





Session 8

Psalm 119:137-152




What is something you own that you only use
for special occasions?

(Chinaware, guest towels, clothing, etc.)




What makes it significant?

Why do you keep it for only certain situations?



Together, the attributes and characteristics we listed, make that item unique, even set apart.

That's where we want to start our time today by talking about the attributes of God and how they make Him unique in contrast to humanity.



God's Word is more than simply words recorded on a page.

It is living and active, deepening our understanding of the heart of God, and teaching us how to live wisely.

It also sustains us in times of difficulty and uncertainty.

In the Past



The 6th letter indicates the number of man. Looks like a tent peg. Implies connection between heaven and earth.



The 7th letter indicates completion/perfection. Zayin (crowned Vav/man) represents Jesus the Messiah, the true king of the Jews.



The 8th letter indicates new beginnings. Chet is a picture of man being yoked (discipleship) to Jesus.

This Portion



Tsade

In the Past



The 7th letter constructed like a Vav (man) with a crown, represents Jesus the Messiah, the true king of the Jews.



The 14th letter (2x7) is constructed like a bent Zayin, (a Vav (man) crowned with glory and bent or kneeling).



The 10th letter having a numeric value of 10. The original pictograph looked like a hand. It's the starting point of every Hebrew letter, thus indicating God's initiation and presence in all words/creation.

This Portion



The 18th (3x6) letter is constructed like a Nun with a Yod. Its numeric value is 90 which, in Jewish tradition, is “fullness of life.”

It depicts a humble, faithful servant bent in submission.


With his hands (Yod) lifted in humility to heaven (or to the spirit of God) in dependence on Him for the ability to live in trusting obedience to His will.



Righteous are you, O LORD, and right are your rules. You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness. My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget your words. Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it. I am small and despised, yet I do not forget your precepts. Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is true. Trouble and anguish have found me out, but your commandments are my delight. Your testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live. — Psa 119:137-144 ESV



Show Video



Throughout the Old Testament, we are often given glimpses of the gospel message. Certain sections more than others foreshadow the coming of Jesus Christ and the fulfillment of God's promise of salvation to His people. This passage is a great example of that foreshadowing as the psalmist lays bare the gospel message we believe today.



What characteristic of God and His Word
does the psalmist use repeatedly?

(Righteous/righteousness)




What term did Matt use to sum up these terms as a description of God?

(He is “holy.”)



How would you define the term “holy”?

(Matt explained that it means to be “set apart” in every way.)



The psalmist paints a clear picture of God as one who is set apart because He is holy.

God is righteous, faithful, good, true, and reliable in every way.



In contrast, the psalmist provides a picture of himself, which is representative of all of our experiences.

What are some of the descriptions the psalmist uses for himself?

(“Small,” “despised,” experiencing “trouble” and “anguish”)



Happiness is determined by life's circumstances, meaning it can be taken away.

In verse 139, what did Matt key in on as a characteristic of all humanity?

(We have forgetfulness about the truth of who God is as revealed in His Word.)



How does drifting from God's Word affect us?

(Matt described it in terms of an escalating hostility toward God.

It begins with embracing **self-sufficiency**, fuels animosity toward God and His Word, and grows into hatred for His people.)

How have you experienced these effects in your own life?



When we turn away from God's Word, our hearts harden.

We begin to prefer creation to its Creator and blame the consequences of sin on God rather than seeing them as the culmination of our rebellion.

Yet, no matter how far we have strayed God provides hope.

This Portion



In the Past



The 11th letter, has a numeric value of 20. The ancient pictograph looks like the palm of a hand. In Hebrew script it resembles the crown on a prostrating king.

Khaf also resembles the letter Bet which is a picture of Messiah Jesus. When Kahf is prefixed to a word, it means 'like' or 'as'.



The 7th letter constructed like a Vav (man) with a crown, represents Jesus the Messiah, the true king of the Jews.

This Portion



The 19th letter (faith) is constructed like a Khaf with a Zayin. Its numeric value is 100 which, in Jewish tradition, signifies ‘completion of living matter’.


The ancient pictograph for Qof was a circle with a line through it and looks like thread pulling through the eye of a needle.

In the Hebrew letter Qof, a Khaf is prefixed (like/as) to a Zayin (Jesus), thus means ‘holiness’, i.e. ‘set apart for God’.

It is also the first letter in the Hebrew word ‘Holy’.




With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O LORD! I will keep your statutes. I call to you; save me, that I may observe your testimonies. I rise before dawn and cry for help; I hope in your words. My eyes are awake before the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promise. Hear my voice according to your steadfast love; O LORD, according to your justice give me life. They draw near who persecute me with evil purpose; they are far from your law. But you are near, O LORD, and all your commandments are true. Long have I known from your testimonies that you have founded them forever. - Psa 119:137, 145-152 ESV



According to these verses, what is the opportunity God provides in the midst of our brokenness?

(The ability to see our need for Him to save us)


How has God used brokenness in your life to bring you to a place of recognizing your need for Him?



Our rebellion has consequences, but God is powerful enough to use our brokenness as a means to draw us to Him.

As He opens our eyes to our sin, we come to see the helplessness of our situation such that He becomes our only answer.

And when we cry out to Him, He listens.




God's Word leads us into greater intimacy with Christ, but it also teaches us to fear God...

a topic many find both unsettling and confusing today.

What are the benefits of this kind of fear?

(A holy worship and a commitment to obedience.)



What are the two truths Matt highlighted that our hope of salvation rests on?

1. The steadfast love of God
2. The nearness of God



What were the four marks Matt covered of being a Christian?


1. To understand we've sinned against God.
2. To believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - Who absorbed the wrath of God toward sinners on the cross
 - Who credited His righteousness to those who believe
 - Who rose from the dead victorious over death itself



What were the four marks Matt covered of being a Christian?

3. To continually repent of sin.

4. To walk in newness of life through obedience to God's Word.



Being a Christian means **knowing God**, which changes the way we live.

As you reflect on your life, how have you changed since beginning a relationship with Jesus Christ?

What has God done to transform you?

LAST WORD

Throughout Scripture, God has revealed Himself as one who abounds in steadfast love.

Wherever you find yourself in your walk with Christ today, remember that truth.

Just as He exercised grace and patience in previous generations, He offers that same grace today as an opportunity for repentance.



LAST WORD

If the Holy Spirit is convicting you as a result of this session, be bold and act on that conviction.

Invite God into the process and **trust** Him to guide you into a deeper and more mature walk with Him.



Pray:

Throughout this week, ask God to reveal to you the areas of your life where you need to grow and be proactive about pursuing maturity.

Remember:



Write out Ephesians 2:1–10 on a piece of paper and place it somewhere where you will see it on a daily basis as a constant reminder to you of the truth about who you are, who God is, and the hope you have through faith in Jesus Christ.

*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-- among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **But God**, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ... For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. - Eph 2:1-8, 10 ESV*



Worship:

Take some time to reflect on how God has been gracious to you in your failures and disobedience.

As you do, worship Him for the steadfast love that He has shown you continually.



Memorize:

Commit to memory the four marks of being a Christian that Matt shared in this session in order to clearly communicate to others what it means to believe in Christ.



Invite:

Reach out to a mature believer in Christ and invite him or her to mentor you in a discipleship relationship as a way of growing in your walk with the Lord.



Session 4

Psalm 119:49–64