

Gems from Psalm 119

Introduction

When John Ruskin was an old man he reportedly said, “It is strange that of all the pieces of the Bible which my mother taught me, that which cost me the most to learn, and which was to my childish mind most repulsive the 119th Psalm has now become of all the most precious to me in its overflowing and glorious passion of love for the Law of God.”

Another great man, William Wilberforce, wrote in his diary, “Walked from Hyde park corner, repeating the 119th Psalm in great comfort.” Arno C. Gaebelin has written of the Psalm, “A careful reading of every section and meditation on the different verses will bring to every child of God spiritual blessing.”

I thought we might be well served to borrow from these great men by providing a piece of their delightful appreciation of the Psalm. Until our Lord returns Israel will be persecuted and surrounded by apostasy of their own brethren who despise the Word of God. The author of Psalm 119 writes of the benefits of the Word.

Let’s me capture a few of the blessed things spoken and recorded by Gaebelin in his book *The Book of Psalms*.

- Those who walk according to His Word are blessed (v.1)

Psa 119:1 Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.

- They do no iniquity (v.3)

Psa 119:3 They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways.

- Walking according to His Word does not leave ashamed (v. 6)

Psa 119:6 Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands.

- The Word cleanses (v. 9)

Psa 119:9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to the word.

- When hidden in the heart it keeps from sinning (v. 11)

Psa 119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

- It quickens and gives strength (vv. 25, 28)

Psa 119:25 I am laid low in the dust; preserve my life according to your word;

Psa 119:28 My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word.

- Mercies and salvation come through His Word (v. 41)

Psa 119:41 May your unfailing love come to me, O LORD, your salvation according to your promise;

- It is the ground of hope (v. 43)

Psa 119:43 Do not snatch the word of truth from my mouth, for I have put my hope in your laws.

- It is comfort in affliction (v. 50)

Psa 119:50 My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life.

- The Lord deals well with his servant according to His Word (v. 65)

Psa 119:65 Do good to your servant according to your word, O LORD.

- Merciful kindness and comfort are yours according to His Word (v. 76)

Psa 119:76 May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant.

- His Word is forever settled in the heavens (v. 89)

Psa 119:89 Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

- It is sweet unto the taste, sweeter than honey (v. 103)

Psa 119:103 How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

- It is a lamp unto the feet and a light for the path (v. 105)

Psa 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

- Through His Word we know Him as a hiding place and shield (v. 114)

Psa 119:114 You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word.

- It upholds and sustains the trusting heart (v 116)

Psa 119:116 Sustain me according to your promise, and I will live; do not let my hopes be dashed.

- The entrance of it giveth light and understanding to the simple (v. 130)

Psa 119:130 The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

- It can order our steps; no iniquity will then have dominion over us (v. 133)

Psa 119:133 Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me.

- It is beloved because it is very pure (v. 140)

Psa 119:140 Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.

- It is true from the beginning; all its righteous judgments endure forever (v. 160)

Psa 119:160 All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.

- It produces great rejoicing (v. 162)

Psa 119:162 I rejoice in your promise like one who finds great spoil.

- It leads to praise and worship (v. 164)

Psa 119:164 Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous laws.

- Great peace comes from it (v. 165)

Psa 119:165 Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.

Conclusion

Such are a few of the inspired sayings in praise of the Word of God. There is a deeper meaning to it all which will come to light in that day when Israel to whom “were committed the oracles of God” comes to its own and bursts forth in praise of Him who is the living Word of God.