

June 8

Scriptures: Read Psalm 119:121-176

Key Verse: “The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting; give me understanding, and I shall live.” (Psalm 119:144)

Overview

It not only grieves, but it angers the psalmist to see many who do not follow the Lord’s Law. He knows that if they do not obey they will not see the salvation of the Lord. He is full of zeal to preach and teach others so that they too would love God, follow His Word, and not perish (vv.136, 139, 150, 155, 158). The psalmist, had become disgusted with those who persisted in wickedness and stubbornly refused to follow God’s ways. He describes them as oppressors, enemies, persecutors, and princes (rich tyrants) who were wicked, proud and treacherous. Because of their unbridled wickedness and their total disregard for God’s Word, the psalmist desires to see only righteousness, and he calls upon God to intervene, saying, “It is time for You to act, O Lord” (v.126). This is not only a cry for judgment upon the wicked, but it is in effect a call for God to send the much needed Messiah into the sinful world. Only the Messiah could ever bring a change to these sinful people, and only He would one day bring in a era of righteousness upon the earth. When God sent Jesus into the world, that was the specific time, in the fullness of time, that God had chosen to act in history. Salvation and redemption could come to mankind. Jesus was “God’s salvation” that the psalmist longed for (v. 166), just as He was for the aged Simeon who exclaimed, “For my eyes have seen Your salvation” (Luke 2:30).

The psalmist is so very sincere and it is his great love for God that causes him to follow the Law in the best way he can. He admits he had gone astray, like a lost sheep. Since He is God’s sheep, the Lord will indeed seek him out, find him, and restore him to the fold (v.176). He has purposed in his heart to have all his steps directed by God’s Word. It was not possible for sin to have dominion over him (v.133; Rom. 6:11-14). He might slip, but he would not stay down.

The psalmist did not try to figure out the meaning of the Torah with his own intellect. He constantly prayed for God to give him the understanding, and he acknowledged that truly the Lord did give him enlightenment and understanding (v. 130). The Holy Spirit unveils wonderful truths that give light in the darkness and cause one to truly live and have that “great peace” that the psalmist found (v. 144,165; Rom. 8:6,11). He gives spiritual discernment and causes us to have the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:12-16).

As an Old Testament person, the psalmist lived under the Law. Because of his deep desire to know God and the true essence of His Word (the spirit of the law, and not the letter of the law), he was in actuality led by the Spirit, and as such he was not literally under the law (Gal. 5:18; Rom. 7:6; 8:14). It was people such as himself, who loved God, longed for His salvation, were led by the Spirit, and had a passion for his Word (not from a head knowledge) who would have recognized Jesus as the Messiah when He came into the world, as did Simeon. Sadly, people of this type were very few. Even the Pharisees and Sadducees who prided themselves in their knowledge of the Law, did not recognize Jesus as the promised Messiah.

The Word of God leads us into all truth, so let us determine, as did the psalmist, to cherish the Bible, study it, and follow it. Truly the Word of God is rightly described in Psalm 119 as good, right, perfection, sweet, wonderful, righteous, upright, faithful, truth, a delight, and everlasting. Since God Himself is the author, and He is all these things, so is His Word.

Prayer

Father, as we receive Your Word today and cherish it in our hearts, we expect Your truth to pierce our innermost beings, revealing the thoughts and intentions of our hearts, which may be pleasing or displeasing to You. Thank You, again, for Your Words which are living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, and able to separate us from any evil and draw us unto You.