

Psalms 119:1–8

Delighting in God's Law Because It Is His

Tuesday, May 7, 2024 • Read Psalm 119:1–8

Questions from the from the Who are happy (v1a)? In what path do they walk blamelessly (v1b)? What do they keep (v2a)? What (Whom!) do they seek (v2b)? In what manner? What don't they do (v3a)? In what do they walk (v3b)? What has the Lord commanded (v4)? What does the psalmist desire about his own will and character (v5)? Unto what end (v6)? What will he do to the Lord (v7a)? In what manner? As a response to what (v7b)? What does he aim to do (v8a)? What does he ask in v8b?

As we come to hear about the delight in the law of the Lord, what does the first stanza of this great Psalm emphasize? Psalm 119:1–8 prepares us for the opening portion of public worship on the Lord's Day. In these eight verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the first stanza of this great Psalm emphasizes to us that God's Word is God's own Word.**

"Blessed," literally "Happy!" is the first word of this Psalm, and appropriately so. Here is a thorough display of that "delight in the law of YHWH" of 1:2. And why is that man so blessed? Because of Whose law it is.

- It is YHWH's law, v1b. So their way is the path for walking blameless, v1a.
- They are YHWH's testimonies, v2a. So keeping them is essential to seeking Him with the whole heart, v2b.
- They are YHWH's ways, v3b. So iniquity is evaded by walking in them, v3a.
- They are YHWH's precepts, v4b. So they must be kept diligently, v4a.
- They are YHWH's statutes, v5b. So they are a sure guide to direct our way (v5a), like perfect GPS for living.
- They are YHWH's commandments, v6b. So, we especially do not want them to condemn us (v6a).
- They are YHWH's judgments, v7b. So, they are cause for praising Him.

If we are to keep them all, unto our happiness, then it must be by the Lord's favor, v8.

This Psalm is an acrostic, an A to Z (aleph to tav) of the goodness of God in His Word. 8 verses for each letter extol the virtues of His Word. This is enhanced by the frequent use of eight synonyms for His Word (only "Word" and "promise" are missing from this opening stanza). But the main point of this stanza is not what the Word is, or even how useful it is (although that is certainly here), but rather Whose it is. This is why the Word is so profitable. Because it is His!

Dear reader, do not just keep His Word diligently; keep it personally. And don't just keep His Word; praise Him for it!

What does it look like for you to take the Scripture personally and to interact with the Lord personally in it? In your private worship? In your family worship? In the public worship? What does it look/feel like to praise Him for it?

Sample prayer: Lord, we praise You for how happy You make Your people. Truly, by Your mercy and Your power, we are directed, protected, and gladdened. So make us to be happy in You, not only keeping Your Word diligently but praising You for it. We have come to seek You. Grant that, by Your Spirit, we would indeed seek You with all our heart. Do not forsake us, but grant that our ways would be directed to keep Your statutes, we ask through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP119A "How Blessed Are Those above Reproach" or TPH119A "How Blessed Are Those"

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Psalm 119 verses 1 through 8. These are God's words. Blessed are the undefiled, in the way, who walk in the law of Yahweh. Blessed are those who keep his testimonies who seek him with the whole heart? They also do no iniquity. They walk in his ways you have commanded.

To keep your precepts diligently. Oh, that my ways were directed to keep your statutes. Then I would not be ashamed when I look into all your Commandments. I will praise you with uprightness of heart when I learn your righteous judgments. I will keep your statutes. Oh, do not forsake me.

Utterly. Amen, that sends this reading of God's inspired and inerrant word. This Psalm is an acrostic. It has 22 sections. Each of them eight versus long. Uh, each section beginning with the next successive letter. Of the Hebrew alphabet. So it is kind of like the A to Z Of the goodness of God in his word.

It is especially concerned with the word of God and the goodness of God in how he uses the word. So the words own goodness. And God's goodness and how he uses it. And the good fruit that he produces. And those to whom it belongs in this way. Uh, this Psalm is the full flowering and fruiting of uh, what we have in Bud form in Psalm 1 Uh, blessed is the man who and then you have the three things that he does not do in Accord, with Sinners, in accord, even with his unsential nature.

But his Delight is in the law of the Lord. And that law makes him fruitful. And so it is appropriate that here when we have the A to Z of the goodness of God in his word, That we or the aleph Tatav if you're Hebrew. Uh, that the aleph section would start with ashrae, Happy.

Blessed. Uh, and so these this first section, these eight verses are full of Happiness in the Lord himself. And it is especially happiness, in the Lord himself. The reason blessed is the one who Delights in the law of Yahweh. Psalm 1 verse 2. The reason he is so blessed and he is so happy is because whose law it is because of whose law it is because it's the Lord's law.

And so you see this These possessive pronouns this Repeated strong Focus throughout these eight verses. This law belonging to the Lord. Uh it is yahweh's law verse 1B, those who walk in the law of Yahweh, Uh, they are yahweh's. Testimonies verse 2A, blessed are those who keep his testimonies.

So since it is Yahweh's law, Um, The way of that law is the path for walking blameless in verse 1, since these are yahweh's. Testimonies blessed are. Who keep him and Uh, who keep them. And keeping these testimonies is essential for seeking him with the whole heart. We ought to seek the Lord himself personally with our whole heart to pursue relationship with him.

