

Are You A Casualty — Have You Left the Lord & His Church? {concluded}

by Bill Crews

because of you; someone else may be using you as his excuse for not doing right.)

If you will acknowledge your sins before God and penitently ask His forgiveness (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9; Revelation 2:4-5), you can once more be relieved of the burden of guilt and made whiter than the new-fallen snow. Go where faithful saints gather to worship God and tell them of your plight, your need, and your desire. If possible, go among those from whom you wandered away — right matters where the wrong occurred. But, by all means, come back to the Lord.

Hear the words of the Lord: *“As many as I love, I reprove and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me”* (Revelation 3:19-20).

Psalm 119

by Wayne Goff

This psalm may be largely overlooked because of its 176 verses! It is, in fact, the longest chapter in the Bible. But for those who take the time to read it, there is great value.

Magnifying God's Word

As most might realize, the overriding theme of the chapter is the beauty, power and magnitude of God's Word and the great reward that comes from obeying it. *“Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart”* (v. 2). The “blessings” that come from obeying God's Word include a good way of life (vv. 3, 30, 45, 59-60, 101, 105), an upright heart (v. 6), cleansing (v. 8), Divine direction (vv. 7-11, 24, 133), valuable meditations (vv. 14, 23, 27, 48, 97, 148), wisdom (vv. 18, 46, 98-100), understanding (vv. 27, 66, 73, 169), comfort (vv. 28, 40, 50, 76, 111), great peace (v. 165), faithfulness (vv. 32-35, 44, 112), avoiding vain thoughts and ways (vv. 36, 104), and not the least — salvation (vv. 41, 81, 94, 123, 146, 166, 174). He even goes so far as to magnify his own *affliction* which was overcome by keeping God's Word (vv. 67, 71, 75, 107, 153)! The Psalmist is well aware of the frailty and uncertainty of life (vv. 84, 92-93, 141, 143-144).

In contrast, the Psalmist repeatedly points out the condemnation and sad plight of the disobedient (vv. 21, 23, 60, 69, 78, 85-87, 95, 110, 118-119, 122), as well as his total disgust with their unbelief (vv. 51-53, 70, 115, 126, 134, 136, 150, 155, 157-158, 161)!

God's Word and all its benefits are more valuable than silver and gold (vv. 72, 127, 162) — it alone can lead to eternal life! *“Forever, O LORD, your word is settled in heaven”* (v. 89). God's faithfulness is obvious in both the natural world and the spiritual world (v. 90-91). *“The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever”* (v. 160).

Synonyms for God's Message

Notice the **synonyms** used for God's Word in this psalm: law, testimonies, ways, precepts, statutes, commandments, righteous judgments, word, truth, ordinances, and righteous word. The chapter magnifies God's revelation and enumerates the benefits of obeying it.

Reading it over several times gives one the benefit of **focusing** on the various aspects or angles of the psalm. It is well worth a little bit of your time, and it gives you something to think about in the quiet moments of life, or in times when sleep evades you.

“Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble” (v. 165).

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (v. 105).

“I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts” (vv. 99-100).

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