

“Our True Guide”  
Psalm 119:105-112  
(Preached at Trinity, February 17, 2013)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. Introduction: In our postmodern world where there are no absolutes it would seem strange that there is one source of absolute unchanging truth—a perfect rule, a perfect guide. "*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*"
  2. This is a wonderful verse for memorization—God's Word does provide us infallible illumination for every path of life. It is light that shines brightly in the realm of darkness. It has great moral implications.
  3. There are two paths of life – a broad way and a narrow way.
    - a. The broad way is a way of darkness. It is a way of great evil and moral decay. But those on this path love it.  
**John 3:19 KJV** - "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."
    - b. The people of this world are blind, unable comprehend the darkness of their own hearts. Their minds are clouded by sin. We should take great pity upon them.  
Listen to Jesus:  
**Luke 23:34 KJV** - "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."
    - c. The other path is a narrow way, but it is the way of life. For those on this path, the Word of God is a torch and it lightens our way with brilliant light.
  4. This is the fourteenth stanza in **Psalm 119**. It is designated by the Hebrew letter נ – Nun. It describes the Word of God as that bright light that shines brightly in this world of darkness.
- I. The Word of God provides the ultimate light – it shines the way unto salvation
- A. Darkness is often used as a metaphor to describe the condition of lost humanity
    1. It is the exact opposite of God who dwells in brilliant unapproachable light  
**1 Timothy 6:16 NAU** - "who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen."
    2. It describes the great wickedness of the lost man's heart  
**Ephesians 5:8 NAS** - "for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light"
- 2 Corinthians 6:14 KJV** - "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"

- 3. Darkness describes the blindness of the fallen human heart. We grope about completely unable to find our way. We make decisions, thinking them to be wise but they are nothing more than an expression of our foolishness. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom"
  - B. God by His Word has brightly exposed this world of darkness  
**Psalm 119:105 KJV** - "Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."  
**1 Peter 2:9 KJV** - "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light"
  - C. The light of the Word describes God's rich illuminating grace
    - 1. He used His Word to expose the evil of our own heart
    - 2. He used His Word to shine upon us the glories of the Gospel and the excellence of Christ**2 Corinthians 4:6 KJV** - "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."
  - D. The Word of God is a clear light. It is plain, understandable. Its truths are accessible to the least in the church.
    - 1. The perspicuity of Scripture doesn't rule out the value of teachers or of careful study. It doesn't diminish the need for an educated clergy  
 Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch  
**Acts 8:30-31 NAS** - "he heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup> And he said, "Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?"
    - 2. The perspicuity of Scripture doesn't mean that the lost man is able to comprehend the spiritual truths of Scripture.
    - 3. The Word of God is sharp, powerful, and living because the Holy Spirit attends it with power – see **1 Cor. 2:9-14**
- II. The Word of God provides direction for the life of the believer
- A. The illuminating grace of **Verse 105** is the possession of God's people  
**Psalm 119:111** - " Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever:"
    - 1. The word for "testimonies" is sometimes translated statutes or ordinance
    - 2. In the context of **Psalm 119** it once again refers to God's Word
    - 3. The Word of God belongs to us. God has given it to us  
**Deuteronomy 29:29** - "The secret *things belong* unto the LORD our God: but those *things which are revealed belong* unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law."
    - 4. God has not left us without His Word  
**2 Peter 1:19 KJV** - "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:"

B. It provides direction in righteousness – **Verses 105-106**

1. “path” describes our course of life and “feet” describe our actions.  
It is Hebrew parallelism.  
God’s Word provides direction for our path. It informs our choices and keeps us from wandering into darkness  
**2 Timothy 3:16 KJV** - "All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"
2. How often God uses His Word to convict us of sin and turn us from the course we are on
3. But a light, no matter how bright, will serve little good if you don’t heed what it reveals. If you close your eyes you will still fall headlong into the pit. Listen to David:  
**Psalm 119:106 KJV** - "I have sworn, and I will perform *it*, that I will keep thy righteous judgments."
  - a. To look upon the Word and *SEE*, and understand is a great blessing
  - b. And then to have a heart to DO  
**James 1:22-25 KJV** - "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." <sup>23</sup> For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: <sup>24</sup> For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. <sup>25</sup> But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."
  - c. David had clearly seen and then determined in his heart to obey "*I have sworn, and I will perform it,*"
4. How do you view God’s Word? Do you approach it as if it doesn’t apply to you? Or have you sworn to obey it?
5. Have you surrendered your will to Christ? This is a vow that every Christian must make, a deliberate vow of perpetual obedience. We must resolve in our heart, I will obey God’s Word no matter what – so help me God.
6. As soon as we entertain it as an option we are bound to fall. We must fill our minds with God’s absolutes and then pray for God’s grace to stand upon His Word.  
**1 Corinthians 10:12-14 KJV** - "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. <sup>13</sup> There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*. <sup>14</sup> Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry."
  - a. We must pray that the Word of God would inform our mind and then God would make it an absolute

