

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

**O THAT MY WAYS WERE
DIRECTED TO KEEP THY STATUTES
PSALMS 119:1-8**

Text: Psalms 119:5

Psalm 119:5

⁵ O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!

Introduction:

This chapter Psalms 119 is a very interesting Psalm.

It's the longest chapter in the entire Bible.

It has twenty-two divisions. Each division has eight verses and begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

Every passage of Scripture that is given in this Psalm concerns God's Word, how it affects us and its importance in our lives.

We must:

Accept the Bible as God's Word.

Approach the Bible as our Divine Book for living.

Acknowledge the purpose for which God gave us His Word.

Ask God's help in understanding the Bible.

Act upon what we learn from God's Word.

I once heard of a story about a preacher who was to preach in view of a call at a church as the new pastor. As he toured the church that Sunday morning, he asked if he could visit with the young children's class. He asked the teacher to step out so he might inquire whether the boys and girls were being taught the Word of God. He asked the class what he thought was a simple Bible question; "Who destroyed the walls or who made the walls of Jericho fall down?" A little boy named Johnny stood up and said "Preacher, I have done a lot of bad things but it wasn't me".

He was very disturbed and went to the teacher and told her what he had asked and the little boys response. The Sunday School teacher said; "preacher, I know that boys family and he is a good boy .If he said he didn't make those walls fall down, I believe him."

Not long after that he went to a Deacon's meeting. He was very disturbed about the young boy and teacher's answer and told the story to the Deacon body. One old Deacon stood up and said "Now preacher you need not be disturbed. This church is a giving church and I'm

sure we have enough money in the building fund to rebuild those walls.”

Sad but I believe very true. Not just among those outside the church, but among those inside the church. Many of those professing to be born again, blood bought children of God, admit to not knowing the Scriptures.

Notice:

1. PREVENTION OF DEFILEMENT (VS 1-4)

Psalm 119:1-4

¹ Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. ² Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.

³ They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways. ⁴ Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently.

Sin may bring temporal happiness and momentary satisfaction. But sin will ultimately destroy one's life.

Happiness is being preserved from defilement and it expresses itself in two ways:

A. From Defilement of Our Heart v. 2b

Psalm 119:2

² Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.

The Lord said in Mark that evil comes from within from the heart.

The psalmist tells us “Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart.”

“Seek Him with your whole heart” means undivided heart.

To find peace of God in our hearts we need to turn our whole attention to Him.

Note:

Jeremiah 29:13

¹³ And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

There is preservation and cleansing from the defilement of the heart in God’s Word.

Second we are preserved...

B. From Defilement of Our Habits v. 2a, 3

Psalm 119:2-3

² *Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.* ³ **They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways.**

What is in our hearts we will do.

So these verses teach us two very important facts...

- God's Word Teaches Us the Way of God vv. 3b-4

Psalm 119:3-4

³ *They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways.* ⁴ *Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently.*

The word "Ways" in the Hebrew speaks of a path, a road or a highway you would travel on to reach a destination.

"Way" could also refer to the character of God.

We must as Christians walk in a way consistent with God's character.

Quote:

Someone has said, "There is happiness in holiness."

- God's Word Teaches Us the Will of God v. 5b

Psalm 119:2

² Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.

Psalm 119:5

⁵ O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!

The will of God means God's purpose.

His will is that first for you to be saved. To put your trust in the finished, redeeming work of the Lord Jesus Christ, and then that we are serving Him according to His will.

Next, the Psalmist wants us to see that we need to ...

2. PRAY WITH DIRECTION (VSS. 4-6)

Psalm 119:4-6

⁴ Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. ⁵ O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! ⁶ Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.

To understand the essence of praying, we must pray under the direction of God. We are to pray so that God's Spirit guides us in our praying.

The Psalmist in verse 4 has stopped preaching and started praying.

He is praying with direction and in verses 5-6 are 2 elements praying with direction involves.

- Willing Relinquishing (vs. 5) – “That my ways were directed to keep thy statutes.”
- Willing Resolve (vs. 6)

Psalm 119:6

⁶ ***Then shall I not be ashamed***, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.

We should never be ashamed when we are obedient to the Word of God.

Some act embarrassed to:

- Pray in public
- Not laughing at something wrong
- Saying no when other are doing wrong

Last the psalmist tells us that we are to...

3. PRAISE HIM WITHOUT DEFILEMENT (VSS. 7-8)

Psalm 119:7-8

⁷ I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments. ⁸ I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly.

The psalmist has transitioned again from preaching to praying and now he is praising.

Quote:

Spurgeon once said, ““Be sure that he who prays for holiness will one day praise with happiness.”

For the psalmist the shame of sin has vanished, his silence is now broken. Now there is praise.

God does not accept the praise that is offered from a sinful life.

Understand; a person who is truly happy does not have to be blessed in a physical way to praise the Lord.

A person that sees the Lord as Holy and himself as forgiven, righteous and justified can say I praise God even if He never does another thing again for me.

Close:

May we allow the Word of God to keep us from defilement that we may pray and be willing to surrender to his will and not be ashamed to stand for and do right, which will cause us to praise Him as He deserves.