

“Watering Wisdom”

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.

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.

Notes:

[a]

*I am a Believer, it's who I am
and what I do!*

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...with The Sojourner

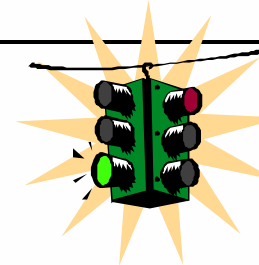
“Continuing” (Teaching Sketch)

Ephesians 4:22-32 (NIV)

The Apostle Paul goes to great lengths to cover the details of the spiritual life of a believer in his whole letter to the Ephesians. He covers a matter, and then he covers it again, but from a slightly different angle or facet. He wants to be certain they understand each area covered as he leads them into the deeper parts of coming into a victorious life in Christ.

Futile Thinking

It is in Chapter 4:17 of his letter to the Ephesians that Paul urges the Ephesians to live, “No longer as the Gentiles^[1] do, in the futility of their thinking.” Paul even goes so far as to say he, “Insists on it in the Lord.” How many people today would be upset at hearing someone in ministry say they insist on anything? If Paul were with us today, as he is in this letter, many who claim to be Christians would see him as politically incorrect. It is in Verse 18 that he goes even



Notes:

[1] Paul was meaning unbelievers

further to explain why there are those who are darkened in their understanding and separated from God by two things:

- 1) ignorance and
- 2) hard hearts.

He explains that as a natural consequence of these two ingredients people lose all sensitivity to a correct spiritual relationship with God and give themselves over to things which are ungodly. Yes, it is true, a loving God does not desire that anyone perish in an eternal hell, but some people will give themselves over to it using the very free will the loving Creator gave them. Spiraling ever downward the ignorant and hard-hearted plunge into debauchery and destruction!

Come To Know Christ

Paul lets the Ephesians know they came to know Christ Jesus by being taught. They had open soft hearts yearning to cure their ignorance by learning the truths of Jesus. They then accepted the truth,

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Scripture: Ephesians 4:22-32 (NIV)

(NIV is employed here to allow English speakers around the world equal understanding of the words used)

²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. ²⁵Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶"In your anger do not sin"^[a]: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing

Notes: [a]

Psalms
4:4

In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.
Selah

something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. ²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³²Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

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 sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **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**

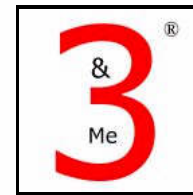
"Continuing" (Teaching Sketch)

Ephesians 4:22-32 (NIV)

and put out of their thoughts, and thus:

- 1) their behaviors,
- 2) the old self and
- 3) manner of thinking

which had led their practice of "deceitful desires" which had corrupted them.



Put On New Self
Curing their ignorance by being willing to be taught, they in fact had put on a new self as a result of understanding a new way of thinking.

Paul then lists some of the old ways of thinking and doing (verses 25-32) which must be dealt with and removed by basically saying the principle of "love you neighbor as yourself."

Anger and Talk

The Apostle then speaks of anger, and in that regard what is permissible and what is not. When angry, don't step over into sin, and don't let anger last more than the day. This will keep the devil from get-

ting back in you via a foothold. Paul lists then other behaviors to cease. (verses 25-32)

As Christ Did You

It is from Christ that those submitted will understand the need to forgive because they have received forgiveness!

Sojourners...
yield good
fruit and
harvest unto
the Lord
their God.



Find 3 people to bless with the blessings of our Lord and all that is theirs by blood adoption, or assignment!