

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

# I HOPED IN THY WORD

## PSALMS 119:145-152

Text: Psalms 119:147

### **Psalm 119:147**

*<sup>147</sup> I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy word.*

Introduction:

The psalmist called on the Lord to deliver him because he obeyed, hoped in, and meditated on His Word.

In these verses we see that the psalmist is clearly troubled.

He stresses that he cries out to God three times.

### **Psalm 119:145-147**

<sup>145</sup> **I cried** with *my* whole heart; hear me, O LORD: I will keep thy statutes. <sup>146</sup> **I cried** unto thee; save me, and I shall keep thy testimonies. <sup>147</sup> I prevented the dawning of the morning, and **cried**: I hoped in thy word.

He is in need of help.

Those who follow wickedness draw near.

**Psalm 119:150**

*<sup>150</sup> They draw nigh that follow after mischief: they are far from thy law.*

Though those that followed after mischief were close God and His Word were closer.

**Psalm 119:151**

*<sup>151</sup> Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth.*

His cry is heard.

As he calls on God to save him, he also promises that he will keep or obey His Word.

Remember we prove our love for the Lord in our obedience to His Word.

**John 14:15**

*<sup>15</sup> If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

We can hear the psalmist's heartfelt prayer within these eight verses. From his cry, call and confession we can receive some instructions and incentives to persist in prayer.

Spurgeon outlined these verses this way:

1. How He Prayed (vs. 145)
2. What He Prayed For (vs. 146)
3. When He Prayed (vs. 147)
4. How Long He Prayed (vs. 148)
5. What He Pleaded (vs. 149)
6. What Happened (vs. 150)
7. How He Was Rescued (vs. 151)
8. What Was His Witness to the Whole Matter (vs. 152)

Though that is a fitting outline we will consider only three thoughts this evening.

Sermon Content:

Note:

# 1. HIS CRY (VS. 145-148)

## ***Psalm 119:145-148***

*<sup>145</sup> I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O LORD: I will keep thy statutes. <sup>146</sup> I cried unto thee; save me, and I shall keep thy testimonies. <sup>147</sup> I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy word. <sup>148</sup> Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word.*

Strong emotion comes through in the opening of these verses.

### A. The Passion of His Prayer

In verse 145 we hear the passion of his prayers.

## ***Psalm 119:145***

*<sup>145</sup> I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O LORD: I will keep thy statutes.*

I'm afraid much of our praying is not "whole heart" praying.

So often unless we are in a crisis our prayers are somewhat shallow.

This "cry" or prayer was from the heart.

Heart cries are the essence of fervent prayer.

He has cried and was still crying with all his heart.

All the powers of his soul were engaged and exerted to the utmost in his prayers.

The word hear literally means to “pay attention to or to answer or respond to.”

The one praying then promises to obey God’s Word.

So often we pray wanting the Lord to hear us and respond to our prayer, but we are not willing to hear Him and obey His Word.

## B. The Persistency of His Prayer

In verse 146 the cry is repeated.

### ***Psalm 119:146***

*<sup>146</sup> I cried unto thee; save me, and I shall keep thy testimonies.*

He cries out to God to spared or saved.

He understood that none but the Lord could save him.

We too should pray:

"Save me" from the dangers which surround me, from the enemies that pursue me, from the temptations which beset me, from the sins which accuse me.

The answer that he wants from God's divine intervention is so that he may keep God's "testimonies."

His promise that he will obey God is emphatic.

He is fully committed to obeying God's Word.

### C. The Pressure of His Prayer

The pressure and intensity of the psalmist's cry is revealed by his early communion with God.

#### **Psalm 119:147**

<sup>147</sup> I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy word.

He rises before the dawning of the morning to pray.

He needs God's intervention and the basis of his prayer was the Word of God; "I hoped in Thy Word."

Because God is true, and has never turn His back on His unconditional promises, the one who is diligent in prayer will find hope in His words.

Just as the early bird gets the worm, so the early prayer will be refreshed with hope.

#### D. His Proclamation in His Prayer

##### ***Psalm 119:148***

*<sup>148</sup> Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word.*

When he is awake at night he meditates on the Word.

He redeemed the time by "meditating on" God's "Word" so that he would not be caught off guard by the enemy of his soul.

This is a good habit to get into.

If something is keeping you up at night or God awakens us in the night we too would do well to meditate on the Word of God.

Note not only the psalmists "Cry" but also:

## 2. HIS CALL (VS. 149-151)

### ***Psalm 119:149-151***

*<sup>149</sup> Hear my voice according unto thy lovingkindness: O LORD, quicken me according to thy judgment. <sup>150</sup> They draw nigh that follow after mischief: they are far from thy law. <sup>151</sup> Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth.*

The psalmist asks God to hear or answer his voice or call according to His lovingkindness.

The psalmist has a desire to vigorous after God and joyful in his pursuit.

The reason for the urgency is seen in verse 150:

### ***Psalm 119:150***

*<sup>150</sup> They draw nigh that follow after mischief: they are far from thy law.*

His enemies, though near him, were far removed from God's Law.

Those that stay away from God's Word, are far from God.

They are easy manipulated into wickedness and into attacking those who are following God Word and are involved in God's Work.



The psalmist realized that the enemy was near but in verse 151 the psalmist makes a wonderful discovery and declaration:

***Psalm 119:151***

*<sup>151</sup> Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth.*

At the same time the enemy is closing in the psalmist realizes that God is near.

Though the wicked may be near to harm, God is nearer still to protect and help.

Understand:

It is God's nearness that enables us to overcome the nearness of those who disobey His Word.

The psalmist counts on God's presence, he also counts on the authority of His law.

***Psalm 119:151***

*<sup>151</sup> Thou art near, O LORD; and **all thy commandments are truth.***

Too often the church has forfeited one or the other, either truth or the Spirit.

Either we have welcomed a Bible that is true but feared the vital Presence of God in our midst, or we have gone after an experience of God and made God's truth subjective.

These two must be bound together, and this is exactly what the psalmist does here.

This leads us to our final thought:

### **3. HIS CONFESSION (VS. 152)**

#### ***Psalm 119:152***

<sup>152</sup> *Concerning thy testimonies, **I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever.***

These verses conclude with a confession – that is God is forever faithful to His promises.

God's own precepts declare themselves to be everlasting.

God's words have not only been found faithful for a time, they are forever true.

God's words are trustworthy and reliable, always, and forever.

Close:

The Psalmist describes the times and the depths of his devotions, and pleads with God for deliverance from his troubles.

Quote:

He who has been with God in the closet will find God with him in the furnace.

If we have cried from our heart we shall be answered.

Though delayed answers may drive us to continuous prayer, we need not fear the ultimate result, for God's promises are uncertain, they have been founded forever.