

Psalm 119

week 5, verse 91-93

Ps 119:91 They stand this day according to Thine ordinances, For all things are Thy servants.

Who does 'they' refer to?

Look back to the beginning of this section. Verse 89 speaks of God's word settled in heaven. Verse 90 talks about the stability of the earth.

The heavens and the earth stand this day or continue this day.

continue <'amad> to abide, to be established, to remain

Ps 148:3-6 Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all stars of light! 4 Praise Him, highest heavens, and the waters that are above the heavens! 5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created. 6 He has also established them forever and ever; He has made a decree which will not pass away.

God determines the order of the universe and all that is contained in it. All things are under God's direction to fulfill His plan and His will.

Think of the God you serve. He spoke and established the heavens and the earth and all contained in it. His faithfulness is everlasting. All things are under His subjection. How do these truths affect your circumstances? How does the security you have in Christ present itself in your life?

In the next verse, we see how these truths affect the Psalmist, David.

Ps 119:92 If Thy law had not been my delight, Then I would have perished in my affliction.

Look around you. What happens when there is no hope, no security, no certainty?

Think of crimes committed. Why do we even have phrases like 'tax evasion'? Why do people illegally cross borders? Do you encounter people who quickly get angry over seemingly small things?

What happens when our hope is placed on uncertainty? We must jump from one thing to the next, always trying to find the answer.

Where is the focus in all these circumstances? Where should our focus be according to Psalm 119? What gives you the most pleasure? Why?

What does trouble and misery do to a person?

Trouble is defined as a source of difficulty, an angry disturbance, an event causing distress or pain, an effort that is inconvenient, a strong feeling of anxiety. It causes profound worrying, discomfort and anxiousness.

Misery means misfortune or intense unhappiness.

David says he would have perished in his affliction had it not been for the delight he found in God's law.

Perished<abad> to wander away, lose oneself, break, lose, be undone, have no way to flee

When a person is cornered, or feels threatened, or loses all hope, a survival instinct sets in often leading to trouble. Our natural tendency is to escape our problems or difficulties. **Is wandering away from God the solution? Why not? Where is peace and stability found?**

In God.

Ps 119:24 Thy testimonies also are my delight; [They are] my counselors.

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

Col 1:11-12 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, *for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience*; joyously 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Ro 5:1-5 Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only this, but *we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

Can you say with David, 'except for God, I would perish in all my troubles'? How different would your life be without the mercies of God? Where would your hope come from? Where would your delight come from?

Ro 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Ps 94:18-19 If I should say, "My foot has slipped," Thy lovingkindness, O LORD, will hold me up. 19 When my anxious thoughts multiply within me, Thy consolations delight my soul.

David delighted to study the word of God: he took pleasure in the truths, promises, and precepts contained in it; and thus he was preserved from sinking under the weight of his troubles. He was directed how to act in the most difficult circumstances, and escape the destructive machinations [plots] of his enemies; and he derived encouragement from the most afflictive situations. Thomas Scott

Certainly the reading of most part of the Scriptures must needs be a very comfortable thing; and I think a godly heart (disposed as it ought to be) can hardly tell how to be sad while it does it. For what a comfort is it for a man to read an earthly father's letters sent to him, though they were written long ago? With what care do we keep such letters in our chests? With how much delight do we ever and anon take them out and look upon them? And with how much sorrow do we lose them? Is my love to my earthly father so great, and shall my love to my heavenly Father be less? Can my heart choose but rejoice and my bones flourish like an herb, as oft as I look upon my Redeemer's last will and testament, whereby I know that he me so much and that he doth so for me continually, and that I shall be ever with him. Treasury of David

What an incredible gift we have as God's children. To be able to find delight and comfort in God's word in all circumstances only comes from God. This privilege is not available to those whose hearts have not been changed.

1Co 2:12-14 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God, ¹³ which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual [thoughts] with spiritual [words.] ¹⁴ But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

With what fervor do we seek spiritual comforts rather than worldly comforts?

