

PSALM 119:89-136

Speaking of Psalm 119, Matthew Henry says, "It seems to me to be a collection of [the author's]...short and sudden breathing of his soul to God,...in which there is seldom any coherence between the verses; but, like Solomon's proverbs, it is a chest of gold rings, not a chain of gold links." Let us look for the treasures in this section that are even more precious than fine gold (Psalm 119:127).

Review your memory verse. (Psalm 119:9-11)

Read Psalm 119:89-136.

Reread Psalm 119:89-96.

LAMEDH

1. In a world that offers no stability, what do we find about steadfastness here? See also Matthew 24:35.

It's been said that our whole outlook or philosophy of life is dependent on what we believe about creation. A person who does not know where he came from will find it futile to understand himself or to know where he is going.

2. What do you see is the opinion of the psalmist about creation? See also Psalm 33:6-9.

That same Word which spoke the heavens and earth into being preserves His people in their affliction today.

3. Examine these verses on affliction, verses 92-95. How does the psalmist see the Word preserving Him?

Following is a story of someone who was suffering affliction and profited from this psalm in a very unusual way.

The story is of a man who was facing an execution as a criminal. While waiting on the scaffold, he availed himself of the custom of the times which permitted the condemned to choose a psalm to be sung. He selected the 119th Psalm, and before two thirds of the song had been sung, a pardon arrived and his

life was spared. Whether this was a providential escape from death by a repentant sinner or only an ingenious device by one who was quite shrewd, is not clear, but the length of the psalm was employed to gain him time and it succeeded.

4. Have you experienced a new life and/or victory in the midst of affliction because of the Word? Explain.

“The very best things in the world fall short of perfection and come to an end, but the Word of God is perfect and infinite. The more we get to know the Bible, the more we realize how far short we ourselves come.” Wm. McDonald

5. What do you think the psalmist meant when he said he’d “seen a limit to all perfection” (verse 96)?

Reread Psalm 119:97-104.

MEM

6. In your own words, try to express the feelings the psalmist relays in verses 97 and 103.

7. Note the different groups of people mentioned in this section. List what the Word is called, what our responsibility is to it and what it can do for us in relation to these people in verses 98, 99 and 100.

What it’s called:

My responsibility:

What it does for me:

8. Give some examples of how the Word can make us:

a. wiser than our enemies

b. have more insight than our teachers

c. understand more than the aged or elders

9. See how Psalm 1 correlates with this section and make notes.

We need to be careful about our attitude towards our knowledge and understanding. Paul warns us in I Corinthians 8:1 that knowledge can make us proud, giving us a feeling that we have an edge on the truth. Everywhere among Evangelicals.... "we find persons who are Bible-taught but not Spirit-taught. They conceive truth to be something which they can grasp with the mind. If a man holds to the fundamentals of the Christian faith he is thought to possess divine truth. But it does not follow. There is no truth apart from the Spirit." A.W. Tozer

Reread Psalm 119:105-112.

NUN

10. Spend some time meditating on these eight verses and write a question or two from them to be discussed in class. You may want to note how the author relates the Word of God to the different parts of the body.

Reread Psalm 119:113-120.

SAMEDKH

11. We did some cross-references in Lesson 2. Using your Bible margin or a Bible concordance, list references beside each verse of this section that help amplify the meaning of the thoughts in it. You may want to jot down some phrases from the verse(s) to help you when you share in class.

Psalm 119 verses:

113 (Example) James 1:7, 8 Can't expect to receive anything from the Lord when we are double-minded or unstable in all our ways.

114

115

116

117

118

119

120

Reread Psalm 119:121-128.

AYIN

12. What is the situation here that seems to have thrown the psalmist into confusion?

13. Do you express your confusion and complaints to the Lord when you feel that He isn't dealing with your oppressors properly? If so, in what way?

The psalmist places great value on God's decrees, saying they are more precious to him than gold.

14. For those who wish to dig deeper, read Job 23. Note how Job expressed his complaints and insights.

15. Heart Check. What value do you place on God's ordinances? How has this changed your life when experiencing distress?

Reread Psalm 119:129-136.

PE

16. Why does the psalmist obey God's law?

17. Heart Check. What causes you to obey or not obey God's precepts?

18. As one who has been on a treasure hunt, what did you find in this lesson that was of more value to you than fine gold?

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