

Psalm 119

Week 6, v.6-7

Think of a time when you' ve been ashamed. How did shame affect your actions? Why?

Ps 119:6 Then I shall not be ashamed when I look upon all Thy commandments.

This verse begins with the word *then* meaning it connects the previous thoughts. It is a consequence of the previous action. It refers to a sequence in the order of things.

Verse 5 says, *Oh, that my ways may be established to keep Thy statutes. When my way is blameless, when I walk in the law of the Lord, when I observe His testimonies, when I seek Him with all my heart, when I do no unrighteousness, when I walk in His ways, when I keep God' s precepts diligently, when I keep God' s statutes, when my entire life – thoughts, words, actions, desires – are genuinely focused on pleasing God, then I shall not be ashamed.*

Ashamed <buwsh> to pale, to be ashamed, to be disappointed

Ashamed (wordweb) feeling shame, guilt, embarrassment or remorse; disgraced, discredited;

Ezr 9:6 and I said, "O my God, I am ashamed and embarrassed to lift up my face to Thee, my God, for our iniquities have risen above our heads, and our guilt has grown even to the heavens.

Jer 3:25 "Let us lie down in our shame, and let our humiliation cover us; for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, since our youth even to this day. And we have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God."

Ro 6:21 Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death.

Ver. 6. Then shall I not be ashamed; either of my actions, or of my profession of religion, or of my hope and confidence in thy favour. When sinners shall be ashamed both here, Ro 6:21, and hereafter, Da 12:2, I, having the conscience of mine own integrity, shall lift up my head with courage and boldness, both before men, when they either accuse or persecute me, and before God in the day of judgment, as it is said, 1Jo 4:17. Matthew Poole' s Commentary

Are you willing to confess sin in your life and change? Even those "little" things that are so easily dismissed? True repentance requires humility and the acknowledgment that something needs to change. Keeping God' s commands can only be done through a heart that is fully yielded to Him.

What does it mean to 'look upon' all Thy commandments?

Look <nabat> to scan, look intently at; to regard with pleasure, favor or care: behold consider, regard, have respect.

The KJV of Ps 119:6 uses the words, "when I have respect unto all thy commandments" .

Respect-A due respect, which implies hearty affection, diligent study, and constant practice. To all-So as not to allow myself in any known sin, or in the neglect of any known duty. John Wesley' s Notes on the Old and New Testaments (emphasis mine)

Do we have a hearty affection for God' s word? Do we diligently study God' s word? Do we constantly practice God' s word?

Shame comes from guilt. Is your conscience clear before men and most importantly before God? What do we do if it is not?

It is no secret that we are sinners and that we fail miserably in trying to fulfill all God' s commands perfectly. Without Him we are absolutely unable to have success in walking in holiness. Does this mean we are to be 'buried in despair' ? How does David begin Ps 119:6? As important as it is to recognize our sin and need of a Savior, it is equally important to recognize the grace bestowed on us through Christ' s death. Through Him alone are we able to lift our face towards God in confidence. We have been delivered from shame. God is our hope! There is no need for us to live in guilt.

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.

Ne 9:17" And they refused to listen, and did not remember Thy wondrous deeds which Thou hadst performed among them; So they became stubborn and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. **But Thou art a God of forgiveness, Gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness; And Thou didst not forsake them.**

Ps 86:5, 15 For Thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon Thee. But Thou, O Lord, art a God merciful and gracious, Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.

Then let us by faith wrap ourselves in the perfect righteousness of Christ. Our answer to the world's cavil [An evasion of the point of an argument by raising irrelevant distinctions or objections, WordWeb]. We are not faultless, and for salvation we rest wholly on another. This righteousness is – the salve of our wounded conscience, our mighty plea in prayer, our triumphant vindication in the judgment day. Treasury of David, Hints to Preachers

The Psalmist has now turned his attention to praising God!

Ps 119:7 I shall give thanks to Thee with uprightness of heart, when I learn Thy righteous judgments.

Why do we show our thankfulness to someone?

Give thanks <yadah> literally to hold out the hand, especially to revere or worship with extended hands

Wordweb: express gratitude or show appreciation to

Ps 119:171 Let my lips utter praise, For Thou dost teach me Thy statutes.

