

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

DEPART FROM ME,
YE EVILDOERS
PSALMS 119:113-120

Text: Psalms 119:115

Psalm 119:115

¹¹⁵ Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the commandments of my God.

Introduction:

Have you ever had someone who turned against you who you thought was a friend.

You may have even had to deal with someone whose very nature was so evil or corrupt, that they hated everything about you, especially your love and service for the Lord.

It you are totally committed to the Lord, sooner or later, you will face conflict from those who are carnal and wicked.

This is where we find the psalmist.

He has been betrayed or deceived by someone who pretended to be a righteous or loyal friend.

Not only was he deceived but those who were wicked were out to destroy him.

The writer of the psalm shares with us the feelings he faced and how he coped with the conflicts from the carnal.

He expresses his anger and annoyance with the wicked and those who were wishy-washy.

He also expresses his admiration and awe of God.

There are wonderful lessons and insights nestled in these verses.

Note:

Sermon Content:

1. THE PROBLEM REVEALED (VS. 113)

Psalm 119:113

¹¹³ I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love.

In 1 Kings 18:21, we find Elijah rebuking God's people for their inconsistency and hypocrisy.

1 Kings 18:21

²¹ And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God,

follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

He asks them, “How long shall ye stand between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him.”

The words used for two opinions is the same root word that is that is used here in verse 113 for the words “vain thoughts”

The words vain thoughts carries the idea of being doubled minded.

Elijah rebuked God’s people for going back and forth between their dedication to God and the pagan idols.

They were trying to serve two masters and were spiritually unstable.

James also warns us of this.

James 1:8

⁸ A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

In verse 113, the psalmist faced the same problem of double-minded people. He hated instability, disloyalty, lukewarmness, or double-mindedness, not only in the lives of others, but also in his own life.

Before we move on may we consider, “Do we hate our own lukewarmness and inconsistency?”

Do we get irritated with ourselves when we are double-minded?

Illustration: The Bulldog Ant

This ant is known as the most dangerous and meanest insects alive.

If you cut a Bulldog Ant in half, the front and rear segments will enter into a savage fight. The head will seize the tail with its teeth, while the tail will sting the head with fury.

The fight might last for hours.

That is the way some of us are on the inside.

There is part of us that wants to move ahead and a part that wants to stand absolutely still and do nothing.

There is a part of us that wants spiritual success and growth. There is another part that wants to sit on the river bank and waste away the hours.

There is a part of us that wants to serve Christ. There is another part that says, “No I have too much to do to get involved in that. Someone else can do that.

There is a fierce battle going on within many Christians because they have not made up their minds to be totally dedicated to Christ. They are trying to serve two masters.

The solution to coping with carnality is to fall in love with God's Word.

The psalmist told us what he hated "vain thoughts," but also what he loved – "Thy law do I love."

Falling in love with the Word of God will help one mature in Christ and give an individual spiritual balance that will keep them from being unstable in their Christian life.

I will give peace to their heart.

Note:

Psalm 119:165

¹⁶⁵ Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

When you fall in love with the Lord and with His Word, you will not be grieved over that choice.

Putting the Lord first is the smartest decision you can make.

Illustration:

In 1904, William Borden graduated from a Chicago high school. As heir to the Borden Dairy estate, he was already a millionaire.

For his high school graduation present, his parents gave him a trip around the world.

As the young man traveled through Asia, the Middle East, and Europe, he felt a growing burden for the world's hurting people. Finally, Borden wrote home to say, "I'm going to give my life to prepare for the mission field."

At the same time, he wrote two words in the back of his Bible: "No reserves."

Borden held nothing back.

During his college years at Yale University, he became a pillar in the Christian community.

One entry in his personal journal that defined the source of his spiritual strength simply said: "Say 'no' to self and 'yes' to Jesus every time."

Upon graduation from Yale, Borden wrote two more words in the back of his Bible: "No retreats."

