

Aleph

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1) <u>How blessed</u> are those
whose way is blameless,
Who walk in the law of the Lord.</p> <p>2) <u>How blessed</u> are those who
observe His testimonies,
Who seek Him with all their heart.</p> <p>3) They <u>also</u> do no
unrighteousness; They
walk in His ways.</p> <p>4) <u>You</u> have ordained Your
precepts, That we should
keep them diligently.</p> | <p>5) <u>Oh that</u> my ways may be
established to keep Your statutes!</p> <p>6) <u>Then</u> I shall not be ashamed
When I look upon all Your
commandments.</p> <p>7) <u>I shall give thanks</u> to You with
uprightness of heart, When I learn
Your righteous judgments.</p> <p>8) <u>I shall keep</u> Your statutes;
Do not forsake me utterly!</p> |
|--|---|

The 119th Psalm is a Psalm that is focused on the Word of God. It is a Psalm in which the writer has a passion to know and understand and apply God's Word so that he might experience all of the blessings of God.

As we pointed out in the opening study, this Psalm is divided into 22 sections that correspond to the 22 Hebrew letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Each section is eight verses long and each verse in the section begins with a word of the same letter of the alphabet. So each verse in the "aleph" section begins with a word that starts with the letter "aleph."

We may observe as we begin this section that two times in **verse 1** and **verse 2**, the word "blessed" occurs. Actually, in Hebrew the word "blessed" (asheri) is the first word of both of these verses. As we mentioned, every verse in this section starts with a word that begins with the letter "a" (Aleph).

Now the word "blessed" (asheri) is a word that speaks of being right and straight from God's perspective to the point that it puts one in a favorable, successful and fortunate position in God's estimation to the point that He will bless the person (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 88). The person who is in a blessed state is in a happy state. It is right here where true happiness is found. **One who is in a favorable position with God, to the point that God is blessing, is the one that is in the ultimate happy condition.**

The blessed person, then, is one whom God views favorably. One in this state is in the best possible state in which one could be. Blessedness is not contingent upon our circumstances, relationships, people, finances, successes or popularity. Blessedness is solely determined by how God views us and our relationship with Him.

If God views the person favorably, regardless of how anyone else views it, that person is blessed. There can always be a sense of happiness and joy, knowing that God views one in a favorable way.

Now the opening eight verses of Psalm 119 start off with a statement about being in a “blessed” state or condition. In fact, it seems to me that the key point that starts off the Psalm is this:

THE ONE WHO IS IN THE MOST BLESSED STATE IS ONE WHO IS TOTALLY GIVEN OVER TO ACCURATELY UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING THE PRECIOUS WRITTEN WORD OF GOD.

There can be little doubt that it is knowledge of God’s Word that leads to a blessed state in God’s sight. When one knows the Word, one may apply the Word and that leads to a blessed state in God’s sight. If a believer is carefully searching the Scriptures and asking God for wisdom in understanding and applying God’s Word and seeking to know the whole counsel of God, that believer is in a blessed state by classification of God.

It is not the majority of individuals or churches who are in this blessed state from God’s perspective. Much of what is happening is a departure from a philosophy that says let us love the written Word, search the written Word and seek to make application of the written Word.

Remember the seven churches of Revelation? The church of Philadelphia had “little power” (Rev. 3:8). What this actually means is that this church was small in numbers when compared to other churches. It did not have the mega crowds or the mega dollars. But in God’s estimation, it was the most “blessed” of all of the churches because it was a church that had a commitment to the Word of God (Rev. 3:8, 10).

This Psalm magnifies the Word of God and when a church or individual magnifies the Word of God that person is a blessed person in the sight of God.

Now there are a couple of things to observe as we approach these opening verses:

- 1) No person has to be sinless to be a blessed person, but one does have to be focused on God’s written Word with a desire to obey it.
- 2) Several different words are used for the written Word of God in these verses:
 - A. “law of the LORD” (v. 1a) - God’s Word that communicates the orders of God.
 - B. “His testimonies” (v. 1b) - God’s Word testifies of God’s character and will.
 - C. “His ways” (v. 3) - God’s Word communicates the course or path of God’s ways.
 - D. “Your precepts” (v. 4) - God’s Word that gives instruction to men’s conduct.
 - E. “Your statutes” (vrs. 5, 8) - God’s Word definitively presents His legal ordinances.
 - F. “Your commandments” (v. 6) - God’s Word in its entirety instructs man and orders man.
 - G. “Your righteous judgments” (v. 7) - God’s Word showing what is judicially right.

God’s Word addresses all kinds of things and the more we know it and apply it the better off we will be.

BLESSED REALITY #1 – The blessed man is a blameless man who walks according to the Law of God. **119:1**

Here is a great truth that is very basic and yet profound. A blessed person is one who is focused on living life in accordance with the Word of God in a blameless way. In other words, the person God will bless is one who seeks to understand and apply the Word of God with integrity. In fact, the verse says he “walks in the law of the LORD,” which means this is his habit of life.

This does not mean the “blameless” person is sinless, because there are no sinless people. But this person is living life in the context of what is right and true according to the Word of God. The blameless person does not live life with a continual stain or blemish. He continually and habitually obeys the Word of God. The lifestyle reflects an integrity that walks in the ways of God.

