

## 20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 8 (February 18-24, 2018)

Because the subject of Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible, is the Word of God, it has always been a favorite of mine. Most of it is written as a **prayer**, so let's examine some of its passages over the next few weeks as we conclude our studies on prayer.

**Sunday**, February 18 (read Psalm 119:1-8)

*You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed. (Psalm 119:4)*

The psalm starts with two beatitudes: 1) blessing for those who walk with Him and 2) blessing for those who "seek Him with all their heart" (v. 1-2). How I wish that we all would **seek Him** with an undivided heart, because there is so much more to learn and experience and many blessings await us when we do so. The psalmist then talks directly to God in prayer and acknowledges that God's precepts are "to be fully obeyed." (v. 4) His personal desire is that he would obey and not be put to shame (v. 5-6). Finally, he makes a commitment to **praise God** while he learns the righteous laws (v. 7). He pleads with the Lord to stay with him as he learns obedience (v. 8). I hope that this is your prayer as well.

**Monday**, February 19 (read Psalm 119:9-11)

*I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you. (Psalm 119:11)*

The psalmist asks a question about living a pure life and then proceeds to answer it. A young man can remain pure during the years of great temptation only by living according to the Word of God, regardless of what his peers are doing (v. 9). Again he commits to seeking the Lord with all of his heart, pleading for divine help to accomplish his goal (v. 10). Verse 11 came to life to me while ministering in a retirement facility where I met Mrs. Wagner. She had lost her memory, yet she could still play any song on the piano after I reminded her of the tune and she could still finish quoting any Scripture I presented. While speaking on this verse I asked her why God told her to hide His Word in her **heart**. She replied, "I don't know." Then I asked what would happen if He had told her to hide it in her **head**. With tears running down her face, she said, "It would all be gone now." Will you ever forget the meaning of this verse? Hiding His Word in our hearts strengthens us and prepares us for times when we need instant access.

**Tuesday**, February 20 (read Psalm 119:12-16)

*I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your Word. (Psalm 119:16)*

Can you lift these verses as your prayer to God today? The Holy Spirit is ready to teach you the Word of the Lord when you are praising Him for the things He has already done in your life (v. 12). If you have hidden His Word in your heart (v. 11), you will be able to quote it to those who ask for an explanation of the hope you have (v. 13; see also 1 Peter 3:15-16). We should rejoice in learning God's statutes (v. 14) and delight in obeying them (v. 16), because His commands are never burdensome (1 John 5:3). Each command is written for our benefit, not for His! Meditate on His Word today and rejoice in each new nugget He gives (v. 15).

**Wednesday**, February 21 (read Psalm 119:17-24)

*Though rulers sit together and slander me, your servant will meditate on your decrees. (Psalm 119:23)*

The entire world is uniting under the banner of global warming, or climate change as they call it during extreme cold weather. The people are uniting for the purpose of forming a one-world global government. If you know the Bible, you are aware that this has been Satan's goal from the very beginning (see Genesis 11:1-9). Following a Biblically correct worldview will make you feel like a stranger on the earth (v. 19), especially when your kids come home from their liberal colleges to tell you that your views are ridiculous. Just remember that this world is not your home (see John 17:16-17)! My purpose in everything I preach and write is to teach you to trust and obey His Word. Like the psalmist, I pray that God will open my eyes to **new** truths so that I can pass them along to others.

**Thursday**, February 22 (read Psalm 119:25-32)

*I have chosen the way of truth; I have set my heart on your laws. (Psalm 119:30)*

Jesus says in John 8:51, "I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my Word, he will never see death." That means that before your body is laid in the dust, your soul will move into the presence of God (v. 25). You can trust His Word! The psalmist goes on to ask the Lord for a better understanding of the Word so that he can walk with Him and refrain from deceitfulness (v. 26-29). He declares that he has made a willful choice to follow the way of truth (v. 30); therefore, he will not be put to shame since he is following the paths the Lord has shown him (v. 31-32). Jesus emphasized the reason his heart is set free when He said, "Then you shall know the truth and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32). Are you following the way of truth?

**Friday**, February 23 (read Psalm 119:33-40)

*Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your Word. (Psalm 119:37)*

The psalmist continues to beg God for a clearer understanding of His Word, promising to follow His teachings to the very end of his life (v. 33-34). He knows that the path God has chosen for him will be his delight in the long run (v. 35). The next two verses are strong warnings to today's generation. First, many have turned away from God and the church, because they perceive that it will cost them something in terms of time or finances (v. 36). Jesus warns, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Beware of trusting your worldly wealth in these times of uncertainty. The second warning is in the printed verse above: Don't allow your **eyes** to lead you into coveting "worthless things." Instead, trust His promises and allow His mercy and grace to remove your disgrace (v. 38-40).

**Saturday**, February 24 (read Psalm 119:41-48)

*I will speak of your statutes before kings and will not be put to shame, for I delight in your commands because I love them. (Psalm 119:46-47)*

Jesus teaches, "On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you" (Matthew 10:18-20). These days are already happening in America, but they have delayed because of the prayers of Franklin Graham that, in my opinion, changed the last election. Pray this passage often so that you will be prepared when you have to trust either the promises of God or the promises of selfish politicians.