

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

# STAND IN AWE

## PSALMS 119:161-168

Text: Psalms 119:161

### ***Psalm 119:161***

*<sup>161</sup> Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word.*

Introduction:

These verses or this section of verses is one of only two sections of the twenty-two sections of Psalms 119 where there is no petition is asked of God. God is not specifically asked for something.

However as with other sections, the psalmist is obviously speaking here to God.

Sermon Content:

# 1. THE VICE OF THE PERSECUTOR (VS. 161)

## ***Psalm 119:161***

*<sup>161</sup> Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word.*

This section starts off like the previous section with mention of the persecution problem that beset the psalmist.

Often Satan does his work through dignified positions.

This gives his evil more effectiveness, as it is often disguised by honor and dignity.

Paul enlighten the believers at Corinth of this as well.

## ***2 Corinthians 11:13-15***

*<sup>13</sup> For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.*

*<sup>14</sup> And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. <sup>15</sup> Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

Understand:

Height of position in this world is not always synonymous with holiness.

Note also that the word “princes” is used here indicating more than one persecutor.

Note:

#### A. The Degradation of the Persecutor

##### ***Psalm 119:161***

<sup>161</sup> Princes **have persecuted me without a cause**: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word.

The persecutor carried out their deeds without cause.

- They Are Unjust
- They Are Untruthful

Notice not only the Degradation of the Persecutor but also:

#### B. The Dedication of the Psalmist

##### ***Psalm 119:161***

<sup>161</sup> Princes have persecuted me without a cause: **but my heart standeth in awe of thy word.**

The psalmist remained loyal to the Word of God in spite of the persecution he was experiencing.

We see here the strong respect for the Word of God as he stood in “AWE.”

It is interesting we find this word used only three times in the Bible.

Every time it is used is in the book of Psalms.

**Psalm 4:4**

<sup>4</sup> **Stand in awe, and sin not:** commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.

**Psalm 33:8**

<sup>8</sup> Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world **stand in awe of him.**

**Psalm 119:161**

<sup>161</sup> Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart **standeth in awe of thy word.**

- We are to stand in Awe and Sin Not
- We are to stand in Awe of the Saviour
- We are to stand in Awe of the Scripture

The reverence and respect that the psalmist had was real not hypocritical.

We note not only the Vice of the Persecutor but secondly:

## **2. THE VALUE OF THE WORD (vs. 162, 165)**

### ***Psalm 119:162***

*<sup>162</sup> I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.*

### ***Psalm 119:165***

*<sup>165</sup> Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.*

The dedication to the Word in spite of persecution is followed by the psalmist reporting his great valuing of the Word.

Notice:

#### A. His Pleasure From the Word (vs. 162)

### ***Psalm 119:162***

*<sup>162</sup> **I rejoice at thy word**, as one that findeth great spoil.*

The Word of God gives great pleasure.

Like sin, other books can give some pleasure at the start, especially, but the end is not pleasurable.

But the more one gets in the Word, the more joy he will find in the Word.

Notice not only His Pleasure From the Word but also:

### B. His Prosperity From the Word (vs. 162)

#### **Psalm 119:162**

<sup>162</sup> I rejoice at thy word, as one that **findeth great spoil**.

The word of God gives great prosperity but note:

- The Pursuit – “Findeth”

The value of the Word will be found out by pursuit.

You will not discover its value unless you seek it.

So many believers are spiritual paupers because of their disinterest in the Scriptures.

Many never become aware of the great value of the Word, because they do not pursue the Word in reading or study of any kind.

Note this pursuit will lead to:

- The Prosperity – “Great Spoil”

Illustration:

History tells us that the victor in a war were entitled to help themselves to the wealth of the defeated people.

Victorious armies would often come home with great wealth. This was referred to the “spoils of victory.”

To equate the value of the Word to “great spoil” was to say the Word is of great value and that it’s often discovered by conflict with the enemy.

Note this pursuit will lead to prosperity and also will bring:

- The Peace Needed (vs. 165)

***Psalm 119:165***

<sup>165</sup> **Great peace** *have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.*

Peace is another thing of great value which we get from the Word of God.

The world seeks peace but seldom, if ever, through the Word of God.

That is one reason why there is so little peace in the world.

By the way it's described as "Great Peace." There is no shortage of the peace God's Word can bring, and its available to those that love God's law.

There is another benefit we see in this from God's Word:

- The Protection (vs. 165)

***Psalm 119:165***

<sup>165</sup> *Great peace have they which love thy law: and **nothing shall offend them.***

The word translated "offend" means "stumbling block."

Those devoted to the Word will not trip and fall over the stumbling blocks laid on our path by the evilones.

The Word gives discernment to see stumbling blocks and snares and traps, and this protects from harm

We have considered the Vice of the Persecutor and the Value of the Word.

This leads us to one final thought.



### 3. THE VIRTUE OF THE PSALMIST (163-164, 166-168)

#### ***Psalm 119:163-164***

<sup>163</sup> *I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love.*

<sup>164</sup> *Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments.*

#### ***Psalm 119:166-168***

<sup>166</sup> *LORD, I have hoped for thy salvation, and done thy commandments.* <sup>167</sup> *My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly.* <sup>168</sup> *I have kept thy precepts and thy testimonies: for all my ways are before thee.*

Already we have seen some high conduct by the psalmist in spite of his persecution.

In these verses, we note some more of his outstanding character which are seen in the midst of his troubles and trials.

Note two things:

#### A. He Loathes Sin (vs. 163)

#### ***Psalm 119:163***

<sup>163</sup> *I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love.*

The psalmist hated sin which included lying.

Not only did he loathed sin but not doubt he loathed it because:

B. He Loved the Scripture (vs. 163, 167)

***Psalm 119:163***

*<sup>163</sup> I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love.*

***Psalm 119:167***

*<sup>167</sup> My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly.*

The psalmist confesses his love for the Word of God which is a very noble virtue.

One cannot love the Word too much.

You can on the other hand love the world too much and many do.

This was the problem with Demas.

***2 Timothy 4:10***

*<sup>10</sup> For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.*

His love of the Scriptures and his hated of sin caused him to praise the Lord.

**Psalm 119:164**

*<sup>164</sup> Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments.*

Understand:

Those who love the Word of God will honor and praise the God of the Word.

The psalmist frequently and fervently praised God.

In spite of persecution the psalmist continues to praise the Lord.

Close:

The psalmist stood in awe of God's Word. His awe and love of God's Word led him to hate sin and honor the Lord with his life.

These verses close stating:

**Psalm 119:166-168**

*<sup>166</sup> LORD, I have hoped for thy salvation, and done thy commandments. <sup>167</sup> My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly. <sup>168</sup> I have kept thy precepts and thy testimonies: for all my ways are before thee.*

He obeyed or kept God's Word and didn't hide anything from God.