

The *Psalms*

Songs to Keep Your Life in Tune



The
Blessings
of a Bible-based
Believer

Psalm 119:1-16



Message Guide | September 27, 2020

THE BLESSINGS OF A BIBLE-BASED BELIEVER

Today's Message (27 September 2020) / *Psalm 119:1-16*

*God's Word
is our only
dependable
light in this
world's
darkness.*

GROUP/FAMILY Discussion Questions

1. Does every Christian have to be a Bible scholar? How can a person who isn't a voracious reader become a person of the Word?
2. What should be the primary motivation for our obedience to God's Word? How do we reconcile the psalmist's love for God's law with the New Testament truth that we're no longer under the Law of Moses?
3. Pray together and ask God to make every person in your family/group see that God's best for each of you will be clearly revealed in God's Word.

Here is the mountain peak of Psalms, an expanded treatment of the blessed person of Psalm 1, the one who delights in God's Word. There are 8 synonyms for the Bible in the first 9 verses: "law", "testimonies", "ways", "precepts", "statutes", "commandments", "rules/judgments", and "word". These are repeated throughout Psalm 119. Our passage introduces concepts that will also be repeated in the whole psalm, so it is crucial to understand them now:

1. FIND JOY IN GOD'S JUDGMENTS: THE BLESSINGS OF KEEPING GOD'S WORD (vv. 1-8)

These are just some of the many blessings enumerated in Psalm 119. They are for those who really take time for the word of God and let it run their lives:

- ✓ Joy
- ✓ Righteousness
- ✓ Confidence
- ✓ Praise from a clean heart
- ✓ God's Presence – the poet used a rhetorical device to mean, "I know You won't forsake me as I keep Your word". Only someone who lives by God's word can pray like that!

Most of us chafe under rules, for we think they restrict us from doing what we want. But God's laws were given to free us to be all God wants us to be. They restrict us from doing what might cripple us and keep us from being our best.

2. FIND PURITY IN HIS PRECEPTS: THE PRINCIPLES OF KEEPING GOD'S WORD (vv. 9-16)

How do we stay pure in a fallen world? We can't do this on our own but must have counsel and strength more dynamic than the tempting influences around us. Where can we find that strength and wisdom? By reading God's Word and doing what it says.

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What We Must Do with the Bible

1. *Obey it* (vv. 1–8).
To keep the Word is to obey it, to walk in its commandments. Satan knows the Bible, but cannot obey it. If we know God's truth and fail to obey it, we are only fooling ourselves.
2. *Study it* (vv. 7, 12).
The psalmist prays at least twelve times in Psalm 119 "Teach me." The Christian who daily studies his Bible will be blessed of God. Bible study is not always easy, for it takes the "whole heart" (vv. 2, 10, 34, 69, 145).
3. *Memorize it* (v. 11). "I have stored up your word in my heart that I might not sin against you".
This is about "The best Book, in the best place, for the best purpose!" We must store the word of God in our hearts by memorizing it. We should let the truths of Scripture soak in our hearts until they shape our loves, hopes, and imagination. Jesus is the greatest model of this. His heart was so shaped by Scripture that it came to mind whenever He was in need or difficulty (Matthew 4:4, 26:31).
4. *Declare it* (vv. 13).
As we obey, we should witness to others about the Word and tell them what the Lord has done for us.
5. *Meditate on it* (vv. 15, 16).
Meditation is to the soul what digestion is to the body. To meditate means to "turn over" God's Word in the mind and heart, to examine it, to compare Scripture with Scripture, to "feed on" its wonderful truths. In this day of noise and confusion, meditation is rare but so crucial. This is impossible without memorization (v. 16).

Final Thoughts:

The Bible is our only guide for faith and practice. We know it teaches what to believe, but we are often tempted to look elsewhere concerning how to live. Believers sometimes turn away from God during distress and consult those who offer false hope. God's Word is our only dependable light in this world's darkness.

Isaiah 8:19-20 "*...should not a people inquire of their God? ...To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn*".

The greatest tool we have to navigate life is still God's Word. The Word of God should "dwell in us richly" (Colossians 3:16). Does it? ■

BELONGING TO GOD'S SHEEP PASTURE AND SHEEP PENS IN GCF

How can GCF be God's one flock growing in two venues (gathered corporately and gathered intimately) and reaching out to our *oikos* and beyond? Consider these conceptual handles:

Each of the cluster shepherds (pastors/elders) oversees the livestock grazing of at least 100 (cf. Luke 15:4) of his herd of sheep (together with his 10 co-shepherds, *aka* small group leaders) to be fed in the pasture land, as they all flock into the big church gathering. This is intended to transform them into a *worshipful* and *prayerful* big flock group as they corporately glorify the "Great Shepherd of the sheep" (Heb. 13:20) each week. Having had their fill, the livestock keepers then led them back to their respective sheep pens to spend a large part of their time to rest and ruminate the spiritual food they lavishly feasted on. Regularly, the 10 co-shepherds of each of the cluster shepherds intimately gather the scattered herd in manageable sizes to about groups of ten, to continue feeding, leading, and caring for them. This gradual process will edify them until they develop into *maturing* and *multiplying* small flock groups that also reproduce and feed their own lambs and nurture their own sheep.

