

PASTOR JOE IS THE SENIOR PASTOR AT SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH IN RENO, NEVADA • AUGUST 20, 2023 • All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text. • Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. • Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

A. PSALM 119 - Overview

Insights:

- 1. This Psalm was not written by King David—it was written by Ezra.
- 2. King David's Psalms are quoted in Psalm 119.
- 3. Brief Biblical History:
 - Following the Babylonian Captivity:
 - Zerubbabel, in the first group to return to Jerusalem, rebuilt the temple.
 - Ezra, in the second group to return to Jerusalem, reestablished worship.
 - Nehemiah, in the third group to return, rebuilt the walls around the city.
- 4. Ezra basically sought to help the Israelites get back on their feet with God.
- 5. Ezra called the Jewish people back to a place of holiness in their lives.
- 6. Psalm is written on an acrostic of the Hebrew Alphabet.
- 7. Psalm 119 is the longest of any Psalm with 176 verses.
- 8. In these 176 verses, "God" and "Word" are both mentioned 176 times each.
- 9. God will use Psalm 119 today to renew your love for His Word.
- 10. The British Preacher Thomas Manton (circa early 1600s) preached 190 sermons—each lasting about two hours—over these 176 verses.

Psalm 119 asks and answers a foundational question:

<u>Question</u>: "How can a <u>young man</u> keep his way pure?" <u>Answer</u>: "By loving and obeying God's Word!"

Dr. Roy Fish has a sermon on this passage:

<u>Title</u>: "Victory over Sin—once and for all." <u>Outline</u>: (1) Heed the word, (2) Hide the Word, and (3) Herald the Word. <u>Quote</u>: "Keep the <u>best thing</u> (God's Spirit/Word), in the <u>best place</u> (your heart/mind) for the <u>best purpose</u> (Our good/God's glory)."

B. PSALM 119 - Study

1. Desire purity!

Psalm 119:9, NLT - ⁹ How* can a young person <u>stay pure</u>?

Psalm 119:9, NCV -⁹ How* can a young person live a pure life?

Psalm 119:9, NKJV -⁹ How* can a young man <u>cleanse his way</u>?

*Heb: מָה (meh) translated "how" is rhetorical—it can't happen.

2. Devour God's Word!

Psalm 119:9, NLT - ⁹ How can a young person stay pure? <u>By</u> <u>obeying* your word</u>.

*Heb: שָׁמַר (sha-mar) translated "obeying" means "to keep a treasure when found" or "to <u>protect/value</u> a valuable (life)" or *"to <u>devour</u>* a meal" when starving or emaciated.

3. Do God's Word!

Psalm 119:11, NKJV -¹¹ Your word I have <u>hidden</u>* in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

*Heb: אָקוּן (sa-fawn-tee) translated "hidden" means to "hoard," or "cherish" or "please the greatest value on something."

4. Depend on God's Power-not yours!

Psalm 119:10–11, NKJV -¹⁰ With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, <u>let me not wander</u>* from Your commandments! (Bold face added to stress this pivotal aspiration needed by every believer.)

*Heb: אָגָה (shaw-gah) translated "wonder" typically means "to stray" but in this form means don't "be ignorant" of His Word.

C. PSALM 119 - Application

- 1. Seek Divine Intimacy with God above all things.
- 2. Our sacred task is to ALWAYS be surrendering to God.
- 3. Identify your battles and chose your <u>S</u>word.
- 4. Scripture memory is the basic discipline for every follower of Christ.