

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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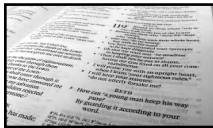
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November 17, 2024

“Some “I Haves” In Psalm 119”

By Kyle Campbell



Psalm 119 is one of the most beautiful psalms because of its concentration on God's word. In all but five verses God's word is extolled. Several words are used to express God's word, such as precepts, law, commandments, testimonies, etc. Furthermore, the introductory words "I have" occur 31 times in Psalm 119. Space does not allow us to consider all of them, but several are very worthy of notice.

“With my whole heart have I sought thee” (vs. 10).

This is the right object, sought in the right manner. Psalm 27:4 says, *“One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple.”*

For the sheep astray, there is only the “wormwood and the gall” (Lamentations 3:19) of weariness, danger, and disappointment. In Him is life. Seek the Lord by turning to His will (Jeremiah 29:13).

“I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies” (vs. 14).

In the way of His testimonies there is joyful deliverance. His ways are ways of righteousness. Faith leads us into the promised land of the *“unsearchable riches of Christ”* through obedience to His word (Ephesians 3:8).

“Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls” (Jeremiah 6:16).

“I have declared my ways” (vs. 26).

“My ways,” no matter how crooked, foolish and fruitless they have been, should all be declared to Him. When we realize that *“there is none that doeth good, no, not one”* (Psalm 14:3), we should exclaim, *“God be merciful to me a sinner”* (Luke 18:13)! There should be a desire to understand and apply God's word; to learn of the greatness and power in God's acts of our redemption through Christ (Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14). Because of the joys we receive from the forgiveness of our sins, we can then turn and declare His ways to others.

“I have chosen the way of truth” (vs. 30).

This is a courageous and necessary choice. He has chosen to be faithful to us; why should we not choose to be faithful to Him? The psalmist prays that his choice will keep him from anxiety and adversity. The choice to be made, between faith and faithlessness; between Barabbas and Christ. The psalmist stuck to His choice (vs. 31).

“I have remembered thy name” (vs. 55).

The name of the Lord is a wonderful solace “in the night.” For what God is, that is His name. Exodus 34:5-7 says, *“And the Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin ...”*

“I have believed thy commandments” (vs. 66).

This is a noble confession. What mischief and failure are constantly being produced in the Christian because of a lack of faith in the word of God! The Lord has promised and “I have believed.” Titus 1:2 says, *“In hope of eternal life, which God, that can- not lie, promised before the world began ...”* We know that God cannot lie and that instills great hope within us.

“I have refrained my feet from every evil way” (vs. 101).

There are many evil ways that may look pleasant and profitable, but are not in keeping with His word. We walk by faith, not by sight. The easy way may be an evil way. To “keep thy word” we must refrain our thoughts and actions from the ways of the ungodly. Philippians 4:8 says, “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

“I have longed for thy salvation” (vs. 174).

Salvation from the Lord is an experience we need to long for in all its fullness. Those who hunger and thirst after such righteousness will be filled (Matthew 5:6). We also long for the salvation of the Lord when we long for the salvation of the sinner. Surely the saved will long for this. Those who long for His coming again long for His final salvation.

I have gone astray like a lost sheep” (vs. 176).

A lost sheep can do nothing else but go astray. Isaiah 53:6 says, *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”* Think of what we wander from, in going astray — from God and His word: think of where we wander to. The Shepherd’s purpose is to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10).

We are all able to say, *“I have gone astray like a lost sheep”* (Romans 3:23). However, could we also say that we have the attitudes toward God’s word that we have studied in this article? May God help us to rejoice in the word and desire it with all of our hearts.

“The Subtly Of Sin”

By Dennis Abernathy

One night when the desert winds blew hard and cold, a camel pushed his nose through the flap of an Arab's tent and said: "It's so cold out here, would you mind if I just stuck my nose inside your tent?" The Arab agreed and went back to sleep. Later, he awoke and discovered the camel had not only his nose, but also his head and shoulders inside the tent. When the camel pleaded, the kindly Arab allowed the beast to put his forelegs inside the tent, too.

