

The Prattmont Church of Christ is just what the name suggests, a church that belongs to Christ. We are not a denomination; we are simply a group of Christians trying very hard to practice the teachings of our Head, Jesus Christ. The New Testament offers a complete pattern for what each local church should be like—its organization, its worship, its work, etc. We are committed to following that pattern. We cordially invite you to attend our services. We would also welcome any comments or questions about this bulletin.

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Study 9:00 A.M.
Worship 10:00 A.M.
Training Class 5:00 P.M.
Worship 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 P.M.



Weekly Bulletin October 8, 2017

Let Me Not Wander From Your Commandments

by Bryan Gibson

“With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments” (Psalms 119:10). Impressive, yes, but even more impressive when you consider all this author had to go through, all the things that could have easily made him wander. So take a few minutes to compare your attitude to the one expressed here by the psalmist (perhaps David, but we can’t say for sure). Would any of the following cause you to wander from God’s commandments?

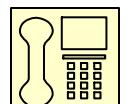
When brethren rebuke you. Afflictions can take many forms, including rebukes from our brethren (Luke 17:3-4; 2 Timothy 4:2). Afflictions didn’t drive this man away; they made him cling more closely to God’s commandments. “Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I keep Your word...It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes” (Psalms 119:67, 71).

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When worldly people make fun of you. And make fun of you they will, if you consistently do the right thing (1 Peter 4:4). Whoever wrote Psalms 119 faced that, too, and here's what he said about it: "The proud have me in great derision, yet I do not turn aside from Your law" (Psalms 119:51).

When persecution gets even worse—when enemies lie about you, seek to destroy your name, or maybe even try to kill you. Would any of these cause you to wander from keeping God's commandments? The psalmist experienced all these things (Psalms 119:61, 78, 85-88, 95, 109-110, 157, 161), and yet it did not diminish his resolve. "But I have not forgotten your law... but I will meditate on your precepts...but I did not forsake your precepts...but my heart stands in awe of Your word...yet I have not strayed from your precepts"—the psalmist made all these statements in the midst of heavy persecution.

When filled with sorrow and grief—due to sickness, the death of a loved one, the unfaithfulness of a loved one, etc. Again, listen to this author who experienced many occasions of sorrow. "My soul melts from heaviness, strengthen me according to Your word...trouble and anguish have overtaken me, yet Your commandments are my delights" (Psalms 119:28, 143).

When God seems so far away, when you get to the point that you ask, "When will you comfort me"? (Psalms 119:82). This same psalmist certainly knew that feeling, because he was the very one who asked that question. But look at the very next verse: "For I have become like a wineskin in smoke, yet I do not forget Your statutes" (Psalms 119:83).

When the world seems so attractive, when it *appears* to offer more than Christ does. The psalmist was no stranger to the pull

of the world, which explains why he made this plea to God: "Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it. Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way" (Psalms 119:35-37).

When "smart people" seem to have better answers, when their explanations *seem* to make more sense than the explanations found in God's word. As for this psalmist, well, let's just say that he was less than impressed. "You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies...I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies

are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep your precepts" (Psalms 119:98-100). He was wiser than any of these men, because he knew God's wisdom.

LET ME
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Psalms 119:10

→ **The Bottom Line** ←
Don't let anything diminish your resolve to keep the commandments of God. Don't let anything shake your confidence in God or in His word. "Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven...The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever" (Psalms 119:89, 160).