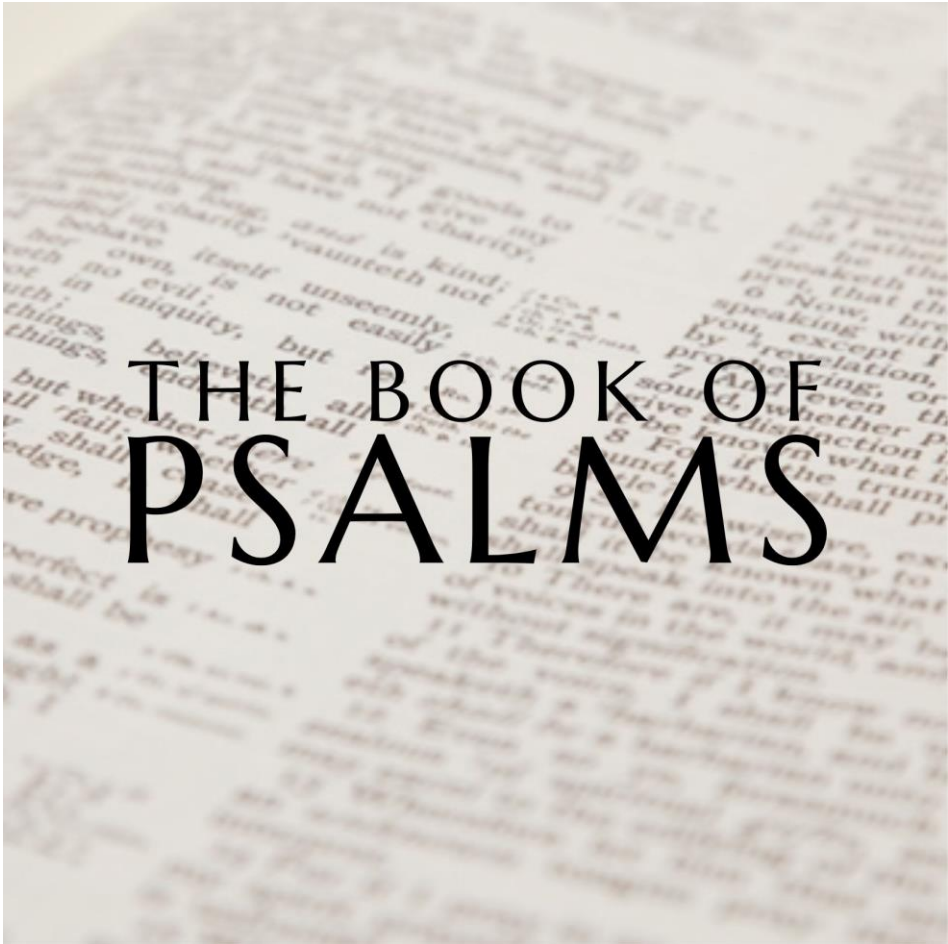


Daily Worship Booklet

2nd – 6th September 2024



God tells us that Ezra read from the book of the Law, day after day, and the people of God were filled with joy!

Bible Classes are now on their summer break and will resume on 15th September 2024, God willing.

Psalm of the Week

Psalm 119Q - The words are on page 8.

Please pray for:

Mon - Dan & Jaycee & Elias Ortega

Tues - Herbert Ortega

Wed - Bob Parry

Thur - Colin & Corine, Ella, Rose, Lucy, Mabel, Hendrik & Beatrice
Postma

Frid - Andrew & Heather, Caitlin & Catherine Quigley

Notes on Psalm 19 AND Psalms written by Dr. Thomas Donachie.

Pray for the Holy Spirit's help as you study God's Word.

Monday – Psalm 19:10, Psalm 119:137-144 – Instruction and Testimony.

The first word used to describe God's revelation in His Word is 'law', and the second is Testimony. This does not just refer to the Ten Commandments or, indeed, the Torah, but instead has the meaning of instruction or direction and encompasses the whole of the scriptures. The Word of God in both the Old and New Testaments has been given to enable men and women to know God and His salvation, and to walk in His ways daily.

