

Session 2
Psalm 119 : 17-32
March 9th, 2023
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Even the most mature believers face dark nights of the soul. During those times God seems distant, his Word feels dry, and the vibrant intimacy we knew before seems absent leaving us wondering, “Where is the Lord in this?”

In Psalm 119, Matt Chandler aims to introduce viewers to the words of King David who experienced similar seasons of life.

Serving as the anchor for the study, Psalm 119 demonstrates the power of God’s Word in the lives of believers and its ability to provide a warm blanket for the soul.

Points Concerning Verses 17-24

Gimel is the Hebrew letter that identifies this section.

Verses 17 - 20 proclaim the following requests and needs:

- That God would bless David bountifully so that he might be able to live and to keep God's word.
- That this blessing encompass being able to understand the wonder of God's word.
- That David has an overwhelming longing in his soul to understand the word of God so that he can chart his path on the earth as a sojourner, stranger, traveler.

Points Concerning Verses 17-24

Gimel is the Hebrew letter that continues to identify this section

Verses 21 - 24 proclaim the following requests and statements:

- God would rebuke those who are arrogant and who do not follow His statutes, removing the contempt and reproach they expressed towards David.
- David chooses to meditate upon the word of God, rather than take action against those in high places that speak against him.
- David finds delight, comfort, and wisdom in meditation upon the word of God during this time of trial and peril.

Points Concerning Verses 25-28

Daleth is the Hebrew letter that identifies this section.

Verses 25 - 28 proclaim the following requests and statements:

- David's situation appears to have escalated to the point of complete despair and he pleads with God for revival in his spirit.
- David has made confession of his "ways" (sin?) and God has answered and instructed him in accordance with God's word. David again asks for illumination so that he can grasp and meditate upon what God's word has told him.
- David remains grieved, (Godly Sorrow?) and again requests strength through the revelation of God's word.

Points Concerning Verses 29-32

Daleth is the Hebrew letter that continues to identify this section.

Verses 29 - 32 proclaim the following requests and statements:

- David entreats the Lord to remove any falsehood or deceit from his character and replace it with the right understanding of God's law. He has chosen the faithful way of obedience and will keep the law of God before his eyes.
- David will hold fast to God's word to fulfill the law of God and he will trust that God will continually help him to do this and keep him from failure.
- Finally David has the expectation that God will enlarge ("make the heart wide") his heart, his capacity for understanding and obedience to enable him to fulfill the calling on his life.

Points Concerning the Video

- David's request be blessed bountifully is fully within the will of God, and not an aberration of the "prosperity gospel" The difference is the motivation for asking. For David it was it to enable him to keep the word of God, and encompassed far more than the possession of material goods, but a desire for spiritual development.
- The gospel of prosperity focuses the individual upon gaining wealth, maintaining health, and avoiding trials through the exercise of faith by declaration, and infers that the attainment of these things is also a sign of righteousness. This is similar to the thought process of the Pharisees ,that wealth equated righteousness. This is not biblical. God is the author and provider of all good things that come into our life and He desires to bless us, but not all things we ask for are good for us or within the province of His plan for our lives. Matthew 7: 7-11, James 1:17, 4: 2-3

Points Concerning the Video

- As Pastor Chandler states, the dark night of the soul comes to all believers. It came to David ; it came to Christ; and it comes to us. The apostle James tells us to rejoice in trials because through them our faith is perfected into maturity, but trials also can cause great anguish and pain and this too was true for David and for Christ.
- Pastor Chandler points out that the bedrock of despair is the fertile ground of revival because that is when we are the most open to cry out to God earnestly for the grace and mercy that we desperately need. We see that repeatedly with David through these verses
- Trials arise for a variety of reasons, the sinful state of the world, the sin of others, and sometimes from our own sin.
- Trials that arise because of committed and sustained sin in the life of the believer will only begin to resolve when that sin is confessed to God, and determined repentance is made. Psalm 32: 1 – 5, Psalm 34: 15 – 20

James 1: 2 – 4

Points Concerning the Video

- Pastor Chandler also made the point that knowing something and believing something are different. He used the common examples of knowing that we need to eat correctly or that we need to exercise, but we often don't do it because we don't believe it's really necessary.
- True belief translates into faithful action, and this action in turn promotes spiritual growth and that develops maturity. David believed that God would enlarge his heart, the literal translation is to widen the heart, and this would allow him to grow in grace and wisdom and obedience. Every believer should endeavor to enlarge his heart by both the study and then obedient action as the word of God directs .Romans 12:1 – 2

Table discussion

- Note this first point is for private meditation, not public discussion
- Is there a hidden sin within your life that you need to deal with?, if there is what is it that prevents you from confessing it to the Lord? Have you considered the ramifications of the effects of that sin to you and to others it may affect?
- Through these verses, David indicated an intense desire to know and understand the word of God and to discover the wonders it contains. Do you have that same passion? What do you think would happen if you earnestly ask God for that?
- The video made a distinction between knowing and believing. Are there things that you know you should do concerning your faith but you haven't because you lack belief that they are really necessary? What might happen if you both knew and believed and then acted?