

“What Is Important”

By Mrs. Sojourner

What are two noticeable things about Psalm 119? 1) It is the longest chapter in the Bible. 2) Every verse contains a reference to God’s Word (law/precepts/statutes/ways/decrees/commands/word/promise).



Foot-
notes:

word is not just a wise thing to do because by doing so we are obeying God, but it is also wise because it is a way to thank him for everything he has done for us.

Isn’t it just like God to make our thank offering of obedience be good for both himself and us. He shows us his love for us, again, by being so specific on how to please him, and we can show our love for him by following his instructions. The process of daily obeying him brings us closer to accomplishing the purposes he has for us. This process also gives us the daily reminder and reassurance that our Heavenly Father loves us.

So, let us take the 176 verse hint from Psalm 119 and delve into God’s word daily and walk according to it.

So, our Heavenly Father inspires the Psalmist to write 176 consecutive verses referring to the importance of knowing the word of God. The Sojourner has said numerous times that when God repeats something in the scriptures he is emphasizing it. Repeating something three times means we really need to take notice. Hmmm, 176 consecutive verses emphasizing the same thing, it would seem that God considers it extremely important for us to not just know his word, but to hold it very close and dear to ourselves.

Consider this:

I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free.
Psalm 119:32 NIV

Living according to God’s

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Sojourning

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...with The Sojourner

“It Was He Who Gave”

(Teaching Sketch)

Ephesians 4:1-16 (NIV)

The Apostle Paul again here refers to himself as a “prisoner” to the Ephesians. Remember this type of prisoner is like that of a “bond slave,” it is by his own choice. Satan enslaves by trickery against the will, God has people serve him because they understand who he is and serve him out of the bond of love.

Worthy of the Calling
Paul urges the Ephesians to live worthy (worthily/appropriately)^[a] according to their calling. Each believer has a “call” from God to “fit” into the whole body of believers (the Body of Christ) to fulfill their function or “call” within the body. Paul talks of being, “Completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace.” It is worth pointing out here that there are times when there may be disputes over some matters which may require



Notes:

[a]

Adverb;
Axiōs;
appropriately:
—as
becometh,
after a
godly
sort,
worthily
(-thy).

the standing firm on a matter such as when Paul confronted Peter regarding circumcision and certain others regarding the causing of discord or heresy within the body of believers.

To Each One Grace

Paul, in verse 7, brings out that point that grace is more than our salvation but that each of the gifts of function are also grace given by God to each believer. These gifts are not something we earn but gifts from the throne of God to be employed in God’s kingdom. The number and type of gifts are “apportioned” and given by Christ’s will.

Led Captives

This giving of grace is so powerful that when Jesus the Christ descended into hell to take back that which had been stolen from the first Adam, he also led captives to whom he had given grace “In his train as he ascended on high. There is no place where Christ can’t free you.

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

Scripture:

Ephesians 4:1-16 (NIV)

Unity in the Body of Christ

1As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— 5one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. 8This is why it^[a] says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men."^[b] 9 (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions^[c]?) 10He who descended is the very one who ascended higher

Notes:

[a] Or God

[b]

Psalm 68:18

[c] Or the depths of the earth

than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) 11It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 14Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

"It Was He Who Gave" (Teaching Sketch)

Ephesians 4:1-16 (NIV)

Gave Some to Be

Paul also makes it clear that there are some believers to which he has apportioned certain gifts for the preparing of, "God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." It is to be a unifying building not by who's who but by each believer doing their function. This purpose is for maturation in works of service.

Notes:

No Longer Infants

Infants are of little service until two things occur in them 1) growth and 2) maturation within that growth. We can all understand how unfortunate it is when the physical body of a person comes to adulthood but their mind remains at a preschool level or even an adolescent level. These people would be tossed around by every wind of teaching. This is why the truth must be spoken in love by the Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and teachers to help the immature become mature .

From Him

It is from Christ that those submitted to fulfilling their gifts will be fitted to function within the Body of Christ for His glory!