The camel then said: "It's getting colder. Why not let me come entirely inside your tent?" "Certainly," said the easy-going Arab, "come on in." Before dawn the Arab awoke stiff from the cold, and covered with sand blown by the desert wind. He was totally outside the tent. The camel was sleeping comfortably inside the tent.

This little story illustrates how sin and the devil works in our lives. The devil moves very subtly. Someone said the five steps of sin are: condemn, permit, condone, practice, defend, and then YOU ARE HOOKED! Alexander Pope wrote: "Vice is a monster of frightful men, as to be hated needs only to be seen; yet seen too oft, familiar with her face, we first endure, then pity, then embrace."

First Thessalonians 5: 22 says: "Abstain (shun, avoid) from every form (the appearance) of evil." Romans 12: 9 says: "Abhor (hate, loathe) what is evil. Cling (hold fast) to what is good." Proverbs 6: 27 asks: "Can a man take fire to his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?" Ephesians 4: 27 says: "Do not give the devil a foothold."

Friends, the Bible says to abstain, avoid, shun, abhor, hate, and loathe sin and evil! Do not give sin, and the devil a place, or a foothold in your life. Make every effort to resist him! (1 Pet. 5: 9; Jas. 4: 7). To be kept from harm, one must keep himself out of harm's way.

Don't allow the devil and sin, to even get a nose into your heart and life. If you do, don't be surprised when he, like the camel, moves in, humps and all! Think on these things.

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, & Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Burt Ward, Wesley Trimble, George Hutto, Nathan Cox, Angela Warren (Lisa Busby's friend who has cancer), B.J. Graves, Danny Cottrell, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Michelle Hopper (Dan Cottrell's sister) has been diagnosed with cancer, Anita Harris, Jessica Plunk (Lynlie's friend who is scheduled for a double mastectomy on December 5), and Sherry Fuqua Doles had a fall and broke her hip.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Conner Whittemore
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: *"Are Babies Born Guilty Of Sin?"*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Jerry Kennemur
Author: The Books Of James
Starting Page & Question: Rick Billingsley
Page #12, Question #1

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Fred Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Doug George
Scripture Reading: *1 Timothy 4:10-12*
Song Leader: Lee Busby
Lord's Supper: Danny Sheffield
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: *"Advice That I Would Give To All Young People"*
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Jr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

November 20, 2024

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
Workbook: The Minor Prophets #2
Author: By Marc Gibson
Starting Page & Question: *Page 40, Question #1*
Invitation: Paul Johnson
Song Leader: Dan Cottrell
Closing Prayer: Danny Sheffield

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“Are Babies Born Guilty Of Sin?”

Lesson Text: **Psalm 51:1-5.**

I. The Origin Of This Doctrine.

- St. Augustine (354-430) Taught This Doctrine In The Fourth Century.
 - Quote By Augustine: *“Our first parents [Adam and Eve] fell into an open disobedience because already they were secretly corrupted; for the evil act had never been done had not an evil will preceded it.”* (Book XIV, Chapter 13, The City of God Against the Pagans)
- It Began To Be A Major Belief In The Catholic Church.
 - Quote By James Cardinal Gibbons (1834-1921), *Faith Of Our Fathers*, pp. 304-305.
- Why The Practice Began To Baptize Babies. Quote: *“A Catechism Of Christian Doctrine, Revised Edition.”*
 - It Was Popularized By Reformist: John Calvin (1509-1564), Martin Luther (1483-1564).
 - Quote: *“The Five Points Of Calvinism”* By Steele & Thomas, Presbyterian And Reformed Publishing Co. P. 25.
 - This Doctrine Is Needed For Calvinism To Be True.

