

What I Learned From My Study of the Psalms (Part 2)

by Bryan Gibson

In part one, we discussed the subjects of prayer and praise, the burden of sin, and the joy of forgiveness. Let's continue with more simple lessons from a very profound book.

On the subject of God's revealed word...

What beautiful and reassuring descriptions I found of God's word—that it is proven, perfect in every way, that it endures forever, and that it equips me in every way spiritually (18:30; 19:7-11; 119).

Since God's word is all these things (and much more), I should regard it as the truth, be in awe of it, long for it, delight in it, meditate on it, love it exceedingly, and hate everything contrary to it (119:16, 47-48, 128, 131, 142, 151, 160, 167).

The commandments found in God's word (specifically, in this age, the New Testament)—I should keep all of them, keep them wholeheartedly, and keep them as long as I live (119:33-34, 44, 117, 128-129). Truly, "in keeping them there is great reward" (19:11).

On the subject of righteousness...

"He leadeth me! O blessed thought!"—these are words to a very familiar hymn, and indeed, God does lead me. He leads me in the path of righteousness (5:8; 23:3; 86:11; 139:24), and He does so through His word (25:5; 27:11; 119:133, 172; 143:10).

"A little that a righteous man has is better than the riches of many wicked" (37:16)—a reminder to seek righteousness FIRST, and reassurance that righteousness makes me rich, no matter what my bank account says.

The "sights and sounds" of the righteous—those passages really made me examine myself. If I am the righteous man described above, what you should **hear** from me is joy, thanksgiving, praise, wisdom, and truth (15:2; 33:1; 37:30; 68:3; 118:15; 140:13). What you should **see** in me is a hatred for wickedness, a preference therefore for those like-minded, a commitment to do righteousness

at all times, spiritual stability and productivity, mercy and generosity, just to name a few (1:1-3; 37:21; 45:7; 92:12-14; 106:3; 112:5).

What I can't forget is that opposition to righteousness is fierce, that enemies of truth will "speak insolent things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous" (31:18). All the more reason to take comfort in this assurance from God: "Those who hate the righteous shall be condemned. The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, and none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned" (34:21-22).

On the great responsibility we have toward succeeding generations...

"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth...we will not hide them from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done...that the generation to come might know them, the children who would be born, that they may arise and declare them to their children, that they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (78:1, 4, 6-8).

What I DO today, and the diligence with which I TEACH today, has the potential to impact many generations to come. Woe unto me if I fail.