

“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).

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 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.

Notes:

[a]

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.

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Sojourning

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...with The Sojourner

“He 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 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.

Notes:

[a]

Adverb;

Axiōs;

appropriately;

—as be-

cometh,

after a godly sort,

worthily (-thy).

To Each One Grace

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

Led Captives

This giving of grace is so powerful that when Jesus the Christ descended into hell to

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

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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 than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God’s people

Notes:

^[a]Or God

^[b]Psalm 68:18

^[c]Or the depths of the earth

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.

Continued from page one.

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.

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,

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“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. Orderly functioning of parts fulfills and demonstrates unity. This purpose is for maturation in works of service.

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!

Just so you’ll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal fellowship & sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise, Worship, & Offerings:** (*Offerings to be placed in basket during Praise & Worship*)

Words of Prophecy or Knowledge if they have been given during “Praise & Worship.” (other times as the Spirit moves)
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

“The Sojourner Live”
Sunday, November 2th
10:00 PM (CDT)

Broadcasting a
message on
“Peace, Do Not
Be Afraid”

