

Evidences of Conversion Psalm 119

This Psalm is the longest chapter in the Bible. It is divided into 22 sections, one for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Each section has 8 verses and each verse in a section begins with a word that begins with the same Hebrew letter. We will look at one section (vv. 97-104). This section gives us a sample of what we see throughout the whole Psalm. In this section, every verse begins with a word that begins with the letter Mem, the Hebrew letter comparable to our M.

In this section, like in the whole Psalm, we see multiple references to God's verbal revelation. There is one in each of our verses: law (97), commandment (98), testimonies (99), precepts (110), word (111), rules (112), words (113), and precepts (114). These and other similar terms used in this chapter help us more fully answer the question, 'What is the Bible?' We learn in this chapter that the Bible is God himself speaking, "your word or words"; it is God's absolutely authoritative instruction to be obeyed, "your law, commandment, and rules"; it is God's relevant witness for every time and place that can be trusted, "your testimonies"; it is God's consummate wisdom such that what God requires perfectly fits our needs and nature as humans, "your precepts"; it is a preview of the joys that are coming for God's people, "your promise"; and the Bible is an expression of God's own character and nature so that we can know him, "your ways".

In this section we see 3 primary things, which are also prominent in the whole Psalm. The first is affection for God's Word. The author says "Oh how I love your law" and "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!". He loved and enjoyed God's word. How much do we love God's word? How much do we love it if we hardly ever read it during the week? How much do we love it if we read it during the week but never enjoy it?" Brothers and sisters, our love and enjoyment of God's word likely fluctuates, but it will be present and growing in those who have been converted.

Another thing we see here is attention to God's Word, and this is connected to affection for God's Word, "Oh how I love your law, it is my meditation all the day." The Psalmist paid attention to God's Word, meditating on it all the day. Meditation here doesn't refer to emptying our mind but filling our mind with God's word and reflecting long and hard on it. It can be compared to what a cow does when it eats and digests its food. A cow will begin the day by grazing and swallowing grass without hardly chewing it. It will go to the first of four stomachs. After doing this for several hours, the cow will lie down and spit up in its mouth some of what has been swallowed and chew on it for a long time. It will then go to the second, third and fourth stomach and be completely digested. The cow will do this again and again. Meditation is intentionally bringing to mind God's word and chewing on it mentally until you digest its meaning and relevance, being nourished by it.

The third thing we observe here is application of God's Word. The Psalmist says "I keep your precepts. I hold back my feet from every evil way in order to keep your word. I do not turn aside from your rules." He obeyed and applied God's word to his decisions and life. Believers never do this perfectly, but our desire and intent is to obey all God commands. We need to grow in obedience but the desire and progress is present in those who are converted because this also is an evidence of true faith.

Those who are converted trust in Jesus, the Word made flesh. Jesus meditated on and memorized God's Word and on the cross quoted "My God, my God why have you forsaken me?" At that time he was suffering the wrath of God that we deserve for our sin, so that we might be saved through faith.