

Psalm 119
Session 7, week 1
v.125

This section of eight verses began with 121. David refers to himself as God's servant in verse 122, 124 and again in our current verse, 125.

Ps 119:125 I am Thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know Thy testimonies.

Let's take a closer look at the word 'servant'.

servant <ebed> bondservant, bondage, manservant. to work in any sense; to serve, enslave. to keep, laboring, to become a servant; worshipper.

*What does it mean to be a servant of God?
Our perfect example is Jesus Christ.*

Php 2:5-8 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, [and] being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Jesus went from the highest of highs to the lowest of lows. He did this to please His Father in serving Him to redeem us. Jesus deserved all but demanded nothing. Instead, He gave all. He was a willing servant.

1Co 6:20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Look at David's words again in Psalm 119:125. He refers to himself as "Thy servant". God's servant. Why is this important? None of us deserve to be served, we are the ones who need redemption. We serve Someone so much greater than those around us. Any act of serving one another is how we serve God. People are difficult to serve. We can feel taken advantage of, we get tired, and serving is often thankless and goes without notice. Serving puts the needs of others before our own wants and desires. We are commanded to serve.

1Pe 2:21-24 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, ²² WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; ²³ and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting [Himself] to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴ and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

Ro 12:1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, [which is] your spiritual service of worship.

What does David request in Psalm 119:125?

understanding <biyn> to separate mentally, to consider, to be discerning, to have intelligence, to know, to perceive, to be prudent ...

Ps 119:34 Give me understanding, that I may observe Thy law, and keep it with all [my] heart.

Ps 119:66 Teach me good discernment and knowledge, For I believe in Thy commandments.

2Ch 1:7-12 In that night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, "Ask what I shall give you." ⁸ And Solomon said to God, "Thou hast dealt with my father David with great lovingkindness, and hast made me king in his place. ⁹ Now, O LORD God, Thy promise to my father David is fulfilled; for Thou hast made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth. ¹⁰ "Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can rule this great people of Thine?" ¹¹ And God said to Solomon, "Because you had this in mind, and did not ask for riches, wealth, or honor, or the life of those who hate you, nor have you even asked for long life, but you have asked for yourself wisdom and knowledge, that you may rule My people, over whom I have made you king, ¹² wisdom and knowledge have been granted to you. And I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings who were before you has possessed, nor those who will come after you."

Jas 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Jas 3:13;17 Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. ¹⁷ But the wisdom

from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

Why is understanding or wisdom requested by the Psalmist in verse 125?

“That I may know Thy testimonies”

Think! What do we do with knowledge? What good is understanding and knowledge if we don't use it?

The more understanding and knowledge of God we have, the more effectively we are able to serve Him. We cannot know what God wants if we don't seek His truths.

I am devoted to thy service, and designed by thee to a high employment: enlighten my understanding therefore, that I may fully know my duty.
Patrick/Lowth/Whitby/Lowman Commentary

Where do you go for understanding? We might be able to get some knowledge from other people or resources but only God can give us true understanding of Who He is and what He wants from us.

Are you delighted to be God's servant? Are you moved to action because of His love for you?

Do you have an insatiable appetite to understand God?

Do you desire understanding in order to serve God fully in all things?

What is your life about -- you or God?

Think about what you did yesterday from morning till evening. This will give you an idea of who or what you are serving.

Take action! What is one step you can take to become more mindful of serving God in all your activities, thoughts and words?