

A Lamp to Our Feet

Text: Psalm 119:105

Introduction: Can I tell you how much we have enjoyed having your kids in AWANA this year? I have had the privilege of leading the game time each week again this year, and I have had a blast doing it. Our kids in T&T are highly competitive. They enjoyed competing against each other week after week. Our Sparks enjoyed playing, but they typically preferred games that were not quite as competitive. Learning to adapt the games for both groups was part of the fun for me.

But as I shared with you during our closing awards last year, the reason we do AWANA is because we believe that there is a message every man, woman, boy, and girl needs to hear. AWANA is built around memorizing Scripture. We believe that the Bible is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Our prayer for our kids in AWANA is that the verses of Scripture they memorize will be verses of Scripture that they will remember and hold onto throughout their lives.

There's a chapter in the book of Psalms that is about the Bible and is actually the longest chapter in the Bible. It is longer than seventeen books in the New Testament and all of the Minor Prophets in the Old Testament except Hosea and Zechariah.

Kids, this is a good Bible trivia question for you to remember: What is the longest chapter in the Bible? No one answer. Parents, don't give the answer away. Let's see if any of our AWANA kids know the answer. Raise your hand, AWANA kids, if you know the answer. What is the longest chapter in the Bible?

It's Psalm 119. Psalm 119 has 176 verses. Some of our regular attenders are starting to get nervous. We've been making our way through 2 Samuel, and I've been reading a chapter a week at the beginning of my sermon as we've made our way through the book. Don't worry. I'm not going to read all 176 verses of Psalm 119 this morning. Though I'm sure that would be profitable for us.

But I would encourage you to consider reading it this next week. There are 22 sections that are identified by the letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Each section has 8 verses. Take one section a day for the next 22 days. That's 8 verses a day for three weeks. Read the verses. And do so with a journal and a pen. Spend the next 22 days reflecting on what the Psalmist says about the Bible.

This morning we're focusing our attention on just one verse: Psalm 119:105. I'm sure many of you know it. Let's say it together. It's on the screen if you don't know it.

(Recite Psalm 119:105)

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

(Pray)

Psalm 119:105 reminds us that as followers of Jesus, **we devote ourselves to God's Word as a lamp to our feet.**

I have three questions that I want to answer this morning:

- What is God's Word?
- What does God's Word do?
- How should we respond to God's Word?

So, let's start with the first question...

I. What is God's Word?

A. The verse begins "Your word."

- 1. Psalm 119 is a Psalm that is directed toward God about His Word. The psalmist is praising God for His Word. What it is and what it does. And he models how we ought to respond to God's Word.**
- 2. So, when the psalmist says, "Your word," he's talking about GOD'S Word.**

3. Sometimes in Psalm 119, the psalmist refers to God's precepts. Other times it's His commandments. We see His statutes. His law. His testimonies. His judgments. His rules. All of these are used in Psalm 119 as synonyms for God's Word.
4. God's Word is seen in His decrees such as in creation where God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.
5. God's Word is seen in words of personal address such as when God spoke to Moses in Exodus 3 and said, "I AM WHO I AM," or in Matthew 3 where God said of Jesus, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."
6. God's Word is also seen in words spoken by the prophets who declared, "Thus says the Lord."
7. But the primary means by which God has given us His Word is in written form in the Bible.
8. Such that all of the things the psalmist says about God's Word or His statutes or His law or any of the other synonyms for God's Word in Psalm 119 can be said about all of Scripture. This book. The Bible. That's what we're talking about this morning.

B. Now, we have a lot of words that are competing for our attention, don't we?

1. Parents, I don't know about you. But I sent my kids to school this year. And not only did they get an education, but I got an education as well. I learned some new words this year. Or at least some new meanings of some old words. I learned "rizz," meaning "charisma." I learned "sus," as in "You're sus, bruh." Did you know that if you say, "I'm cooked," that's bad, but if you say, "I'm cooking," that's good? "Stop capping" means "stop lying." "Bet" expresses enthusiastic agreement. That's just to name a few.

