

THE PSALMIST'S LOVE FOR GOD'S WORD**THE PLEASANT VIEW PLUMB LINE**

One of the greatest single chapters ever written is the 119th Psalm. In this rich message David extols the value of the word of God. If we could imitate his attitude and love toward the word of God we would be much better off. **Why did the Psalmist love the word of God?**

Because it will help young people succeed in life. Notice verse 9, "*Wherewithal shall the young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word.*" David makes the point that young people can do what is right and please God in the days of their youth. Today our culture states blatantly that the young are going to do wrong (commit what is commonly held as immoral acts; drinking, dancing, fornicating, drugs, etc.,...), regardless of what is taught to them in childhood. God through David denies this lie (John 8:44). David's son Solomon wrote "*Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them*" (Ecclesiastes 12:1).

Even in the church the impression is sometimes left that it is "normal" for young people to leave the Lord and live like the world once they leave their parents' home. While it may occur more often than it should, it is never acceptable to God and should not be condoned in any way by the church (Galatians 6:7-8; Ephesians 6:11).

Because it will complete what is missing in a man. In verse 10 David writes, "*With my whole heart I have sought thee: O Let me not wander from thy commandments.*" Most people live empty lives. They search for meaning in all the wrong places. Again notice the counsel of Solomon, "*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man*" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). If we go through our days on the earth without God we haven't truly lived. The key to David's life was the fact that he sought God with the "whole heart." We too must be completely given to learning. Loving, and living the will of God. Some people know just enough Bible to be miserable. May we love the Lord and His word enough to follow Him wherever he may lead (Luke 6:46).

Because it was a constant to which he could always turn. In verse 11 we find, "*Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee.*" Once we truly understand that the message of the Bible is from God and for our benefit our lives become more stable (II Timothy 3:16,17). God has given us instructions to help us deal with every facet of life; every difficulty; every dark day (II Timothy 2:15; Psalm 23). We can overcome all obstacles with His divine guidance (Philippians 4:13). In a world that is constantly changing and often seems to be leaving us behind, it is tremendously comforting to know God does not change and His glorious message of truth will continue to give us freedom (John 8:32).

Because it brings joy to the recipient. David is exuberant in the knowledge that with God's guidance life makes sense. Notice verse 16, "*I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.*" Joy and pleasure are not always that same thing. We typically view that which makes us happy (brings joy) as good. But true happiness is much deeper and more lasting than a moment's pleasure (As a side note, God is not against us having pleasure—in fact a faithful child of God should also have a very good life [John 10:10]). David has a great attitude when it comes to the word of God. Far too many people have a poor attitude concerning the Bible. Mainly because they do not wish to have their lives directed by (interfered with—per their view) anyone but themselves. David knew that he was in need of God's help (as were we all whether we wish to admit it or not).

"...then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel..." (Amos 7:8)

BECOMING FISHERS OF MEN

Text: _____

I. It Takes _____

Notes:

II. It Takes _____

Notes:

III. It Takes _____

Notes:

LOVING LIFE

Text: _____

I. By Leaving _____

Notes:

II. By Lowering _____

Notes:

III. By Living _____

Notes:

JESUS BORROWED...

...a place for His birth...a house to sleep in...a boat to preach from...an animal to ride on...a room to meet privately with His friends...and a tomb to be buried in. He who owned it all had nothing for His own! (II Corinthians 8:9).

Again notice verse 97, *“O how I love thy law! It is my meditation all the day.”* He loved the instruction that he received. In verse 172 he adds, *“My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.”* When we comprehend that God gave us His word to help us (not to hinder us) our attitude will be better and our hearts more receptive to His guiding hand.

Because it will guide us all the way to heaven. In verse 105 we read, *“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”* The word of God will help us and direct us in the hard times of life. Many grope in darkness when the light of Jesus is just a moment away (Matthew 5:13-16). May we imitate the attitude the attitude of the Psalmist in relation to the word of God.

-Michael Light

DOCTRINE AND INTERPRETATION

A New York enthusiast had a good collection of paintings, one of them being the Leaning Tower of Pisa, which hung over his writing desk. For a long time he noticed that it persisted in hanging crooked despite the fact that he straightened it every morning. At last he asked the housekeeper if she was responsible for its lopsided position each morning that he came to his office.