It is not just a religion, but also and primarily a relationship. When we say Lord, Lord, in the last day, we want to be owned by the Lord. Jesus Christ, not here, I never knew you. But well done. My my good and faithful servant. Yes, you recognize me as your lord whom you love and I recognize you as my servant whom I love.

That's what we want to hear on the last day. But seeking him with the whole heart isn't wouldn't be whole if we didn't keep the testimonies that are his testimonies, how can anyone speak against the law of God, when it is the law of God, when it is the law of Christ, the Royal law.

So his law, his testimonies verse 3, Yahweh's ways. They also do no iniquity, they walk in his ways. So, the way to evade Escape avoid iniquity. Is by to walk in the ways that are his Not our ways, and our thoughts, remember from Isaiah 55s and no forsake, your ways and turn from your thoughts, follow his ways and his thoughts, Uh, obviously not the secret ones that he has hidden from us.

But he has given us the revealed things that we might do them. So since they're his ways, they also do no iniquity. They walk in his ways. Uh, there yahweh's precepts

verse 4. You have commanded us to keep your precepts diligently. Why do we why must we do them diligently?

Why do we want to do them diligently? Because they're his, they're his precepts. Verse 5. They are Yahweh's statutes. Oh, that my ways were directed to keep your statutes. And so we want. We want to walk in those ways. They are a Shore guide and the that way of walking is Pleasant to us because they are his statutes.

They're yahweh's Commandments verse six, then I would not be ashamed when I look into all your Commandments. We know that we are going to be before the Lord one day, and every time that we read his word, we read his Commandments. And when we read his Commandments, one very sad thing.

Often happens because we have been sinning and we see how his commandment is exposing us, and we're ashamed before him. And we cry out to God for forgiveness, which we have in the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in Jesus himself, and we cling to Christ and enjoy the Forgiveness of the Lord.

But we also want to be able to come to him as those who have been walking in his way. Keeping his testimony walking in his law, all of these things, and to be able to say, oh look at your good Commandments. Lord. And the way that we have been able to desire and to do so much good since the last time we worshiped you or if it's your private worship, the way I have been able to do or desire, any good since the last time I was before you in worship, it was by your grace you have been sustaining me.

And I Rejoice that That you have enabled me. So we want to not be ashamed when we look into his Commandments and this will be one of the wonderful things about Glory. When this life is over, and your soul is made perfect in Holiness, with the last breath you draw in this world.

And then you are made perfect in Holiness and immediately pass into glory. You will never ever ever again. Be ashamed. When you look into the Commandments of the Lord. His perfect pure. Holy commandment will be a source only of pleasure to you because what he has done in you will perfectly match.

What he has spoken to you. Um, Sorry, run page here. Uh, then I would not be ashamed when I look into all your Commandments, they are his judgments. I will praise you with uprightness of heart. When I learn your righteous judgments, This should always happen when we look at his Commandments or his At his judgments.

That embracing Christ we turn from ourselves to him. And we praise him for how good. His judgments are, since they are. His, they are a For praising him. And so, Uh, if if we are to keep them, it will only be by his favor. I will keep your statutes.

He says your statutes again. We already had the word statutes. Oh, do not forsake. Me, utterly Uh, if we are to keep them, it will be by the Lord. Not forsaking us, but by his showing his favor to us, And so, the Lord uses six of the eight common synonyms for his word.

Just in this opening section. In the 176 verses of this Psalm, there are eight. Primary synonyms that he uses for the word of God. The two that are missing from this opening section are actually the word word. He has not used yet, although he is going to end the word promise.

Is often used with reference to God's word here, but we have law testimonies precepts statutes Commandments and judgments. And you might add if you if you want to call it nine because I think at least in this opening section it is used almost anonymously ways in verse three So we either have six of eight here or seven of nine but it's a wonderful introduction to the rest of the psalm and a wonderful lesson in and of itself.

That the reason God's word is so good and glorious. And so good for us, even to the point of making us glorious. Is because it is his And he has all goodness in himself and he has all glory in himself and his word then is a communication of himself.

So of course it is good and it is glorious. But it is a communication of himself to his people in love because he intends to make us good. And to make us glorious. So what a wonderful thing is God's word and what a wonderful Mercy from him that he has given us this Rich full Psalm A delight in his word to pray and to sing.

Training us to Delight in his word and to use it properly and profitably. So, let us not only keep his word diligently. Let us keep it personally. Let our diligence and our Delight. Be because it is his And because he has made himself. Our Covenant God. He is ours and we are his Praise God.

His Banner over us as love. So, let's pray and ask. To help us in this. We thank you o. God for giving us your word, we thank you for your son. Who is your word? The greatest communication of yourself, the one by whom you have, displayed to us, your goodness and Glory the one by whom you have.

Accomplished for us. That we would be counted good and that we would be also made good and glorious. And we thank you for your spirit by whom the scriptures were written and whom you by your son send forth and whom your son sends forth that we might be conformed to the scriptures.

We pray that your spirit would give us, not just understanding but delight and diligence with your word. Thank you for this Psalm. Spirit right. It's truth. Even on our hearts, we ask in Jesus name, amen.