- b. I am a man, but I don't look at pornography – it isn't an option\ Listen to Job:  
**Job 31:1 KJV** - "I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?"  
**Job 31:1 NIV** - "I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a young woman."
  - c. I have determined to be satisfied with the love of my own wife  
**Proverbs 5:15-19 KJV** - "Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well.<sup>16</sup> Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets.<sup>17</sup> Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee.<sup>18</sup> Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.<sup>19</sup> Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love."
  - d. I've never set a hand upon my wife – it isn't an option
  - e. I never used the Lord's Day to study for school
7. We can find great comfort in the pity of our God. Sometimes even though we set our standards high, we fail. And then we find a gracious Master who binds up the brokenhearted.
- Psalm 103:13-14 KJV** - "Like as a father pitith *his* children, so the LORD pitith them that fear him.<sup>14</sup> For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we *are* dust."
- Samuel Bolton** – "In the Gospel God accepts affections for actions, endeavours for performance, desire for ability. A Christian is made up of desires, of mournings, thirstings, and bewailings: O that my ways were directed! O miserable man that I am! Here is Gospel perfection. . . Yet, God has mercy for 'can-nots', but none for 'will-nots'. God can distinguish between weakness and wickedness.
- C. Direction in adversity – **Verse 107**
- Psalm 119:107 KJV** - "I am afflicted very much"
1. God's people are not shielded from affliction.
  2. But the Word of God gives us understanding and encouragement  
**Psalm 34:19 KJV** - "Many are the afflictions of the righteous."
  3. In the midst of his trial David turned to the Word of God  
**Psalm 119:107 KJV** - "quicken me, O LORD, according unto thy word."
  4. David's prayer – "Revive me." And then he adds, "According to Thy Word."
- This refers to the nature of God's Word itself. The Bible is an endless source of comfort and exhortation. It reminds us of who we are and of God's boundless love for us. It convicts us of our sin and revives in us a spirit of holiness.
- Psalm 51:10 KJV** - "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."

D. Direction for worship – **Verse 108**

1. David beseeches God to accept his offerings – not the offerings of his purse but of his mouth.  
But then asks God to teach him.
2. The indication is we need God to teach us regarding our acts of worship  
God hasn't left us without direction in worship  
**John 4:23-24 KJV** - "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth."
  - a. Worship demands understanding who God is and who we are
  - b. Worship demands understanding how God desires to be worshipped.
  - c. These things are taught in God's Word
3. We believe in the regulative principle for worship – that our worship must be restricted to those elements commanded in Scripture.  
God desires us to worship Him in the simplicity of obedience, not in the creativity of our own imagination.

E. Direction in the midst of temptation from evil men – **Verses 109-110**

**Psalm 119:110 KJV** - "The wicked have laid a snare for me"

1. David declared emphatically that he would maintain his commitment to God no matter what
  - a. When his life was in danger he still maintained his principles  
**Psalm 119:109 KJV** - "My soul is continually in my hand: yet do I not forget thy law."
  - b. Forgetting God's law would be far worse than losing our life.
  - c. As the wicked continued to tempt him to sin he refused to turn from God's law  
**Psalm 119:110 KJV** - "The wicked have laid a snare for me: yet I erred not from thy precepts."
2. Some of these wicked ones David was speaking of were his own kinsmen, those who professed to be the people of God.
3. The wicked may be friends you've known for years. They may be family members, coworkers. In some cases they may even be professing Christians, church members.
4. God's Word always provides us direction especially in the midst of temptation

III. The Word of God directs the people of God until the end – **Verse 112**

A. On one hand this refers to the permanence of God's Word

1. God gave the church the Bible and the church has received it. The church didn't define the Bible. It merely received it.
2. God then preserved it. Every generation has enjoyed the heritage of God's Word. This is one of the arguments for the Textus Receptus which is comprised of the texts used by the majority of the church.
3. God's Word is really an expression of God Himself

4. God's people will continue to possess God's enduring Word until the end.  
**Psalm 119:111 KJV** - "Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever."  
**Matthew 24:35 KJV** - "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."
- B. It also points to the perseverance of God's people  
**Psalm 119:112 KJV** - "I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes alway, even unto the end."
  1. God's people have an unending attachment to God's Word.
  2. It is our possession, our treasure. It should be the great desire of our heart.

Conclusion:

1. O how we take our Bibles for granted. These Words must be our never ending delight.  
**Psalm 119:111 KJV** - "for they are the rejoicing of my heart."
2. If Christ is our inheritance and His Word declares Him then it is our greatest treasure.
3. May we purpose in our heart with ironclad resolution:  
"I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes alway, *even unto the end.*"