

## All of My Heart

Psalm 119:9-16 ( כ )

*Did you know?*

- Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in all of Scripture, longer than some books of the Bible.
- It is broken into 22 sections, with each section using the consecutive letters of the Hebrew alphabet.
- Each section contains the same number of eight poetic lines with every line beginning with that letter.
- It was designed for memorization and recitation, yet contains free flowing reflections on what matters most in life.



Photo by Samantha Sophia

*Christians are to love God's law*

- Like Psalm 19, this Psalm tells of the authority, power and necessity of God's law and demonstrates that any honest Christian loves the commandments of God.
- They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works (Titus 1:16a)
- Genuine Christians love the law of God. The law does not save us, but no mature Christian ever denies the necessity to obey it.

*There are real threats in life (vv9-10)*

- Verses 9-10 imply that there are real threats in life. There are those threats which come from the outside, and there are threats from within.
- God intends for us to give attention to our youth that they would mature and thrive not merely into adults but into law-abiding, rule-loving, wisdom-filled adults.
- The Hebrew word for "youth" can span a young child up to a young adult and the *way* refers to a youth's lifestyle.
- What good are we, Christians, if we give all our time, talents and treasure to fit in with the world around us but destroy our own souls in the process?
- The devoted heart, the undivided heart is guarded from these efforts (Js 1:5-8; cf. Ps 119:113).
- The word of God alone can only give you what you truly need: To make you holy unto God, to die to self, to lay down your passions at the foot of Christ that he by his Spirit and Word may give you new and right-ordered passions, thoughts, words, and actions.
- "Even if we cannot make ourselves absolutely pure we are responsible to purify ourselves of the kind of filth that Scripture describes. The impossibility of sinless perfection does not excuse us from taking God's demands seriously."<sup>1</sup>
- These words come to us from the very God who covenants with his people. Thus, he possess all the rights to command us as he so chooses.

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<sup>1</sup> John Goldingay, *Psalms* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008), 385-386.

## *We respond to our threats defensively and offensively (vv11-13)*

### A Defensive Posture...

- We need to store up this word in our hearts.
- Do you mediate on God's word? Do you commit the word to memory? Do you regular receive the word taught? Are you open to instruction and correction as you're pointed back to God's statutes?
- The psalmist not only memorizes and mediates on the word but he also prays to God. that God may teach him more of his commands. This is our defensive posture. We are students of God's word, praying for God to enlarge our minds with his word. It should not be lost on us that here worship and learning God's laws go together.<sup>2</sup>

### An Offensive Posture...

- We should declare the whole counsel of God (v. 13).
- The Protestant Reformation declared that there was no greater authority than the very word of God. There was no new revelation needed from the church.
- Scripture is the ultimate norm, the only inspired word of God. Paul reminded his hearers at Corinth that they were not to go beyond what is written in Scripture (1 Cor 4:6).
- This return to Biblical orthodoxy and the sufficiency of Scripture is why the reformers rightly saw the preached word as central to worship.
- "The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Cor 10:4-6).
- "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Heb 4:12).

### The Benefit (v14)

- We benefit when we take joy in sacrificial obedience.
- Out of Jesus' delight in the law, he rejected the Tempter three times, beginning each time with these powerful words, "It is written" (Lk 4:1-13).
- Jesus appeals to the testimony already laid down. Jesus looks to the inspired Scriptures. Jesus wields the sword of truth for that word is his greatest treasure.

### The Vows (vv15-16)

- Let us respond to the gospel of Christ with renewed commitment to mediate, to delight, and to remember God's word.
- Our efforts do not earn us right standing with God. Yet a man or woman delights in God's law because God has blessed them.
- There is no better way than the way of God's law. Let us obey him with all of our hearts.

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<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*, 387.