In keeping with that commitment, Borden turned down several high-paying job offers, enrolling in seminary instead.

After graduating, he immediately went to Egypt to learn Arabic because of his intent to work with Muslims in China. While in Egypt, he contracted spinal meningitis.

Within a month, 25-year-old William Borden was dead.

Prior to his death, Borden had written two more words in his Bible.

Underneath the words "No reserves" and "No retreats," he had written: "No regrets."

May we learn from Borden to live our lives in such a way where we will have no regrets.

We have considered "The Problem Revealed" note secondly:

2. THE PLACE OF REFUGE (VS. 114)

Psalm 119:114

114 Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.

How do you cope with conflicts from the carnal? The psalmist gives us a wonderful answer.

He makes the Lord his hiding place and puts his hope in God's Word and promises.

Notice some facts about this place:

A. It's Place of Secrecy

Secrecy is a big part of the hiding place.

If everyone knows where it is at, then it is not much of a hiding place, is it?

The Lord is to be our hiding place. He knows every single secret about us.

There is nothing hid from Him.

In spending time with Him, He reveals things about Himself, especially in His Word.

Note these verses

2 Chronicles 16:9

⁹ For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

Psalm 25:14

¹⁴ The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

Psalm 31:20

²⁰ Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

Not only is it a place of Secrecy but also:

B. It Is a Place of Security and Strength

The hiding place is also a place of security.

Things that are valuable to us and that we greatly treasure, we conceal in a hiding place.

The Lord is our hiding place.

When an individual puts their faith in Christ, they entrust Him with the most valuable things they have... their soul and eternal destiny.

God's promise to us is eternal life.

When an individual receives His gift of salvation, they are secure in Him.

Our salvation is not maintained by our good works because they didn't save us in the first place.

If good deeds kept us saved, then how much is good enough?

You can't answer that because no standard is given to us.

That's because Christ saves us and keeps us saved.

1 Peter 1:3-5

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Not only is it a place of Secrecy and Security and Strength but also:

C. It Is a Place of Serenity

A hiding place is a place of solitude where you can get some "alone" time.

The Lord is our hiding place. In Him, we have peace.

Psalm 29:11

¹¹ The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace.

John 14:27

²⁷ Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 16:33

³³ These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Isaiah 26:3

³ Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

Not only is it a place of Secrecy, Security and Strength and Serenity, but also:

D. It Is a Place of Safety

A hiding place is a place of safety where those who are threatened with danger seek refuge and protection.

Our refuge is in Christ.

Psalm 46:1

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 32:7

⁷ Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

Thank God that we have a place we can hide and find refuge.

We find hope in His Word.

We have considered “The Problem Revealed” and the Place of Refuge note thirdly:

3. THE PERSISTENT RESISTANCE (VS. 115)

Psalm 119:115

¹¹⁵ Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the commandments of my God.

How do we cope with conflict from the carnal?

The writer provides another answer for us here.

Coping involves persistent resistance to the wrong crowd and the temptations that dwell among them.

He tells those who are wicked to get away from him.

Coping also involves persistence in the area of obeying God's commands, "I will keep the commandments of my God."

God is our refuge from those who would harm us and our shield against temptations.

He also calls God "my God."

This is the only place in [Psalm 119](#) where these words occur.

These words highlight two things – they show the writer's grip on God, and God's grip on him.

Being careful and cautious about the people you spend time with can help us to avoid a great deal of conflicts.

It is a good thing to put distance between ourselves and those who would persuade or push us into doing something wrong.

History would have been very different if Eve had said to Satan, "Depart from me, ye evil doer," or if Adam had chosen to go along with God's one prohibition.

Wicked people like to live wickedly and they like people to join them in their wickedness. You either go with the flow or you say "No."

When you say "No," then the conflicts begin to fester because your resistance offends those who want to do what is wrong.

If you participate in their so called "good time," you will also encounter conflicts and problems that could lead to your destruction.