I happened to be standing in a grocer's shop one day in a large manufacturing town in the west of Scotland, when a poor, old, frail widow came in to make a few purchases. There never was, perhaps, in that town a more severe time of distress. Nearly every loom was stopped. Decent and respectable tradesmen, who had seen better days, were obliged to subsist on public charity. So much money per day (but a trifle at most) was allowed

to the really poor and deserving. The poor widow had received her daily pittance, and she had now come into the shop of the grocer to lay it out to the best advantage. She had but a few coppers in her withered hands. Carefully did she expend her little stock -- a pennyworth of this and the other necessary of life nearly exhausted all she had. She came to the last penny, and with a singular expression of heroic contentment and cheerful resignation on her wrinkled face, she said, "Now I must buy oil with this, that I may see to read my Bible during these long dark nights, for it is my only comfort now when every other comfort has gone away." --Alexander Wallace, in "The Bible and the Working Classes," 1853.

In the next verse of Psalm 119, we read David's resolve.

Ps 119:93 I will never forget Thy precepts, For by them Thou hast revived me.

Is it easier to find the things you use most often or the things you use just once in a while? Do you have to go back and read directions to use things you only need occasionally? Why? We are unfamiliar with them.

The more often we use something, the more automatic it becomes. If you are forgetting to use God's word in your life you are probably neglecting God's word in your life.

The word forget in verse 93 means to mislay or be oblivious of from want of memory or attention. You've heard the idiom, 'If you don't use it, you lose it'. There is truth in that statement.

Have you ever said, 'I used to be able to...'? Is an athlete ever done training? Do you continue to practice a learned skill? Why? What happens if we don't use the skills we've developed?

The opposite of forget something is remembering. What do we do to remember?

You keep something in mind, you think upon it, you pay attention to it. According to '*BrainWorld*', first we learn information, then we must give it attention then we associate with it.

In order to 'not forget' we must spend time **learning**. Gaining knowledge takes effort. Committing something to memory is purposeful. Are you a student of God's word?

Paying **attention** to something requires concentration and looking at details. Can this be done haphazardly or might we need a plan?

How does something become real to us? By **association**. When we connect with how something works and understand its usefulness we are more likely to remember to use it again. It takes interaction. The word we use is application.

What is your plan to remember God's word? Why would we want to remember God's word according to Psalm 119:93?

For by them Thou hast revived me.

revived <chayah> to live, to keep alive, to give life, to nourish up, to preserve, to quicken, to recover, to repair, to restore, revive, to save, to be whole.

Ps 19:7-11 The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. ⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. ⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. ¹⁰ They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. ¹¹ Moreover, by them Thy servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward.

" I will never forget thy precepts, but will always retain a remembrance of and regard to thy word as my rule." It is a resolution for perpetuity, never to be altered. Note, The best evidence of our love to the word of God is never to forget it. We must resolve that we will never, at any time, cast off our religion, and never, upon any occasion, lay aside our religion, but that we will be constant to it and persevere in it. Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible

Does God's word strengthen you, excite you and comfort you? Are we neglecting the privilege we have in understanding God's word as His children? Do we experience His faithfulness in our daily lives?

Ps 119:16 I shall delight in Thy statutes; I shall not forget Thy word.

Ps 119:50 This is my comfort in my affliction, that Thy word has revived me.

Joh 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

Notice it is not the words themselves that give us life. It is the work of God through His word to His children. Our Bible is the instrument God has given us to know Him more fully but God is the One who quickens us. We are blessed to live in a country that allows us printed manuscripts. Let's not neglect this blessing we have!

Application Questions

According to Ps 119:91-93, who has control over all the earth?

How does this truth affect you? Do your actions to circumstances speak of your security in Christ? How?

What happens when we move away from God to seek answers to our difficulties? What do we see in the world as response to trouble?

What does the Bible say we should do?

Ps 119:24

Col 1:11-12

Ro 5:1-5

According to Ps 119:93, we should be familiar to God's word. What does this look like in your life? How are you becoming more familiar to what God wants of you and what He offers you?

Think of the words learning, attention and association. Learning gives us knowledge; attention demands concentration and details; association uses application and usefulness.

God's word holds all we need. Read Ps 19:7-11. How are you doing?