of David's character. It's not just the Psalmist's evaluation of actions, it's how others see him also.

2Sa 8:15 So David reigned over all Israel; and David administered justice <mishpat> and righteousness <tsadaq> for all his people.

Read the words David uses as he is about to become king over Israel. He promises that he will be merciful and just.

Ps 101 (A Psalm of David.) I will sing of lovingkindness and justice, To Thee, O LORD, I will sing praises. ² I will give heed to the blameless way. When wilt Thou come to me? I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart. ³ I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not fasten its grip on me. ⁴ A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will know no evil. ⁵ Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy; No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure. ⁶ My eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me; He who walks in a blameless way is the one who will minister to me. ⁷ He who practices deceit shall not dwell within my house; He who speaks falsehood shall not maintain his position before me. ⁸ Every morning I will destroy all the wicked of the land, So as to cut off from the city of the LORD all those who do iniquity.

When you read the above scripture you can see that David has not only determined to rule righteously but he has a plan. We can state that we want to live a life of honesty and integrity for God but what does it look like? Do you have a plan to combat evil and its influence? Do you consider the importance of your actions towards others?

We may not be rulers of a kingdom but all of us are either spouses, parents, friends, neighbors, employees, siblings, etc. Do we act with honesty and integrity in all circumstances?

When we honestly do our best in making decisions according to God's word and act in a way that brings honor to His name, we have confidence in God's protection. Think of the account of David when he came upon Saul and had an opportunity to kill Saul and end his persecution. What did he do?

Read 1 Samuel Chapter 24.

2Co 1:12 For our proud confidence is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you.

1Co 2:4-5 And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

2Co 4:2 but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

Still to preserve thy conscious innocence, nor ever turn pale with guilt. --Francis's Horace.

Holding God's word in high esteem as our guide in our actions, and looking to God for our reason and purpose in living, affords us a relationship with Him secure in our confidence of His blessings.

Think of the opposite of honesty and integrity. If we are guilty in our actions and thoughts, our confidence in God's protection will be affected.

1Jo 3:21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;

1Jo 2:28 And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

Let's look at the second half of Psalm 119:121.

do not leave <yanach> to deposit, to stay, let alone

me to my oppressors <ashaq> those who defraud, deceit, or do wrong

Because of David's integrity and honesty, he can ask God to protect him from harm. We see David requesting God's help. The Psalmist realizes that he alone is unable to fight evil. He understands his need for God.

Perhaps, however, we are not sufficiently aware of the importance of moral integrity in connection with our spiritual comfort. Mark the boldness which it gave David in prayer: "I have done judgment and justice: leave me not to mine oppressors." --Charles Bridges.

The next verse in Psalm 119 continues with David's requests of God. Because the Psalmist has done justice and righteousness, he counts on God's protection from his oppressors in verse 121 and then in verse 122 he considers God his Advocate for good.

Ps 119:122 Be surety for Thy servant for good; Do not let the arrogant oppress me.

surety <arab> to be security (as a kind of exchange)

surety: something clearly established; one who provides a guarantee;

Be surety for thy servant for good, espouse my quarrel, vindicate my innocence against my accusers, and rescue me out of their hands; let not the proud oppress me. Note, (1.) The more we are conscious of our own weakness, and flee to God for help, the surer shall we stand. (2.) Jesus is his people's surety; no arrests of sin can seize them, no accusations of Satan stand against them; in him they are justified, from all things. Haweis

Ps 119:122 (BBE) Take your servant's interests into your keeping; let me not be crushed by the men of pride.

Think of this: God is your barrier from evil if you are His child! He is our help in times of need. And not just in times of need but for all time till Christ returns. But here, in verse 122, the Psalmist is tired and he is asking for the reassurance of God's hand in his life as he feels the attack from those who are up to no good. He is pleading to God as his Advocate for good. Notice David again refers to himself as God's servant. He desires vindication for his innocence (v. 121) and success for God's glory. And he has the confidence of knowing God will answer him. Look back to the word surety again.

What does it mean to be secure? We are assured of something, we have certainty, a guarantee. **What in your life is truly secure?** The only thing I can think of that is

certain in everyone's life is physical death. At one point we will all experience the death of our bodies and this life as we know it. **What better place to invest in insurance than in the certainty of our death?** Hopefully, we all have car insurance, it's a law. But, many of us, never need to use it, thankfully. Again, we should all have medical insurance that, too is mandated by our government. However, for some it is seldom used and the cost is greater than the benefit. You can purchase home insurance, it is required by many mortgage companies. Some people have flood insurance or earthquake insurance. Life insurance is sometimes provided by employers. There is no guarantee that any of these contracts will be reimbursed. Most of these contracts of insurance have many pages of exclusions, and if they are used, their benefit is to those who are living. **Do you have death insurance, not to benefit others, but to benefit yourself? What will happen to your soul when you die?** A life devoted to God, dependent on the work of Jesus on the cross, guarantees a life with God for eternity. No exclusions, no fine print.

Heb 7:22 so much the more also Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.

1Ti 2:5 For there is one God, [and] one mediator also between God and men, [the] man Christ Jesus,

Where is your security? For what purpose is your dependence on God? Who will plead your cause?

The Psalmist has a healthy view of his own weakness and his need for God's intervention. We can be trampled down, worn out, spent; we can feel like giving up when things are too difficult or beyond our ability to understand or fix. At these times, the adversary is waiting to derail us, to give us an easier way out.

What a blessing to be able to leave our matters in our Surety's hands, knowing that all will be well, since he has an answer for every accuser, a rebuke for every reviler. ...It seems to be inevitable that proud men should become oppressors, and that they should take most delight in oppressing really gracious men. Treasury of David

What's our example when we look at Psalm 119:121-122 together?

We should desire to good, to be just and righteousness but without God's hand we are unable.

We can be certain that when we resolve to work for God's honor and glory that He will help us.

In order to qualify the above statements, Christ must be our Surety!

Application Questions

In Psalm 119:121 David gives us a description of his actions. What does he say?

What does it mean to act with justice and righteousness concerning others? What does this look like in your own life? Can this be a struggle?

In Psalm 101, we read David's plan for success. He includes the need to be blameless and act with integrity of heart. Look up the word integrity. What is your plan to live a life honoring to God in all circumstances?

Read 1 Samuel Chapter 24. What choice did David make? Why? In what areas have you chosen to honor God even though it is more difficult?

According to 1 John 3:21 and 1 John 2:28, what aids our confidence in God?

Read Psalm 119:122. Where does your security lie? Who is your Advocate for good?

David repeatedly refers to himself as God's servant. Why is this significant?