Now the “law of the LORD” refers to the written Scriptures of the O.T. that were available at the time the Psalm was written. So the person who is blessed is one who does his or her best to line up his or her life with the written Word in a blameless way. In other words, there is no deceitfulness. The person who lives life this way will be a happy person, because he will be blessed by God.

One commentator said, “Oh the happiness of those who are blameless of way.”

BLESSED REALITY #2 – The blessed man is one who seeks with all of his heart to observe the testimonies of God. **119:2**

The Hebrew word “testimony” refers to the things God has revealed in His Word that testify of Him and His ways (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 608). The blessed person is one who has a heart to truly understand God’s Word so that he may make proper application.

Any person who will be blessed by God will be willing to ask himself, what is the way of my heart? Is my heart given to carefully and accurately understanding the written Word so that I may obey it? It is important to see that it is this focus of heart that is acceptable to God. The only way a blessed person can seek God and His Word is with all their heart.

There must be a desire to carefully understand and apply the Word of God, but one must also seek God with all of the heart in order to be able to do this. As one commentator said, most people have a divided heart, but blessed people seek God and His Word with all their heart.

It is very clear that the blessed person is one who has a passion in his heart to know, understand and apply all of the Word of God to his life. There is no way a half-hearted commitment to the Scriptures can lead to a blessed life. In fact, people who are not truly committed to the Word of God are miserable people, not happy people.

BLESSED REALITY #3 – The blessed man seeks to walk in the ways of God and does not seek to do unrighteous things. **119:3**

Any positive development in righteousness demands a negative departure from unrighteousness. It is obviously possible to continually walk in the ways of the Word of God and not in the ways of unrighteousness.

The blessed person does not continually involve himself in unrighteous things, but he continually seeks to walk in the righteous ways of God.

BLESSED REALITY #4 – The blessed man realizes God has ordained the precepts of His Word and seeks to diligently keep them. **119:4**

In Hebrew, this is a strong verse that literally says, “you, you laid down your precepts to keep and obey very much and fully.” This is a critical point to see. God Himself has carefully ordained His Word. God’s Word is not a mere human product.

God has sovereignly ordained everything in His Word. He has ordained the very precepts in His Word and the purpose of God giving us His Word is so that we should diligently study it and obey it and apply it.

The blessed person realizes that anything less than a diligence to understand and apply the Word of God is not only “dishonoring to God, but disastrous to us.”

BLESSED REALITY #5 – The blessed man asks that God would establish his ways so that he will keep God’s statutes. **119:5**

The blessed person is one who realizes he does not have the power within himself to have a passion to know God’s Word and he asks God to give him that passion.

The man, who is on the right track, has a wish to know God’s Word and always keep the Word of God. The desire of a right heart is to know and obey God’s Word. The blessed man is one who realizes the need to ask God for help, especially when it comes to seeing and understanding God’s Word. The blessed person realizes he needs Divine help to understand and obey the Word of God. He does not trust in himself for accomplishment, but he trusts in God.

We may determine whether or not we are a blessed person in part by asking a question: Do we desire that God would establish our ways so that we would keep His Word? Do we want God to work in our lives to the point that He establishes us so that we love Him and His Word?

BLESSED REALITY #6 – The blessed man desires to obey the Word to the point that he may look at all of it and not be ashamed. **119:6**

The blessed person is one who looks at all of the Word of God. The blessed person wants to know every book and every verse of Scripture so that he might make personal application. When a person is focused on this objective, he is not ashamed of this ever.

The blessed man is one who has a good conscience and is not ashamed. Now the truth is in order to be a blessed man, we must first be ashamed. We must be ashamed of the times we have not obeyed God's Word. All of us have those moments.

But when we can look at the entire Word of God and not be ashamed because we are seeking to know and apply it, we are a blessed person. This moment will ultimately come when we are finally out of this world. However, the goal of one who is blessed is to be able to look at everything in the Word of God and not be ashamed because one is pursuing an application of every bit of it.

We do learn a great principle here. If one carefully studies and obeys the Word of God, one will not be ashamed. You will never be ashamed of a passion to know all of God's Word. Sin and disobedience always leads to shame.

Shame always follows sin and shame always follows transgressions. One may escape shame by carefully looking at the written Word of God and seeking to apply it.

BLESSED REALITY #7 – The blessed man is one who is able to give thanks to God from an upright heart when he learns of God's judgments. **119:7**

Learning things about God excites the heart of one right with God. This is a very important principle to see; **before one can obey God's Word, one must know God's Word.** One must learn what God's Word says. When a person is in a blessed state, he can thank God at all times, including the times of righteous judgment.

BLESSED REALITY #8 – The blessed man is one who keeps God's statutes and is not utterly forsaken by God. **119:8**

If God leaves people to themselves, they have no chance. We need the Word of God. If God did not give us His Word, it would be utter abandonment.

The writer realized that without God's Word and presence there is no strength whatsoever to obey God's Word. The ability to keep the statutes of God is dependent upon the existence of the Word of God and on the presence of God.

The one who has this focus is a blessed person and a happy person.