Ps 9:1 I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart; I will tell of all Thy wonders.

Ps 86:12-13 I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and will glorify Thy name forever. For Thy lovingkindness toward me is great, and Thou hast delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

1Ch 29:13-17 "Now therefore, our God, we thank Thee, and praise Thy glorious name." But who am I and who are my people that we should be able to offer as generously as this? For all things come from Thee, and from Thy hand we have given Thee. "For we are sojourners before Thee, and tenants, as all our fathers were; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope. "O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided to build Thee a house for Thy holy name, it is from Thy hand, and all is Thine. "Since I know, O my God, that Thou triest the heart and delightest in uprightness, I, in the integrity of my heart, have willingly offered all these [things;] so now with joy I have seen Thy people, who are present here, make [their] offerings willingly to Thee.

I will praise thee. From prayer to praise is here, a long or a difficult journey. Be sure that he who prays for holiness will one day praise for happiness. Shame having vanished, silence is broken, and the formerly silent man declares, "I will praise thee." He cannot but promise praise while he seeks sanctification. Mark how well he knows upon what head to set the crown. "I will praise thee." He would himself be praiseworthy, but he counts God alone worthy of praise. By the sorrow and shame of sin he measures his obligations to the Lord who would teach him the art of living so that he should clean escape from his former misery. Treasury of David

We give thanks to God for instructing us in righteousness and for declaring us righteous.

Learned <lamad> to goad, to teach, diligently, instruct

Righteous <tsedeq> the right (natural, moral or legal); justice, righteous

Judgments <mishpat> a verdict pronounced judicially, a sentence or formal decree, divine law, including a participant' s right or privilege; ordinance

Ps 119:12 Blessed art Thou, O LORD; Teach me Thy statutes.

Ps 119:18-19 Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Thy law. I am a stranger in the earth; Do not hide Thy commandments from me.

Ps 119:27 Make me understand the way of Thy precepts, So I will meditate on Thy wonders.

Ps 119:73 Thy hands made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn Thy commandments.

Ps 25:8-10 Good and upright is the LORD; Therefore He instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in justice, And He teaches the humble His way. All the paths of the LORD are lovingkindness and truth to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

Ps 143:10 Teach me to do Thy will, For Thou art my God; Let Thy good Spirit lead me on level ground.

Isa 48:17 Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to profit, Who leads you in the way you should go.

Who is the only one able to instruct in righteousness?

God is our teacher. Where are you sitting in His classroom? Are you clamoring to get a front row seat where you can soak it all in and participate or are you tarrying in the back, showing up late, not really paying attention, having no real interest?

When you do learn, who gets the glory?

[God' s] divine instructions are special blessings, which we have reason to be thankful for ... It is an easy thing to praise God in word and tongue; but those only are well learned in this mystery who have learned to praise him with uprightness of heart, that is, are inward with him in praising him, and sincerely aim at his glory in the course of their conversation as well as in the exercises of devotion ... We cannot keep them [God' s judgments] unless we learn them; but we learn them in vain if we do not keep them. Matthew Henry' s Commentary on the Whole Bible

Prayer is the helper of study, but praise should be the object and result of it. Spurgeon Devotional Commentary

Do you praise God for teaching you to walk pleasing before Him?

Application Questions

Read Psalm 119:1-7. What is God saying to you? Use your 'Apply It' bookmark and think upon the areas in your life that you need to take a closer look.

Are there areas of sin or shame that you are aware of that need to be confessed before the Lord? Are there people you need to go to and ask forgiveness for sin or offense towards them? Why is this important? Read 2 Cor 6:1-4; Ro 14:13; 1 Cor 10:32; 2 Cor 4:2

Are we to filled with despair and swallowed up by our sin? Look at the beginning of Psalm 119:6. What do David's words offer us? 1 Jo 2:28; Ps 86:5, 15

According to Psalm 119:7, how are we to praise God? What does it mean to have an upright heart?

Do you have confidence that God is able to teach you how to follow in His ways? Psalm 119:171; Psalm 25:8-10; Psalm 143:10; Isa 48:17

Take some time to think upon how God has changed you. Spend some time in prayer and praise for His faithfulness!