

20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 10 (March 4-10, 2018)

Psalm 119 consists of 22 sections of eight verses each, one section for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. In this week's devotions, we will continue to glean truths from this beautiful prayer in the Word of God.

Sunday, March 4 (read Psalm 119:105-112)

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105)

John 1:1 declares, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the **Word was God.**" Later, in verse 14, John writes, "**The Word became flesh** and made His dwelling among us." Still later, in 8:12 John quotes Jesus as saying, "**I am the light of the world.** Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." My point is this: Jesus does not separate Himself from His Word; therefore, when you read the printed verse above, you are really seeing another version of John 8:12. Jesus, the Word of God and the Light of the world is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Can you make the same commitment that the psalmist makes in v. 111-112?

Monday, March 5 (read Psalm 119:113-120)

You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your Word. (Psalm 119:114)

In all of Psalm 119, the psalmist uses 8 different terms to refer to the written Word of God (law, testimonies, precepts, statutes, commandments, judgments, word and ordinances). Once again, he pledges allegiance to the Word, stating that he has put his **hope** in it (v. 113-114). He is trusting in the **promises** of God to sustain him against the attacks of his enemies (115-117). Because he is aware that the Lord will take care of all non-believers in His own time and in His own way, he concentrates on God's Word and His promises (v. 118-120). The psalmist remembers that God led Moses to state, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay" (Deuteronomy 32:35). Have you accepted this valuable principle?

Tuesday, March 6 (read Psalm 119:121-128)

It is time for you to act, O Lord; your law is being broken. (Psalm 119:126)

Over the past decade, the evangelical Christian is the only minority that has no protection from the liberal lawmakers. I can't help but wonder how much longer God will wait to call His Church home in the rapture (v. 126). We are the salt and light in this tasteless and dark world (Matthew 5:13-14), but it sure seems like the darkness is winning. The psalmist is noticing the same thing, so he longs for the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem this fallen world (v. 123). He loves the Word of God more than any earthly treasure; therefore, he hates any path that does not lead him into the Lord's presence (v. 127-128). I pray that you are on God's path also.

Wednesday, March 7 (read Psalm 119:129-136)

The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. (Psalm 119:130)

I am a very simple person; therefore, the Spirit simplifies the Word of God so that I can understand it (v. 130). I am not known as an intellectual or theological giant. Many of my listeners are more fluent with the KJV than I am, so I learn and teach from the NIV. The other seven verses in today's text return to some familiar themes of the psalmist, but v. 133 introduces willful, addictive sin. While we all sin, we must flee from anything that can **rule** over us (porn, gambling, drugs, alcohol, shopping, etc.). The Word of God has the power to break down barriers we have built by sinful habits. Since self-control is one of the components of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), ask God to develop it in your life from this point on.

Thursday, March 8 (read Psalm 119:137-144)

Your promises have been fully tested, and your servant loves them. (Psalm 119:140)

There is no greater life-changing truth in the Bible than this: **You can trust His promises!** You can pray for anything that your heart desires according to the will of God, but his promises **are** His will for you! You don't need to say "if it be your will" when He has already told you that it is. The psalmist is not a member of society's elite (v. 141) and he is not without problems in his life (v. 143), but he still has complete faith in the promises of God (v. 140). He trusts in the Word of God (v. 137-138, 142); therefore, he can live in confidence that his Lord will never fail him (v. 144). I pray that this study on prayer has given you the confidence to come daily into His presence to make your requests known and to claim the written promises of God.

Friday, March 9 (read Psalm 119:145-168)

I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your Word. (Psalm 119:147)

Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous laws. (Psalm 119:164)

Take the time to read these two sections of prayers from the psalmist. The two printed verses remind us not only to start our day with prayer, but also to praise Him during the day whenever we experience His presence and His blessings. Evangelical Christians will soon be physically persecuted in America, but God has given us a brief reprieve, during which time we can witness to those who don't know Him (v. 150, 161). Like the psalmist, I am just beginning to experience the **peace** that comes to those who trust His Word (v. 165). May you also understand the great compassion God has for those who love His Word and who seek to obey His statutes (v. 156).

Saturday, March 10 (read Psalm 119:169-176)

I have strayed like a lost sheep. Seek your servant for I have not forgotten your commands. (Psalm 119:176)

Maybe the first 175 verses of the longest chapter in the Bible have made you feel inadequate because of choices you have made in the past. Maybe you feel like the writer is some super saint who always trusts His Word and who never deviates from it, even in times of persecution. If you have these feelings, take a close look at the printed verse above. Like all of us, the psalmist confesses his rebellion and pleads with the Lord to **seek** him. He has never **forgotten** the Word of God, but he has lived apart from the truth that he knows. During times like this, we need to join the psalmist in asking the Lord to **seek us**, since our lifestyle is making us feel unworthy to seek Him. Maybe you have waited through this entire psalm for the psalmist to identify with your situation. If so, consider this: "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23). Praise His holy name!