II. The Case Men Make For Original Sin.

- **Psalm 51:5. (See Acts 2:8).**
- **Ephesians 2:2-3.**
- **Proverbs 22:15.**
- **Genesis 8:21.**
- **Psalm 14:2-3.**
- **Jeremiah 17:9 (10).**
- **Ecclesiastes 9:3.**
- **Exodus 20:5.**
- **Romans 5:12. (Vs. 19).**

III. What Makes Sinners? By Birth? Or By Practice?

- Misunderstanding Of How One Becomes A Sinner, And Sin Itself.
- Sin Is Act Of Breaking God’s Laws Or Commands.
 - **1 John 3:4; James 1:14-15.**
 - **Ezekiel 18:20-23.**
 - **Romans 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10.**
 - **1 John 3:7-8.**
- What Happened In **Genesis 3:1-24.**
 - Man Knew Right From Wrong— That’s How We Sin....
 - Curses For Sin— Physical Death, Work Is More Difficult, Pain in Childbirth....

IV. How God Looks At Children.

- Someone Theorized That Jesus Had To Be Born Of A Virgin To Escape Original Sin. Since Men Pass On Sin Genetically, The Holy Spirit Had To Conceive Jesus. **Luke 1:34-35.**
- But What About John The Baptist? **Luke 1:41.**
- David’s Son Who Dies? **2 Samuel 12:23.**
- Children Are Spoken Of As Pure, Humble, & Free Of Malice In The Scriptures:
 - **Matthew 18:3.**
 - **Matthew 19:13-14.**
 - **1 Corinthians 14:20.**

“Advice That I Would Give To All Young People”

Lesson Text: **1 Timothy 4:10-12.**

I. Make God’s Word The Rule For Your Life.

- **1 Timothy 4:13-16 (NASB).**
- To Clean Your Life Up; **Psalm 119:9-11**
- Wise For Salvation/Good Works- **2 Timothy 3:14-17.**
- To Give You An Inheritance Among The Sanctified- **Acts 20:32.**
- So You Will Know The Difference Between Right & Wrong.
 - **Psalm 119:104-105; Hebrews 5:12-14.**
 - The World Says These Are Good:
 - Sin, Immodest Dress, Drinking, Drugs, Filthy/Foul Speech....
- So You Won’t Give In To Pressures To Conform To This World.
 - Worldly Influences: **Romans 12:1-2; 1 John 5:19.**
 - Peer Pressure: **1 Corinthians 15:33 (NASB); 2 Peter 3:17-18.**
- In Every Gideon Bible Is This Quote:

“The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler’s map, the pilgrim’s staff, the pilot’s compass, the soldier’s sword, and the Christian’s charter. Here too, Heaven is opened and the gates of Hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.”

II. Listen To Wisdom From Others— To Live With No Regrets.

- Wisdom: The Practical Application Of Knowledge.
- Wisdom Is Truth Applied In Specific Situations For Godly Ends.
- Wisdom Is Looking At Consequences And Repercussions For Certain Actions.
 - Following Certain Paths Are Hurtful To Our Life- **Proverbs 14:12.**
- Warns Us Of The Dangers Of:
 - Laziness (**Proverbs 24:33-34**); Strong Drink (**Proverbs 23:29-32**);
The Company Of The Evil Man And The Immoral Woman (**Proverbs 2:11-22**).
 - The Bible teaches us to be in “self-preservation” mode at all times.
 - Be Aware of the pitfalls, and situations where the devil can overtake us— Avoid them.
- Listening To The Wisdom Gained By Others Is Safe:
 - Parents- **Proverbs 23:22-26; Ephesians 6:1.**
 - Mature Christians- **Titus 2:3-6.**
 - The Bible’s Wisdom: **Proverbs 4:1-9.**
 - Guard Your Heart: **Proverbs 4:23 (YLT); 16:17.**

III. Be A Good Example Of A True Believer.

- **1 Timothy 4:12.**
 - Don’t Let Anyone Put You Down For Your Age.
 - Being A Good Example Is For Every Christian- **Matthew 5:13-16.**
 - Young People Are The Future Of The Church To Carry On the Work.
 - The Great Need To Start Now And Be Willing To Do Your Part.