“Why, yes,” she said. “I have to hang it crooked to make the tower hand straight.”

Does that sound strange?

That is exactly how a lot of people read the Bible. Many people twist the Word of God in order to justify their own opinions or actions, or doctrine to make them all appear right. Let us not twist the Scriptures to suit our own fancy.

Let us be sure to hang the picture right!

DON'T FORGET TO LIVE

Someone wrote, “The tragedy of life is not that it ends so soon, but that we wait so long to begin it.”

- First I was dying to finish high school and start college.
- And then I was dying to finish college and start working.
- Then I was dying to marry and have children.
- And then I was dying for my children to grow old enough for school so I could return to work.
- And then I was dying to retire.
- And now, I am dying...and suddenly I realize I forgot to live.

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO AMERICA?

Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and others—the founding fathers of our great nation would hardly recognize the America of the twenty-first century! The Declaration of Independence (signed on July 4, 1776), as well as Abraham Lincoln’s words contained in the Gettysburg Address (1863): “*Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal*” spoke of the greatness of America. The foundation on which the United States of America was founded has been attacked, chipped away, and partially destroyed.

It is a terrifying and heart-breaking thought to consider what has happened to America in the last 50-100 years! While every nation has experienced problems and concerns, at some point in their existence, conditions have now deteriorated in the United States to discouraging lows. If America is not extremely cautious, the United States of America is headed for total destruction.

Passionate Patriotism

When I hear the words of the song, “*My country, tis of thee...*” it makes me have emotional thoughts of thankfulness and joy. The **National Anthem** is filled with deep and precious messages.

Without doubt American is still the greatest, the best! Yet none can successfully contend that she is a godly nation, “*one nation under God*” as in years past. Far too many changes have occurred!

A Lesson from History

In the ever popular and powerful book The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire (first published in six volumes) by Edward Gibbons (1737-1794), we benefit from his summary of what caused that great empire to crumble and brought on destruction. Gibbons pointed out a few major areas of collapse. Note them with me and see how they relate to America today.

1. **Decline of morals and values.** Alert citizens of America KNOW of the drastic and discouraging changes which have occurred morally in America. What God has declared evil, man often pronounces as acceptable and/or good. Man has esteemed himself to a position of determining what is right and wrong. We have become numb to sinful and evil practices. From the killing of babies to sexual involvement with most anyone, including homosexuality—many say that these type of actions are an acceptable lifestyle.
2. **Political corruption.** Senators, sheriffs, mayors, commissioners, etc.—seems none are exempt from choosing an evil and illegal course of action. Arrests, indictments, prison terms are tragically common.
3. **Unemployment and crime drastically increased.** Unemployment is at an extreme high level. Crime statistics are alarming. The attitude of many is “*what is mine is mine, what is thine is mine*” if I am big enough to take it from you.
4. **Higher taxes which undermined the economic stability.** Who can deny the certainty of this occurring? The exact numbers regarding government employees, government spending are frightening.
5. **Breakdown of the nations military defense.** The mind set of far too many calls for a reduction in our military strength. Such action has proven to be a destructive force time after time in the history of the world powers. In their ignorance to the extent of present dangers and the power and number of their enemies, they were vulnerable and easy prey. America is walking down the same road to utter destruction.

Is All Hopeless?

Are we wise enough to hear a call of repentance, as Jonah spoke to Nineveh in the long ago? Are we courageous enough to stand against foolish and liberal ways? Are we willing to do our part in making this country a “*godly nation*” once again?

-Paul Sain

THE BIBLE CLEARLY DEFINES THIS AS EVIL, WICKED

One of the seven things that **God hates** is the shedding of innocent blood. Of the many ways innocent blood could be shed, **abortion** must surely be at the top of the list. The Bible concisely details that from conception, that which is growing inside a woman’s womb is a child, a wonderful baby.

A human baby, precious, so innocent and pure—to be viciously ripped from the mother’s womb, their treasured life snatched from them is **evil!**

From the infamous black Monday, over thirty years ago, literally MILLIONS of babies have died because of the hideous and horrible practices of abortion. Some shout for “choice.” What about the babies choice?

America, wake up! May we have the courage to STOP KILLING OUR BABIES!