

7 REASONS WHY PSALM 119 DESERVES OUR UNDIVIDED ATTENTION

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TEXT: Psalm 119

PURPOSE OF LESSON:

1. Encourage us to have a deep appreciation and respect for the Word of God.
2. Encourage us to be diligent students of God's Word.

INTRODUCTION:

1. There are so many great lessons we can learn from Psalm 119.
2. **Overview of this lesson:**
 - a. Brief overview of Psalm 119
 - b. Reasons why Psalm 119 is a great psalm.
3. As we study this lesson let us make the proper application of God's Word to our lives (James 1:22-25; Psalm 119:60).

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF PSALM 119

1. **The author:** Unknown.
 - a. Some have suggested that David, Ezra, Daniel or Jeremiah wrote this Psalm.
2. **The length:** Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the entire English Bible.
 - a. It contains 176 verses
3. **Time to read Psalm 119:** Approximately 14 minutes. This psalm could be used as a 15-minute devotional!
4. **The nature of Psalm 119:** It is an acrostic of the Hebrew alphabet
 - a. It contains 22 sections of 8 verses per section.
 - b. Each section begins with a consonant letter from the Hebrew alphabet.
 - c. For each of the 22 consonants in the Hebrew alphabet, there are eight verses beginning with that letter.
5. **The Hebrew alphabet:** Aleph (8 verses), Beth (8), Gimel (8), Daleth (8), He (8), Waw (8), Zayin (8), Heth (8), Teth (8), Yod (8), Kaph (8), Lamed (8), Mem (8), Nun (8), Samek (8), Ayin (8), Pe (8), Tsadde (8), Qoph (8), Resh (8), Shin (8), Tau (8)
6. **The purpose of Psalm 119:** To exalt the Word of God.
 - a. God's Word is praised in every section of Psalm 119.
7. **The synonyms of the Word of God as seen in Psalm 119:** Statutes, testimonies, ways, law, word, precepts, commandments, judgements, ordinances.
8. **Memorization of Psalm 119:** It takes 5 ½ months to memorize Psalm 119 when you memorize 2 verses per day, Monday through Friday. If you memorize 3 verses per day Monday through Friday, then you can memorize the entire Psalm in 2 ½ months.

REASONS WHY PSALM 119 IS A GREAT PSALM

1. **Reason # 1: Psalm 119 tells us how blessed we are when we keep God's Word.**
 - a. *"Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord. Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart"* (v. 1-2).
 - b. *"Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments"* (Psalm 112:1; cf. 128:1; 1:1-2).

c. *"Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it"* (Luke 11:28).

2. Reason # 2: Psalm 119 tells us that through the Word of God we get understanding and direction.

- a. The proper way to Bible understanding is not through a miraculous direct operation of the Holy Spirit, that is to say, knowledge apart from the Bible.
- b. In order to get understanding we must be diligent readers and students of God's Word (1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 2:15).
- c. God says that it is through His Word how we get understanding and knowledge:
 1. *"Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I have every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"* (Psalm 119:104-105).
 2. *"You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts"* (Psalm 119:98-100).
 3. *"Your testimonies also are my delight and my counselors"* (Psalm 119:24).
- d. God's Word will direct our steps not only to knowledge, but also into heaven (James 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:15).

3. Reason # 3: Psalm 119 encourages us to trust in God's Word!

- a. How much do we trust in God's Word? Do we truly believe in the inspiration of the Scriptures?
- b. Psalm 119 encourages us to trust in God's Word! The psalmist actually believed and trusted in God's Word.
 1. *"The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever"* (Psalm 119:160).
 2. *"Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven"* (Psalm 119:89).
 3. *"My tongue shall speak of Your word, for all Your commandments are righteousness"* (Psalm 119:172).
 4. *"Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your law is truth"* (Psalm 119:142).
 5. *"Teach me good judgement and knowledge, for I believe Your commandments"* (Psalm 119:66).
- c. God's Word can be trusted (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; John 17:17; 1 Corinthians 2:14).

4. Reason # 4: Psalm 119 tells us that through God's Word we can overcome sin!

- a. Many Christians sin today because they do not keep God's Word in their hearts!
- b. Through Psalm 119 we learn how we can overcome sin in our lives:
 1. *"Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against you"* (Psalm 119:11).
 2. *"Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I have every false way"* (Psalm 119:104).
 3. *"How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word"* (Psalm 119:9).
- c. God's Word can help us to overcome sin (Ephesians 6:17; Matthew 4:1-12).

- 5. Reason # 5: Psalm 119 tells us what to do when we face difficult moments in life.**
- a. We all experience difficulties, afflictions and discouragements in life! When we face them, we must remember to turn to the Scriptures for comfort:
 - b. Psalms 119 tells us what to do when we are discouraged:
 1. **We find comfort in God's Word:** *"This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life" (Psalm 119:50).*
 2. **We don't give up when we face affliction:** *"Many are my persecutors and my enemies, yet I do not turn from Your testimonies" (Psalm 119:157; cf. Psalm 34:19; 55:22; Hebrews 13:5).*
 3. **We turn to God in prayer:** *"I cry out to You; Save me, and I will keep Your testimonies" (Psalm 119:146). "Let my supplication come before You; Deliver me according to Your word" (Psalm 119:170).*
 4. **We always give God the glory He deserves:** *"Princes persecute me without a cause, but my heart stands in awe of Your word" (Psalm 119:161).*
 - c. In the Bible we find comfort to keep going! (John 16:33; Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 28:20; Philippians 4:6-7).
- 6. Reason # 6: Psalm 119 encourages us to speak to others about God's Word.**
- a. The psalmist was pleased to speak to others about God's Word. He found delight in speaking about the Word of God.
 - b. As Christians we must share God's Word with others.
 - c. In Psalm 119 we are encouraged to speak to others about the Word of God:
 1. *"With my lips I have declared all the judgements of Your mouth" (Psalm 119:13).*
 2. *"I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed" (Psalm 119:46).*
 3. *"My tongue shall speak of Your Word, for all Your commandments are righteousness" (Psalm 119:172).*
 - d. We are encouraged to preach the gospel to others and to preach God's Word (Mark 16:15; 2 Timothy 4:2; 1 Peter 4:11).
- 7. Reason # 7: Psalm 119 teaches us what to do with God's Word.**
- a. We are to **love & meditate** on God's Word (Psalm 119:97).
 - b. We are to **pay attention** to God's Word (Psalm 119:9).
 - c. We are to **memorize** God's Word (Psalm 119:11).
 - d. We are to **not forget** God's Word (Psalm 119:16).
 - e. We are to **rejoice** in God's Word (Psalm 119:111).
 - f. We are to **keep** God's Word (Psalm 119:55, 60).
 - g. We are to **read** God's Word (Psalm 119:148).
8. What a great blessing is God's Word to us! Thank God for His wonderful inspired Word!

CONCLUSION:

1. In this lesson we have study a brief overview of Psalm 119.
2. We have also considered 7 reasons why this psalm is so great.
3. May the Lord give us the right attitude towards the Bible (Psalm 119:97)

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