As Christ's undershepherds, each of the cluster shepherds must also look after the spiritual welfare of his 10 co-shepherds. First and foremost, his shepherding role involves having a life-on-life relationship with them to see if worship and disciple-making are becoming their lifestyle personally and corporately, in both small and big group gatherings. He also trains them how to encourage their group attendees to formalize their membership and ministry to the church, produce new small group leaders, and then birth new

small groups. Each of these individual sheep pen area shepherds also reaches out to other wandering flocks that are not of his sheepfold and yet desiring to enter the "Gate for the sheep" (John 10:7, 9) to behold Him who is the "Lamb of God" (John 1:29, 36). Having the craving to lie down and graze on the lush "green hills," any long-lost sheep could not wait to be also welcomed into the Christian fold of his "fellow-sheep".

The small group mission, in being a scattered church, is not only for the sole purpose of disciple-making as small flock groups, but also for worshiping as a big flock group (together with other small groups) in being a gathered church. If on one hand, a true worshiper disciples the fold in a small group; a true disciple-maker, on the other hand, also worships the Lord in a big group. Every maturing sheep is a discipler and a worshiper at the same time; but the primary aim of discipleship is to generate the latter – a worshiper who disciples the flock for God's glory.

Hence, producing more disciple-makers should be intended to culminate in producing more worshipers. As God's flock from various pasture lands will someday be gathered together before the Lamb, the main activity is worship, which is the ultimate goal of discipleship on earth so heaven will be filled with worshipers (Rev. 7:9-12, 17). Therefore, for the glory of God, GCF as Christ's church shall become maturing and multiplying small flock groups that are worshipful and prayerful as a big flock group, so there will be "one flock and one Shepherd" (John 10:16) in every pasture land both locally and globally, until the Chief Shepherd appears (1 Peter 5:4). ■

CHURCH UPDATES

ELECTION OF CHURCH LEADERS

Church members can visit election.gcf.org.ph for information and updates, or email election@gcf.org.ph for specific queries

BELONGING (Midweek Series): *Fostering Belonging In The Family*

September 30 (Wed), 6:30 p.m., GCF Facebook Page

REMINDERS OF GOD'S CARE AND FAITHFULNESS

Mondays and Fridays, 7:00 p.m., GCF Facebook Page

LIVestream (Youth LIVE Worship)

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m. on youtube.com/user/gcfyouthlive

KIDS' L.I.F.E. ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays, 1:00 p.m. on Facebook at [@GCFKidsLIFE](https://www.facebook.com/GCFKidsLIFE)

THE GCF FAMILY'S HOUR OF PRAYER

Thursdays, 8:00 p.m. to 9 p.m. via Zoom

GILMORE GROWTH GROUP

Fridays, 8:30 p.m., via Zoom, with Elder Rod Villiarica, contact Marj at 0917-779-1549

GCF SMALL GROUP TRAINING AND PRECEPT PHILIPPINES

An Inductive Bible Study on Mark 7-13

October 11 (Sundays), 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. via Zoom, contact Marj at 0917-779-1549

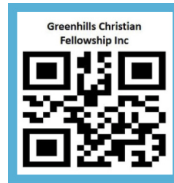
WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

For offerings during this time, please consider the following options:

BANK DEPOSIT OR TRANSFER

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- **BDO** (BDO Corporate Center Branch) • **Metrobank** (Ortigas Sapphire Branch)
Savings Account 000661590216 Savings Account 629-3-62919733-9
- **China Bank** (Ortigas ADB Branch) • **GCash (L) and PayMaya (R)**
Savings Account 1112-02006218 (Scan QR code below)
- **UnionBank** (UB Plaza Branch)
Checking Account 0005-9001-0426
- **Robinsons Bank** (Main Office Branch)
Savings Account 1000-3010-0017-355
- **Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI)**
(Ortigas Emerald Branch)
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Account No.: 9823 0217 01



CREDIT/DEBIT CARD THROUGH PAYPAL

Please visit www.gcf.org.ph/give for instructions.

Please email a copy of your transaction document to finance@gcf.org.ph so your giving can be properly recorded and an official receipt can be sent to you.

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE EFFORTS

You may also designate your giving to our church's efforts to help frontliners and the vulnerable. Just indicate "For COVID-19 fund" when you email your transaction document ■



Greenhills Christian Fellowship

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☎ Fax No. (02) 8632 1357, Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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