2. But kids, you have a lot of words competing for your attention, don't you? The words of your parents. The words of your friends. The words of your teachers. The words of your coaches. Those of church leaders. Those of cultural influencers like movies and music and social media. And not all of those words are bad. I assume that many of them are good. You should listen to and obey your parents. You should learn from your teachers. Math and science and English and history are important. Your coaches have something to teach you about sports.
3. But I want you to know that God's Word matters most. Because it's God's Word. God created you. He knows everything about you. He created this world. He knows everything about it. He knows how life in this world is meant to be lived. So, if you want to live a life that is truly successful. If you want to live a life that is truly meaningful. If you want to live a life that is truly purposeful. And joyful. And satisfying. You're going to have to listen to God. You're going to have to listen to God's Word.
4. And truthfully, parents, we have a lot of words competing for our attention too, don't we? Social media. Peers, friends, coworkers. For some of you it's cable news. For others of you it's your favorite podcaster. Your employer. Your kids. The list goes on.
5. Can I tell you parents that God's Word matters most for you and your family? It does. God's Word matters most. It's good to know what's going on in the world. Maybe your favorite podcaster does actually have some good things to say. Some of them have some pretty terrible things to say. But some of them have some good things to say. Maybe you have good friends who can give you wise counsel. But make no mistake. God's Word matters most.

C. In fact, if it is God Word. Remember, the psalmist says to God "YOUR Word." If it is God's Word, what are some things that we know about God that should influence how we think about His Word?

1. **Let's start at the beginning. I mentioned it briefly already. We know that God is our Creator.**
 - a. **He made us. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."**
 - b. **Listen to verses 90-91 of Psalm 119, "Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast. By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants."**
 - c. **God created us and the world we inhabit. He knows how our lives were meant to be lived in this world. You are not an accident. You are not the result of evolutionary chance. You were designed by God with a purpose.**
 - d. **And the one who made you has written a book about how life in this world is supposed to be lived. And too often we go through life trying to figure things out on our own instead of opening our Bibles and seeking to know and understand what God has already revealed to us in His Word.**
2. **Another thing we know about God is that He is holy and righteous. There is no sin in God. He is perfect in all His ways.**
 - a. **And if God is perfect in all His ways. If He is holy and righteous. That means that His Word is too. Because it's His Word.**
 - b. **Listen to some verses from Psalm 119. Psalm 119:7 says, "I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your RIGHTEOUS rules."**
 - c. **Psalm 119:62, "At midnight I rise to praise you, because of your RIGHTEOUS rules."**
 - d. **Psalm 119:137, "RIGHTEOUS are you, O LORD, and right are your rules."**
 - e. **See, God's law is not just a list of rules that God likes. It's a reflection of His holy character.**
 - f. **And God has clearly and accurately revealed right and wrong to us in His Word.**
3. **We should also point out here that God is good.**
 - a. **God loves you. He desires good for you. He's not out to make you miserable. In fact, the only way to truly flourish is in submission to Him.**
 - b. **Psalm 119:68 says, "You are good and do good; teach me your statutes."**
 - c. **Do you see that? "You ARE good." That's God's character. And "You...DO good." God's actions flow from His character. We can trust that God will always DO good because He IS good.**
 - d. **His Word is part of His goodness to us. He hasn't left us to figure things out on our own. He has given us His Word.**
4. **There's a lot more we could say about God in relation to His Word. But let me point out one more before we move on. God is a saving God.**
 - a. **God has made a way for you to be saved. For you to be brought into right relationship with Him by His Son, the Lord Jesus.**
 - b. **And He has revealed that means of salvation in His Word. It's in the Bible that we read about how God made us for His glory to worship Him. It's in the Bible that we read about our sin and rebellion against God. We learn of how our sin separates us from God because God is holy. It's there that we learn that God sent His Son Jesus to come to this earth to live a sinless life and die to pay for our sin. It's in the Bible that we read of the fact that Jesus did not stay dead, but He was raised from the grave three days later. It's in the Bible where we learn that if we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved.**
 - c. **So, God has made a plan of salvation for us, and He has revealed that plan to us in His Word. Because He is a saving God. It's who He is. He has not left us on our own. He has made a way for us to be reconciled to Him by the shed blood of His Son Jesus.**

So, we've talked about the nature of God's Word by asking, "What is God's Word?" Now let's turn our attention to the second question...

II. What does God's Word do?

A. We know that there are many things God's Word does.

1. It teaches us about who God is. It teaches us who we are. And it teaches who we are in relation to God.
2. God's Word also tells us the way that we should live our lives and corrects us when we go astray.
3. The Bible equips us for life and service to God.
4. God's Word teaches us. It guides us. It corrects us. It comforts us. It changes us.
5. It shows us what is true. It shows us where to go. It shows us what is wrong. It shows us how to live. And it shows us the Lord Jesus.
6. There's so much we could say this morning about what God's Word does.

