

Psalm 119 – Session 2

Week 2, v.14, intro v.15 and 16

Most of us are familiar with “Winnie-the-Pooh”. Following is a description of a few of the main characters taken from Wikipedia.

Winnie-the-Pooh: Despite being naïve and slow-witted, he is a friendly, thoughtful and sometimes insightful character who is always willing to help his friends and try his best. **A prime motivation is his love for honey**, which quite often leads to trouble. [when things don't go well, he is easily discouraged and responds with the phrase, “Oh bother”.]

Piglet: he is a timorous small animal, who often takes his lead from Pooh unless **overcome by fear**. But increasingly through the stories he shows himself to be very brave when faced with a crisis and given sufficient encouragement

Eeyore: ever-glum, sarcastic and pessimistic donkey friend who has trouble keeping his tail attached to his bottom. Eeyore is slow-talking and more cautious than some of the other animals, and is often reluctant to go along with their actions, but usually does not bother trying to oppose anyone because he believes it to be futile to try. [described as **pessimistic, gloomy and depressed**; one of his catch-phrases is “Thanks for noticin' me”.

Kanga: kind-hearted, calm, patient and docile. She likes to keep things clean and organized, and offers motherly advice and food to anyone who asks her. She is **protective over Roo, almost obsessively**, and treats him with kind words and gentle discipline.

Rabbit: friendly, but irritable. **He fancies himself the smartest** animal in the Hundred Acre Wood. **He insists on doing things his way and is obsessed with rules, planning and order. He often loses his temper to others and bosses them around**, but deep down, he cares a lot about his friends.

Tigger: Pooh's exuberant, happy, less-than-responsible and sometimes trouble-making tiger friend. He loves to bounce, especially bouncing on others. He is full of energy, outgoing, and likes to have fun and is so **overconfident** that he thinks that any task is “what tiggers do best”. [Tigger] often causes chaos rather than good. However, Tigger is also shown to be tough, fearless, optimistic and resourceful.

Owl: **Owl and most of his friends believe that he is the most intelligent animal** in the wood, but he is really quite scatterbrained. He often rambles on into long-winded speeches and uses words that his friends do not understand. Owl has a superior but kindly manner towards the others. **He can be cross and easily annoyed, especially when his friends ignore or interrupt his long-winded speeches.**

As endearing as these fictional characters are, they all have a flaw in common:

Happiness is based on circumstances – their perception of how others and things should be. Pooh's motivation and encouragement lies in honey; Piglet is so timid and fearful that he requires extreme encouragement from others to get anything done; Eeyore is so uncertain that he is always depressed; Kanga is almost obsessive with the protection of others; Rabbit has a high view of himself and has a short temper with others; Tigger is over-confident and always focused on fun; and Owl speaks without real knowledge then becomes annoyed when he is ignored.

Where is your joy based? On how encouraged you feel? On your ability to control circumstances? On others needing you? On what others think of you? On how much fun you' re having? On how important you or others think you are?

Ps 119:14 I have rejoiced in the way of Thy testimonies, As much as in all riches.

" have rejoiced" means to be bright; cheerful; be glad, make mirth [great merriment]

What causes David' s rejoicing?

In Psalm 119:14, David says he rejoices *in the way of God' s testimonies*.

The way of God' s testimonies is God' s work in the course of our life. We are on a journey towards heaven. Sincere believers have a promise of riches far beyond those that we can acquire on earth.

Can you say you are joyful in the path God is leading you? Can you see the testament of His faithfulness to you?

Ps 119:47 And I shall delight in Thy commandments, which I love.

Ps 119:72 The law of Thy mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver [pieces].

Ps 119:77 May Thy compassion come to me that I may live, for Thy law is my delight.

Ps 119:111 I have inherited Thy testimonies forever, for they are the joy of my heart.

Ps 119:127 Therefore I love Thy commandments above gold, yes, above fine gold.

Ps 112:1 Praise the LORD! How blessed is the man who fears the LORD, Who greatly delights in His commandments.

Job 23:12 "I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.

Jer 15:16 Thy words were found and I ate them, and Thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I have been called by Thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

Mt 13:44 "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field.

Delight in the word of God is a sure proof that it has taken effect upon the heart... Treasury of David

The Psalmist saith not only, "I have rejoiced in thy testimonies," but, "in the way of thy testimonies."... God's laws are ways that lead us to God;... his delight was not in speculation or talk, but in obedience and practice... Thomas Manton; TOD

King David had many treasures: a crown, land, gold, probably the wealth of most earthly possessions were at his fingertips. Yet, he found real joy in God's ways. **Mark 8:36 "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?"**

Look again at the word 'way' in Ps 119:14.

Way <derek> a road (as trodden); figuratively, a course of life or mode of action, often adverb:--along, away, because of, + by, conversation, custom, (east-)ward, journey, manner, passenger, through, toward, (high-) (path-)way

According to this definition, is it enough to hear or read God's word?

How are you practicing God's way? What is the course of your life? Do your actions point towards God? How about your conversations?

What brings you more satisfaction: the acquisition of earthly treasures or being obedient to God's testimonies?

Unlike the "Pooh" characters we discussed, God's testimonies, His commands, His faithfulness is not based on circumstances. The joy we find in Him is certain now and always will be; the source of real, lasting joy is concrete, unmovable, unchanging. **Are you consistently joyful?**

Ps 119:15-16 I will meditate on Thy precepts, and regard Thy ways. I shall delight in Thy statutes; I shall not forget Thy word.

In these two verses we see David's resolve or plan of action that is motivated from the truth of God's word spoken of in verses 1-14:

- v.1 walking in the law keeps us blameless
- v.2 blessings come to those who keep His testimonies and seek God wholeheartedly
- v.3 following God's ways keeps us righteous
- v.4 we are commanded to keep God's precepts diligently
- v.5. God directs us and protects us to keep His statutes
- 4.6 there is no disappointment when we regard God's commands
- v.7 we are able to praise God with a heart that is right when He teaches us His righteous judgments
- v.8 we need God's protection to keep His statutes

- v. 9 purity comes from keeping God' s word
- v. 10 God gives us the ability to stay true to His commands when we sincerely seek after Him
- v. 11 treasuring God' s word in our heart keeps us from sin
- v. 12 God is blessed above all, He is our Teacher
- v. 13 we are to speak of all God' s judgments
- v. 14 we are to rejoice in the testimony of God' s word/work in our life more than anything else; it' s value is unsurpassed

Because of all of the above, ***I will***.....

Meditate on Thy precepts; regard Thy ways; delight in Thy statutes; not forget Thy word

Next week, we' ll begin to take a closer look at each of these statements.

Application Questions

Read Psalm 119 vs.1 thru 16. Prayerfully consider how God would have you specifically apply His truths to your circumstances. Ask God to show you a plan of action you might begin to move forward in.

In verse 16, David says he rejoices in the Way of God' s testimonies. What causes you real joy? Are you able to find joy even in God' s loving discipline as He grows you in spiritual maturity?

We looked at the fickleness of the characters in Winnie-the-Pooh. How does the certainty of God affect your joy – is there an area where you struggle to maintain joy?

Take time to look back at how God has orchestrated the circumstances of your life for His glory. How have you seen His faithfulness demonstrated? Are you content in God alone? Read Job 23:12

We are on a journey towards heaven. How do your journey point towards God?

Look ahead at verses 15 and 16. What does it mean to meditate on God's precepts? To regard God's ways? To delight in His statutes? To not forget God's word?