

Chronological: A Journey Thru Scripture

Walking in the Word Psalm 119

Before I preach this morning, I want to say a word about **Memorial Day**. I want to remind you that it's not just about a day off, BBQs or the kick-off to summer activities. **Memorial Day is a time of remembrance**. A time when we pay tribute and remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. While you're enjoying the day off tomorrow, pause and remember that your freedom was paid for by the blood of patriots.

Today will mark week 17 in our sermon series....

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Let me challenge you to keep reading! But remember our **reading is not for information but transformation**.

Today we will look at another Psalm...actually it is a Psalm that fits well at this stage in our chronological reading plan because it is a Psalm on God's Word.

Of course I am talking about Psalm 119, the **longest chapter in the bible** with **176 verses**. **Containing 22 sections of 8 verses** each, which represent the **Hebrew alphabet**.

There are also **8 synonyms** the Word of God found in the book...

1. Law (torah) used 25xs
2. Word (debar) used 24xs
3. Testimonies (edah) used 24xs
4. Ordinances (mishpatim) used 23xs
5. Commandments (mitsvah) used 21xs
6. Statutes (choq) used 21xs
7. Precepts (piggudim) used 21xs
8. Word (imrah) used 19xs

Combined together they **total 178 times** that the Word of God is referred to in **176 verses**. I would say that Bible is important, wouldn't you?

Let's look at **the key verses**...

Psalm 119:1–2 (NKJV) — 1 Blessed are the undefiled in the way, Who walk in the law of the Lord! 2 Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart!

Here is the secret to **satisfaction and joy in the believer's life**...living a life of **obedience to the Word** of God and **seeking after** God diligently. When you read the Psalm, you learn how to do both.

How are you doing? Are you walking in the Word?

Ok, are you ready to dive in?

1. The Authority of the Word

Psalm 119:160 (NKJV) — 160 The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

When you **consider all 8 synonyms** found in the Psalm; law, word, testimonies, ordinances, commandments, statutes, precepts, word...they all point to the fact that the **Word is authoritative**.

One commentator says...

"The sum effect of these terms is that the Scriptures speak with God's authority. They are not Reader's Digest type of hints on how to live or suggestions for success. What the Bible says, God's says. Obedience is not optional for us as believers."¹

There is a **famine of the Word** in many churches today. Too many pastors are using the Bible to teach people **pop psychology**. Others are taking the verses of the Bible and using them **out of context**, making the fit their **brand of theology**. There are others who use the Bible for their **own personal gain**. And there are others who are **avoiding the hard topics** of the bible, claiming to be more **relevant to our culture**.

Folks you can't twist, change, adapt or circumvent God's Word.

¹ Cole, Steven J., Psalm 119: The Priority of God's Word, www.bible.org

The bible speaks with Authority!

2. The Sufficiency of the Word

Psalm 119:24 (NKJV) — 24 Your testimonies also are my delight And my counselors.

If the bible is authoritative, it naturally follows that it is also sufficient.

John MacArthur on the sufficiency of Scripture wrote...

God's Word is sufficient to meet every need of the human soul as David verifies frequently in his psalms. Psalm 19:7-14 is the most comprehensive statement regarding the sufficiency of Scripture. It is an inspired statement about Scripture as a qualified guide for every situation. Scripture is comprehensive, containing everything necessary for one's spiritual life. Scripture is surer than a human experience that one may look to in proving God's power and presence. Scripture contains divine principles that are the best guide for character and conduct. Scripture is lucid rather than mystifying so that it enlightens the eyes. Scripture is void of any flaws and therefore lasts forever. Scripture is true regarding all things that matter, making it capable of producing comprehensive righteousness. Because it meets every need in life, Scripture is infinitely more precious than anything this world has to offer.²

Here is what we learn from Psalm 119 about sufficiency...

⇒ **Revives the Soul**

Psalm 119:25 (NKJV) — 25 My soul clings to the dust; Revive me according to Your word.

⇒ **Comforts Us in Trials**

Psalm 119:50 (NKJV) — 50 This is my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life.

² MacArthur, John F., The Sufficiency of Scripture, TMSJ 15/2 (Fall 2004) 165-174, www.tms.edu

⇒ Gives Direction for Life

Psalm 119:104–105 (NKJV) — 104 Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way. **105** Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

⇒ Keeps Us Pure

Psalm 119:9 (NKJV) — 9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

⇒ Brings Joy

Psalm 119:14 (NKJV) — 14 I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches.

⇒ Provides Hope

Psalm 119:81 (NKJV) — 81 My soul faints for Your salvation, But I hope in Your word.

⇒ Imparts Wisdom

Psalm 119:98 (NKJV) — 98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me.

3. The Application of the Word

⇒ Learn the Word

Psalm 119:33–34 (NKJV) — 33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes, And I shall keep it to the end. **34** Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

⇒ Meditate on the Word

Psalm 119:15–18 (NKJV) — 15 I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways. **16** I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word. **17** Deal bountifully with Your servant, That I may live and keep Your word. **18** Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law.

⇒ Love the Word

Psalm 119:163–167 (NKJV) — 163 I hate and abhor lying, But I love Your law. 164 Seven times a day I praise You, Because of Your righteous judgments. 165 Great peace have those who love Your law, And nothing causes them to stumble. 166 Lord, I hope for Your salvation, And I do Your commandments. 167 My soul keeps Your testimonies, And I love them exceedingly.

⇒ Obey the Word

Psalm 119:4–8 (NKJV) — 4 You have commanded us To keep Your precepts diligently. 5 Oh, that my ways were directed To keep Your statutes! 6 Then I would not be ashamed, When I look into all Your commandments. 7 I will praise You with uprightness of heart, When I learn Your righteous judgments. 8 I will keep Your statutes; Oh, do not forsake me utterly!

CONCLUSION:

Take the Word and...

- ⇒ Know it in Your Head
- ⇒ Stow it in Your Heart
- ⇒ Show it in Your Life
- ⇒ Sow it in Your World