That the Word can do that is made clear by the characteristics assigned to it; it is perfect, and it is sure! There is no falsehood nor error in the law of the Lord; it always tells the truth, and leads those who read it and believe it in right and honest ways. Not only is the Word of God error-free, but it is also whole and complete. It tells us everything we need to know about God and the Lord Jesus Christ. It instructs us about sin and teaches us about the true nature of man. It is no wonder that the psalmist speaks of the effect of the law of the Lord in that it 'converts or restores the soul'.

Paul tells us in Romans 10:17 that “faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ.” When he spoke to the Ephesian elders at Miletus, he told them of the restorative power of the Word when he said, “I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” (Acts 20:32).

So, the perfect law of the Lord can save the sinner from his sin and bring him to a knowledge of the truth; it is also able to bring the backslider back from his wandering away from the Lord and build up the believer in his faith. No wonder the psalmist says, 'God's law is perfect and converts the soul in sin that lies.'

Q1. What does 'law' mean in the psalm?

Q2. How does the law of the Lord build up believers in their faith?

Memory Verse

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.” Psalm 19:14

Tuesday - Psalm 19:8; Psalm 119:169-176 – Light in Darkness.

In the world in which we live, there is more information available to the average person than ever before, through the various types of media that have proliferated in recent years. There has also been the rise of 'fake' news, so it is difficult to determine what is true and what is false in what we read, see or hear. Honesty and truthfulness are no longer as evident in society as once they were. Even the laws or the statutes passed in parliaments increase moral darkness rather than light. In verse 8 of the Psalm, David draws our attention to statutes or ordinances that are right and commandments that are pure and holy.

In contrast to the corrupt or perverted precepts of men, those that come from God are 'right' and 'pure', because they are expressions of His absolute rectitude and impeccable holiness. For the child of God, the statutes and commandments of the Lord are not burdensome nor tiresome, but joyful and pleasant because they remove from him the darkness of error. There is no doubt that the modern world is morally a very dark place. Things are now accepted as usual, which were considered abhorrent and immoral not many years ago. We now live in a culture where all beliefs are considered equally valid.

The Christian rejoices that God has not left His people to stumble in the darkness but has shown them exactly what He requires. God's law teaches the Christian what he must believe; he does not have to study great amounts of philosophy or compare one set of religious beliefs with another to come to the truth, for it is laid out plainly and simply in the Word of the Lord. It teaches him what he must do and what he must shun if he is to please God. In a world of shifting morality, where society has no absolute moral standards, and good is called evil and evil good, the believer can rejoice because he does have an absolute and unchangeable standard by which he can regulate and judge his behaviour.

Q1. Why is the Word of God called 'straight'.

Q2. Why does the Word 'rejoice the heart'?

Q3. What must we do so that we do not walk in darkness?

Memory Verse

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.” Psalm 19:14

Wednesday – Psalm 19:11-14 – The Warnings from the Word.

The psalmist opens this short section by reminding his readers that one of the purposes of this precious and sweet Word is to warn against sin, and encourage believers in obedience by pointing to the blessing of the Lord granted to the faithful. He acknowledges that sin, in its very nature, is deceitful, and the child of God often fails to recognize when he does sin against the Lord. “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?” Jeremiah 17:9.

It is always good to remember that, no matter how hard we try, we fail to understand our errors because the evil one is subtle and easily outwits us and causes us to sin, even when we do not want to; as Paul says in Romans 7:19 “For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.” So, the psalmist prays that God would cleanse him from secret faults, but not only so, he goes on to admit that as well as the secret sins, there are those that he calls 'presumptuous', sins which could easily have dominion over him.

It is a sad fact that believers have besetting sins; things which would have no attraction for one believer can be beguiling for another, so the psalmist prays for protection from these sins. The Christian should develop the habit of self-examination to more easily identify these besetting sins, confess them and repent, so that he may “be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.” The Psalm ends with the desire of the psalmist to live a life of holiness before the Lord. If the thoughts of our hearts are pure, and the words we speak are acceptable to the Lord, then we shall live a life that conforms to the Word of God, and is thus pleasing in the sight of the holy God.

