

The ABC's on the Word of God

Know the Word of God to Know the God of the Word:

(Hebrews 4:12)
For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (NASB)

(1Peter 2:2-3)
like newborn babies, long (e'pipoqhsate) for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord. (NASB)

(Psalm 119:47-48)
I shall delight in Your commandments, Which I love. And I shall lift up my hands to Your commandments, Which I love; And I will meditate on Your statutes.

Psalm 119

➤ One of the longest Psalms in the Psalter:
- A great intellectual achievement:
- An alphabetic acrostic psalm:

אֲשֶׁרִי תַמִּימֵי-דָרְךָ הֵהֱלֵכִים בְּתוֹרַת הַתְּהִיָּה:
אֲשֶׁרִי נֹצְרֵי עֲדֹתַי בְּכֹל-לֵב דָּרָשׁוּהוּ:
אִם לֹא-סָעֵלוּ עוֹלָה בְּדַרְכֵי הַלְכוּ:
אִתָּה צִנִּיתָה סִקְרִידָה לְשֹׁמֵר מֵאָדָם:
אֲחֵלִי יִכְנֹו דְרָכֶי לְשֹׁמֵר חֻקֶּיךָ:
אֲזֵ לֹא-אֲבוֹשׁ בְּהַבִּיטִי אֶל-כָּל-מִצְוֹתֶיךָ:
אוֹדֶךָ בְּיֶשֶׁר לִבִּי בְּלִמְדֵי מִשְׁפָּטֶיךָ צְדָקָתְךָ:
אֶת-חֻקֶּיךָ אֲשֶׁמֹר אֶל-תַּעֲזֹבֵנִי עַד-מֵאָדָם:

Psalm 119

➤ One of the longest Psalms in the Psalter:
➤ One of the most beautiful Psalms which focuses upon devotion to the Law of the Lord:
➤ One in which the Psalmist reflects absolute devotion to the Lord:
The psalmist has –
- experienced the oppression of evil
- pursued by the arrogant
- surrounded by wickedness
- humbled by sorrow and disgrace
But the psalmist has repeatedly found refuge in God:

a

As is typical of the majority of this Psalm the opening section begins on the note of obedience to the Word of God as the key to life:
This psalm gives appreciation to and commendation of Israel's revelation-based ethics:
It was the psalmist's privilege to celebrate the fundamental reality that the word of God is central to the life of God's people:
Our God is a God who speaks and it is the possession of that verbal revelation which marks us off uniquely as His people:

a

A. The Objective Facts (vv. 1-4)
1. *Blessed are those who live by the Word with constancy and commitment (v. 1-3)*
a) They are in a state of blessedness (yrva) (vv. 1, 2 blessed, blessed)
b) They are living a life integrated round the law of the Lord (v. 1, 2, 3)
(1) *Outwardly – Walk (-ykhth) (v. 1b)*
(2) *Inwardly – Heart (b-lrb) (v. 2b)*
"With all (undivided) their heart (b)@-lk"B=) continuously seeking (WhWvrad=y)"
c) They are people of integrity – Blameless (ymymt) (v. 1a):
d) They are who they are because of the Word of God:
- The real intended praise here is not the individual but the Word of God:
- Only because of the Word of God do they become subjects of this beatitude:

a

A. The Objective Facts (vv. 1-4)
1. *Blessed are those who live by the Word with constancy and commitment (v. 1-3)*
a) They are in a state of blessedness (yrva) (vv. 1, 2 blessed, blessed)
b) They are living a life integrated round the law of the Lord (v. 1, 2, 3)
(1) *Outwardly – Walk (-ykhth) (v. 1b)*
(2) *Inwardly – Heart (b-lrb) (v. 2b)*
c) They are people of integrity – Blameless (ymymt) (v. 1a):
d) They are who they are because of the Word of God:
2. *Because it is His Word and intended to be obeyed (v. 4)*
a) "You yourself" (hT"a^A) ordained to keep (rmvl) (v. 4)

a

A. The Objective Facts (vv. 1-4)
B. The Subjective Longing (vv. 5-8)
1. *There is personal longing (ylfā) (v. 5a)*
a) **Longing for steadfastness (v. 5a,b)**
"Established" it is 'being set in one's ways'
- Fixed as to their tendency:
- O that the bent of my mind might be fixed in the direction "to keep Your statutes!"
b) **Longing leading to no shame (v. 6a)**
2. *There is expectation (v. 6)*
- "Not ashamed" (voba@-al)

a

A. The Objective Facts (vv. 1-4)

B. The Subjective Longing (vv. 5-8)

1. *There is personal longing (yjl̄a)* (v. 5a)

a) Longing for steadfastness (v. 5a,b)

b) Longing leading to no shame (v. 6a)

2. *There is expectation* (v. 6)

3. *There is resolve* (vv. 7-8)

a) "I shall give thanks" (;*doa*) (v. 7)

(1) "With uprightness of heart":

(2) "When learning Your righteous judgments"

- God's judgments are "righteous" (*qdx*) in that they establish divine order, providing for His people a sense of deliverance and freedom:

a

A. The Objective Facts (vv. 1-4)

B. The Subjective Longing (vv. 5-8)

1. *There is personal longing (yjl̄a)* (v. 5a)

a) Longing for steadfastness (v. 5a,b)

b) Longing leading to no shame (v. 6a)

2. *There is expectation* (v. 6)

3. *There is resolve* (vv. 7-8)

a) "I shall give thanks" (;*doa*) (v. 7)

(1) "With uprightness of heart":

(2) "When learning Your righteous judgments"

b) "I shall keep" (*rmva*) (v. 8)

(1) *With YHWH's help* (v. 8b)