Illustration:

A man who lived in a forested area found his home overrun with mice. There were too many to take care of the problem with traps. So he bought a few boxes of D-Con Poison and placed them around the house,

including one under his bed. That night he couldn't believe his ears; below him was a feeding frenzy.

The next morning he checked the D-Con box and found it licked clean.

Just to make sure the plan worked, he bought and placed another box.

Again, the mice went for the tasty nighttime snack and it did its deadly work.

In the days that followed, all was quiet.

Just because something is popular doesn't mean it's good.

It can be deadly, like sin. Be careful where you go, what you do, and the friends you keep.

If you have no choice concerning an evil crowd, then make up your mind to do what is right by obeying the Lord.

It is not enough to stay away from evil, you need to pursue doing that which is right if you are going to grow in the Lord and make your life count for Christ.

We have considered “The Problem Revealed” “The Place of Refuge” and the need for Persistent Resistance and obedience note fourthly:

4. THE PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (VSS. 116-117)

Psalm 119:116-117

¹¹⁶ Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope. ¹¹⁷ Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually.

It is interesting to note that the Hebrew letter for this section of [Psalm 119](#) is the letter ***samech***.

Each verse in this section begins with this letter.

According to some Jewish rabbis, the letter ***samech*** symbolizes “support and protection.”

This is interesting because that is the theme of these verses.

If you want to cope with a carnal crowd, you are going to need the Lord's help.

Those who were wicked were giving this man a pretty rough time.

Evil people can do that, whether they are lost sinners or people who "profess" to be Christians.

The psalmist asked God to support and sustain him. "Uphold me! Hold me up!" were the sentiments and prayer of his heart.

He wanted to live his life for God and asked the Lord to help him do it.

The psalmist prayer should be our prayer.

We have considered "The Problem Revealed" "The Place of Refuge" the need for Persistent Resistance and Obedience, and the Prayer for Renewal note also:

5. PONDERING THE RETRIBUTION (VSS. 118-119)

Psalm 119:118-119

¹¹⁸ Thou hast trodden down all them that err from thy statutes: for their deceit is falsehood. ¹¹⁹ Thou puttest away all the wicked of the earth like dross: therefore I love thy testimonies.

The psalmist copes with the conflict from the carnal by pondering God's punishment of the wicked. In a way, he is finding comfort in the fact that the Lord is going to take care of those who are wicked, those who lie and are deceitful, and those who oppressed him.

Remember:

God treads upon those who stray from His Word.

Their trickery and deceitfulness are vain.

They are only fooling themselves.

Understanding that the Lord will deal with those who are evil and oppressive will help you to cope with the conflicts from the carnal. Vengeance belongs to Him.

Romans 12:19

¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

We have considered “The Problem Revealed” “The Place of Refuge” the need for Persistent Resistance and Obedience, The Prayer for Renewal and Pondering the Punishment of the Wicked we consider one final thought:

6. PROCLAMATION OF REVERENCE (vs. 120)

Psalms 119:120

¹²⁰ My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy judgments.

The psalmist expresses his reverence for God. He is holy and mighty. His judgments are not to be taken lightly.

This word "trembleth" means to "to bristle up, to shiver or stand up on end." He was "afraid" or in "reverence and awe" of God's judgments.

Many today have a flippant attitude about Christ.

The psalmist says that he trembled before God and stood in awe of His laws, which is why he was a godly person and why he has been able to give us the profound teaching we have from him in this psalm.

If every Christian would have the same attitude as this guy, then believers would not waste their lives and drift away from God.

May the Lord help us to be faithful to Him and put the principles of this portion into practice.

Close:

- May the Lord help us to be faithful to Him and put the principles of this portion into practice.
- May we hate lukewarmness and double-mindedness in ourselves.

- May we make the Lord our hiding place.
- May our resistance to temptation be strong and persistent.
- May our prayer be, "Lord hold me up."
- May we find comfort in God's justice and reverence His holiness and power