Q1. What rewards come to those who keep the law of the Lord?

Q2. Why does the psalmist ask for cleansing from secret sins?

Q3. Why is self-examination so important?

Memory Verse

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.” Psalm 19:14

Thursday – Monday - Psalm 20 – Prayer in Times of Danger.

Psalm 20 gives no real indication of when it was written, but it does seem quite clear why it was written. The purpose is well stated by Luther when he says, 'It seems to me as if David had composed this psalm, that it might serve as a devout and pious battle-cry, whereby he might admonish himself and the people, and draw them to pray.' John Calvin considered that the psalm should be used as 'a common form of prayer', to be used when the church was threatened with any danger. It may be that David is repeating the prayers that the people are praying for him and the kingdom.

The Church of God, in both the Old and New Testaments, was constantly under attack from the forces of evil, and such has been the lot of the people of God ever since; so, it is necessary for the church to know what to do in those circumstances. As we consider this psalm this week and next, we shall look at three major things: the prayer that is offered; the confidence that is expressed; and the trust that is confessed.

The first thing David asks for, as he offers this prayer, is for help in a time of trouble, vs 1-2. Such prayer is important personally, in the church, and nationally. In all trials and difficulties, there is no better place to go than to the sovereign creator and sustainer of all things, for there is nothing too hard for the Lord, there is nothing more powerful than the Lord, and there is no one who cares more for His people than the Lord. David recognises that only the covenant God of Jacob can help and deliver him, so he pleads that God will hear him. So it is with the believer. Only because the believer is in a covenant relationship with God through Christ can he be assured that God will listen to his cry. When he pleads God's name, he calls upon God himself, as he has manifested himself in creation and the Word.

- Q1. Why is the church constantly under attack?
- Q2. Why does God listen to the prayers of His people?
- Q3. Does God always answer the prayers of His people?

Memory Verse

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.” Psalm 19:14

Friday – Psalm 20:2-3; Psalm 3 – Prayer For Acceptable Worship.

When the psalmist cries out to God for His help and protection, and asks that God would send him help from on high (v. 2), it is not a prayer in a vacuum. David and the people of Israel could approach God for help in times of trouble because they were accustomed to approaching God regularly in worship.

Many cry out to the Lord when facing difficulties or trials, but have no thought of God when everything is going well. That was not the case with David or the people who prayed for him. So, they ask that God would be pleased to look favourably on the faithful worship that had been offered, and accept the offering of the required sacrifices that had taken place.

When God is pleased to accept and bless the worship of His people, it is a good sign of His favour. Not all worship, however, is acceptable to God, as the story of Cain and Abel aptly illustrates. Both brothers presented offerings to the Lord, and there is no suggestion in Genesis 4 that Cain brought anything other than the best of his produce; the problem was that God demanded a blood sacrifice for there to be acceptable worship. Right from the earliest days of human history, God has specified exactly how He will be approached in worship. It has never been left up to man how to come to God; however it pleases him best. The elaborate system of Tabernacle and Temple sacrifices was to be complied with in the smallest detail, if the sacrifices were to be pleasing to God.

Following the one sacrifice for sin forever that the Lord Jesus Christ made on Calvary, there are laid down in the New Testament the elements that should be included in God honouring worship; and it behoves the professing people of God to observe them both in letter and in spirit.

Q1. Why is it important to worship God continually?

Q2. What are the elements of true worship?

Memory Verse

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.” Psalm 19:14

Psalm 119Q

58. I've judged rightly and with justice;
Leave me not lest foes oppress.
Guarantee good for Your servant,
Lest the proud cause me distress.
Your just promise, Your salvation,
My eyes, failing, long to see.
With Your servant deal in mercy,
And Your statutes teach to me.

59. I'm Your servant; give me insight
That Your statutes I may know.
LORD, it is Your time for action,
For Your law they overthrow.
But I love all Your commandments
More than gold, the finest gold.
So Your precepts I deem upright,
All that's false in hatred hold.