

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
PSALMS-LESSON 23
WEEK OF MARCH 8–MARCH 13
LIVING A BLESSED LIFE AND LIFE OF PURITY
PSALM 119:1-16

The author of **Psalm 119** is not identified. Many commentators attribute this Psalm to David, but others believe Ezra penned these words, while some think Daniel is the human author. This psalm is known as the psalm of the Word. Every verse of this psalm, with only a couple of exceptions mentions the Word of God by one of eight synonymous terms: “Law”; “Word”, “Judgments”, “Statutes”, “Commands”, “Decrees”, “Precepts”, and “Promises”.

Psalm 119 is an acrostic psalm divided into 22 stanzas of eight verses each. Each stanza is identified by one of the 22 letters comprising the Hebrew alphabet. Each of the first eight verses of each stanza begin with the same Hebrew letter. **Psalm 119:1-8** is entitled “Aleph”, the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The first letter of each verse in that first stanza starts with the letter Aleph. The same pattern applies to each of the 22 stanzas of eight verses each. **Verses 9-16** are entitled “Beth”

The psalmist is committed to know and obey the Word, but more significantly, he is absolutely devoted to the Lord as demonstrated by his delight in the Word. Pray that you will grow in your devotion to the Lord as you delight in understanding and applying His word expressed in **Psalm 119**. Pray that God will give you understanding of the word through the illumination and empowerment by the Holy Spirit who lives within you. Pray that God will, by the power of His Spirit, increase your devotion to Him as you delight in and continually meditate upon His Word.

Read Psalm 119:1-8 Living a Blessed Life “Aleph”

1. From Psalm **119:1-2**, what marks the actions, desires and devotion of the redeemed one who is blessed?
2. Read **Psalm 1:1-2**. How is the blessed one described in **verse 1**? Why is the instruction of **Psalm 1:2** so important in living a life that is blessed as described in **Ps. 119:1-2**?
3. Knowledge of God’s Word is not enough alone to experience the blessed life. From **verses 3 and 4**, how does the psalmist express the importance of obedience? What other words does the psalmist use in this first stanza (**verses 1-8**) to underscore the importance of human response and responsibility?
4. In **verse 5-6**, how does the psalmist express the reality of his need for growth to lead a blessed life? What action does he take? Where do you turn when in need of help to understand and live according to His commands? See **Psalm 119:18 and Eph. 1:18**.
5. From **verse 7**, as the psalmist is learning God’s word (His righteous judgments) how does he respond?

This verse refers to God's righteous judgments. Righteousness is an attribute of God meaning morally pure or perfectly just.

"When we read about God's judgments and become joyful partakers in them, we are twice as much moved to sing—singing in which there is neither formality nor hypocrisy nor lukewarmness, for the heart is upright in the presentation of its praise." The Golden Alphabet, C.H. Spurgeon, pg 20

6. What is the resolve of the psalmist expressed in **verse 8**, and also the humble expression of his dependence upon God's enablement to obey?

"He presents his resolutions like a sacrifice, but he cries to heaven for the fire. The desire is present in him, but he cannot perform that which he wants unless the Lord will abide with him." Id. Pg 22

Read Psalm 119:9-16 Living a Life of Purity "Beth"

7. What truths and principles of living a life of purity does the psalmist express in **verses 9-11**?

8. How is the study and application of God's word connected to purity and holiness?

"We live in a corrupt and sinful world, and there is nothing in the world that in itself will help us live a pure life....the world is a great deal fuller of inducements to do wrong than of inducements to do right....Remember that the Bible is God's cleansing agent for sin and that without it we will never live a holy life."

Psalms Vol. 3, James Montgomery Boice, pg 979

9. What does the psalmist pray in **verse 12**? How does **I Cor. 2:12-14** explain about God's provision to understand and apply His Word?

10. What is the psalmist's practical advice to grow in treasuring, remembering and obeying God's word from the following verses:

- **Verse 13**

- **Verse 14**

- **Verse 15**

11. The psalmist concludes this stanza in **verse 16** with the resolve "*I shall delight in Your statutes*" and "*I shall not forget Your word.*" What practical steps will you take today to make that your daily practice?

"A repeated action becomes habit, and when habits are well formed we may without boasting resolve to maintain them, and even to use them to achieve other and higher habits. Yet it is good never to let our "*I wills*" of resolve exceed the "*I haves*" of our actual performance." The Golden Alphabet, C.H. Spurgeon, pg 36-37

"But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves." "But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does." **James 1:22, 25.**