

AN INTRODUCTION TO PSALM 119

Psalm 1:1-3

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. Questions to Consider:

1. How can I know which way to go?
2. What is the “best” choice to make?
 - a. It is not always a “right” or “wrong” choice to make.
3. So many people are saying so many things, how can I know who is correct?
 - a. This is also happening in the church today.
 - b. Many may base their “choices” on feelings and personal beliefs.
4. Is there a source to which I can turn that will guarantee right answers all the time?
5. Are these answers guaranteed to bring “happiness” into my life?
6. What is the solution to the temptations and trials which surround me on a daily basis?
7. How are we to combat the way the world is strong-arming us to conform to “their” way?
8. Aren’t their different answers for each stage of each day?
 - a. Struggles of youth and those who are elderly?
 - b. Our answer to trials – depends on what trials you are facing?
 - c. How do I deal with the personal struggles in public and private, prosperity and adversity?
9. We may be free from the greater temptations of life, but what about the snares and pitfalls which line our daily path?
10. Can my life ever be free of distress and trouble?
11. Why does my religious life appear [at times] to be in conflict with my “daily” life?

B. Three Examples:

1. Joseph. Genesis 37-50
 - a. The favorite child of his father, Jacob.
 - b. Bringing blessings to the house of Potiphar.
 - c. Dreams interpreted correctly regarding the famine.
 - d. Pharaoh appoints Joseph second in command.
 - e. Joseph saves his family.
 - f. But what about the hatred of his brothers – selling to the Midianites.
 - g. Tempted by Potiphar’s wife – falsely accused and imprisoned.
 - h. Genesis 39:9
2. David. 1 Samuel 16 – 2 Samuel 24
 - a. Killed Goliath.
 - b. Friendship with Jonathan.
 - c. “Killed his ten thousands...”
 - d. Exploits as a great king of Israel.
 - e. Pursued by Saul – opportunity to kill Saul (twice).
 - f. Sin with Bathsheba – had her husband killed.
 - g. Prayer for deliverance (69:1-3), forgiveness (51:1-4) and guidance (27:11).
3. Daniel. Daniel
 - a. Promoted to chief prefect [high ranking official].

- b. Interpreted dreams – great acclaim.
 - c. Safely through the lion’s den.
 - d. Success during reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Darius and Cyrus. Dan. 6:28
 - e. Visions – meanings left a mystery, Dan. 8:27; 10:8-9.
 - f. Laws set to entrap Daniel.
 - g. Daniel 1:8; 9:4-5
- C. Constant Challenge to Live Holy.
 - 1. Matthew 5, Beatitudes.
 - 2. Matthew 7:
 - a. Narrow or wide gate, vss. 13-14.
 - b. Good or bad fruit, vss. 16-20.
 - c. Solid rock or sandy foundation, vss. 24-27.
 - 3. Be holy..., 1 Peter 1:14-16; 2:9, 12.
 - 4. I want to know Christ..., Phil. 3:8-11.
 - 5. Be not conformed..., Romans 12:2.
 - 6. Deny yourself..., Luke 9:27.

II. THE ANSWER?

- A. God’s Law.
 - 1. Psalm 119:9, *“How can the young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Thy word.”*
 - 2. Psalm 119:11, *“Thy word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee.”*
- B. Psalm 119 “synopsis”.
 - 1. The writer was truly in love with God’s word.
 - a. Vs. 10, *“With all my heart I have sought Thee; do not let me wander from Thy commandments.”*
 - b. Vs. 47, *“And I shall delight in Thy commandments, which I love.”*
 - c. Vs. 81-82, *“My soul languishes for Thy salvation; I wait for Thy word. My eyes fail with longing for Thy word, while I say, ‘When wilt Thou comfort me?’”*
 - d. Vs. 97, *“O how I love Thy law! It is my meditation all the day.”*
 - 2. More important: the writer was in love with God.
 - a. Ps. 37:4, *“Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart.”*
 - b. 2 John 6, *“And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments.”*