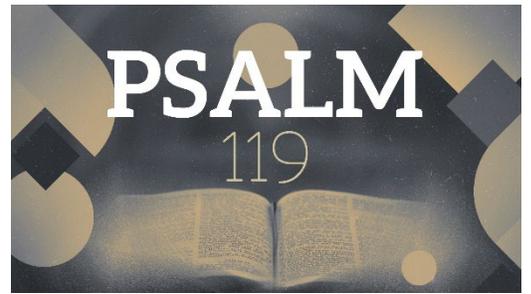


Psalm 119:89-96: Three Qualities
5/22/22



Introduction: *Think of someone you can count on...*

Theme: **God's Word can be counted on.**

Psalm 119:89-96

89 *Forever, O LORD, your word
is firmly fixed in the heavens.*

90 *Your faithfulness endures to all generations;
you have established the earth, and it stands fast.*

91 *By your appointment they stand this day,
for all things are your servants.*

92 *If your law had not been my delight,
I would have perished in my affliction.*

93 *I will never forget your precepts,
for by them you have given me life.*

94 *I am yours; save me,
for I have sought your precepts.*

95 *The wicked lie in wait to destroy me,
but I consider your testimonies.*

96 *I have seen a limit to all perfection,
but your commandment is exceedingly broad.*

Review of Psalm 119 and the section right before our passage:

I. Two qualities of the Word of God are declared by the psalmist. Psalm 119:89-91

a. The PERMANENCE of God's Word.

Psalm 119:89 *Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.*

i. God's Word is said to last.

Psalm 119:89 **Forever**, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

ii. God's Word is said to stand firm.

Psalm 119:89 *Forever, O LORD, your word is **firmly fixed** in the heavens.*

iii. God's Word is said to be apart from this world.

Psalm 119:89 *Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed **in the heavens.***

iv. Illustration: a permanent marker

v. Illustration: Jeremiah 36

Jeremiah 36:2 *"Take a scroll and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel and Judah and all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah until today.*

Jeremiah 36:27-28 *Now after the king had burned the scroll with the words that Baruch wrote at Jeremiah's dictation, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: 28 "Take another scroll and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah has burned.*

b. The SUSTAINING POWER of God's Word. Psalm 119:90-91

i. A line that connects both qualities.

Psalm 119:90 *Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.*

ii. The psalmist shows how the earth attests to this quality.

Psalm 119:90 *Your faithfulness endures to all generations; **you have established the earth, and it stands fast.***

- iii. It's ultimately the Word of God that sustains the earth.

Psalm 119:90-91 *Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast. 91 **By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants.***

1. *Appointment* = rules
2. We know from the book of Genesis that God spoke into existence His creation:

Genesis 1:3 **And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.**

Genesis 1:6-8 **And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." 7 And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. 8 And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.**

- iv. God's Word sustains all things.

Psalm 119:91 *By your appointment they stand this day, **for all things are your servants.***

- c. **Application:** How should this impact us? How should this knowledge of God's Word that it is permanent, and it sustains, change our lives? How is it instructive for how we relate to the Bible?

II. The Psalmist's life. Psalm 119:92-95

- a. The situation of the psalmist. Psalm 119:92-95

- i. The psalmist would have been completely overwhelmed and despaired because of what he faced.

Psalm 119:92 *If your law had not been my delight, **I would have perished in my affliction.***

- ii. The psalmist needed to be revived from how low his suffering brought him.

Psalm 119:93 *I will never forget your precepts, **for by them you have given me life.***

- iii. The psalmist needed to be rescued and delivered from this situation.

Psalm 119:94 *I am yours; save me, for I have sought your precepts.*

- iv. The psalmist anticipates being attacked by others.

Psalm 119:95 *The wicked lie in wait to destroy me, but I consider your testimonies.*

- v. And this picture the psalmist paints of his situation I am sure we can relate to in many many ways...

b. The psalmist rests on the Word of God. Psalm 119:92-95

- i. The psalmist finds pleasure in God's Word.

Psalm 119:92 *If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.*

- ii. The psalmist declares that he will not let God's Word out of his mind.

Psalm 119:93 *I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life.*

- iii. The psalmist studies and practices God's Word.

Psalm 119:94 *I am yours; save me, for I have sought your precepts.*

- iv. The psalmist has his attention on God's Word.

Psalm 119:95 *The wicked lie in wait to destroy me, but I consider your testimonies.*

v. Application:

1. *When we get in trouble we usually go to God for help, which the writer did too. But we often stop at that point, expecting God to intervene all by himself, miraculously, without any work on our part. The psalmist was wiser than we are, for while he prayed for help, he also did what he was able and obliged to do: He studied and meditated on the Bible. He knew that although it is God who must work, God nevertheless works through means, and in the matter of lifting us out of our trouble and setting our feet on a sure foundation, the only indispensable means of deliverance and growth is Bible study.*

Boice, James Montgomery. Psalms 107–150: An Expository Commentary. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2005. Print.

2. He was in the Word before trouble came:

Psalm 119:92 *If your law **had not been my delight**, I would have perished in my affliction.*

Psalm 119:94 *I am yours; save me, for I have sought your precepts.*

3. Several questions to ask yourself:

- a. Can you say with the psalmist that you actually DELIGHT in it...that the Bible brings you pleasure and satisfaction?
- b. Can you say with the psalmist that you will FOREVER NEVER FORGET God's Word? That you will seek to never let it out of your mind and you'll never turn from it. *What are you doing now to make this possible?*
- c. Can you say with the psalmist that you SOUGHT and are seeking God's Word? Reading it, studying it, searching it, practicing it and following it intently?
- d. Can you say with the psalmist that you are CONSIDERING the Word of God? Are you thinking about the Word, meditating on it, turning a verse over and over in your mind trying to figure out what it means, what it is trying to communicate, how you can practically live it out?
- e. In your time of suffering **right now**, are you resting on God's Word?
- f. In your times of suffering **in the past**, did you rest on God's Word?
- g. In your times of suffering **in the future**, will you rest on God's Word? Will God's Word be that rock, be that thing that you know you can count on in your life when you are being tossed to and fro by the waves of life?

III. Another quality given about the Word.

Psalm 119:96 *I have seen a limit to all perfection, but your commandment is exceedingly broad.*

a. A third quality of God's Word = INEXHAUSTIBLE

Psalm 119:96 *I have seen a limit to all perfection, but your commandment is exceedingly broad.*

- i. BROAD here means extensive, far reaching, unlimited, measureless, comprehensive...
 - ii. The idea is that the Word of God covers all situations and meets all needs.
 - iii. Further its depths cannot be fully discovered.
- b. The psalmist compares this to all things we know, even things we would like to call or think of as 'perfect' or near perfect.

Psalm 119:96 *I have seen a limit to all perfection, but your commandment is exceedingly broad.*

c. **Application:**

The point Psalm 119:89-96 is trying to get across: The Bible can be counted on as it is PERMANENT, SUSTAINING, and INEXHAUSTIBLE.