B. But look at the simple imagery of Psalm 119:105. It says, "Your word is a LAMP to my feet and a LIGHT to my path."

1. The psalmist uses the metaphors of lamp and feet and light and path to describe what God's Word does.
2. The Message paraphrase reads, "By your words I can see where I'm going; they throw a beam of light on my dark path."
3. How many of you know that this world is a dark place? It is.
4. Kids, in the ancient world, the time of the Bible, there was no electricity. That's kind of hard for us to imagine because there's almost never a time in our lives when there is complete darkness. Maybe you have a streetlight outside your house that shines at night. Or maybe you have a nightlight in your room or the hallway so you don't stub your toe on your way to the bathroom in the middle of the night. But in the time of the Bible, there was no electricity. When the sun went down at night, there was complete darkness.

5. Unless you lit a lamp or a lantern with real fire.
6. So, what the psalmist is saying here is that just as you might light a lamp at night so you can see where you are going in the pitch darkness, God's Word is a kind of lamp for our lives in the midst of the darkness of this world. It guides us and directs us. It leads us to walk in a way that is pleasing to the Lord.
7. It shines light on our path. It shows us where to go. It shows us where to step. It keeps us from harm by preventing us from stepping in the wrong place.
8. Isn't that good news this morning? That we don't have to wander through life in the dark. That God has given us a lamp for our feet and a light for our path. He has given us His Word.
9. It shows us how to live. It shows us how to honor the Lord with our lives. It shows us how life in this world is meant to be lived.

So, what do we do?

III. How should we respond to God's Word?

Let me quickly give you five responses.

A. Read God's Word.

1. If God's Word is truly a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, don't you think we ought to read it?
2. When was the last time you sat down outside of church and just read the Bible? Maybe for some of you it was this morning. Or at least yesterday. But I bet there are some in this room this morning who don't remember the last time you sat down to read the Bible outside of church.
3. This is where it starts. If you want to have a lamp for your feet and a light for your path in this dark world, you're going to have to read your Bible.

B. Study God's Word.

1. Reading the Bible is a good start. But you're going to have to put a little more effort into it than just reading it.

2. **Study it. Take your time. Earlier I suggested spending the next 22 days reading Psalm 119. Eight verses a day. Sit down with an open Bible and a journal. Ask God to help you understand. Read the text. Copy down the text. Think about what it means. Write what you think it means.**
3. **It doesn't have to be anything elaborate. The biggest factors are time and attention. Taking the time to sit down with an open Bible and seek to understand what God has said and how you might live in light of it.**

C. Memorize God's Word.

1. **Start with Psalm 119:105. That's a good place to start. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."**
2. **Don't say that you can't memorize Scripture. Everyone can memorize Psalm 119:105.**
3. **Then what are some other verses that would be beneficial for you to commit to memory?**
4. **Romans 3:23 says that "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."**
5. **Romans 6:23 says that "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."**
6. **Romans 5:8 says, "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."**
7. **Romans 10:9 says, "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."**
8. **Memorize those verses and you will be well on your way to being able to share the message of the gospel with someone you know.**

D. Obey God's Word.

1. **This is where the rubber meets the road, isn't it?**
2. **God's Word isn't just for our information. It's for our transformation.**
3. **James says, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22).**

4. **It's not enough for us to read and study and even memorize God's Word. We actually have to do what it says.**

E. Trust His Word.

1. **In verse 42 of Psalm 119, the psalmist says, "For I trust in your word."**
2. **And that's really the bottom line, isn't it?**

Conclusion: Do you trust God?

Or are you trying to figure things out on your own? Kind of winging it as you go.

The first step to trusting God is to turn from your sin and to put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Your sin has separated you from God. But God has made a way for you to be brought back into a right relationship with Him. Your sin deserves death, but Jesus took the penalty for your sin on Himself when He went to the cross. He died in your place as your substitute.

And the Bible says that if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

From there, God will indwell you with His Spirit. And the Spirit of God will use the Word of God in your life as a lamp to your feet and a light to your path.

You don't have to wander about aimlessly through life in the dark. God will light your path with His Word. If you'll come to Jesus in faith.