



PSALM EMOJIS (Week 6) - Wisdom

Opening Prayer:

You have dealt well with your servant, O Lord, according to Your word. You have kept every promise to us and so we look to Your promised grace in Jesus Christ this morning, Father. Teach us good judgement and knowledge through the wisdom of Your word. You are good and do good; teach us your ways.

Worship

Welcome & Offering Prayer:

To all who are weary and need rest. To all who mourn and long for comfort. To all who feel worthless and wonder if God cares. To all

who fail and desire strength. To all who sin and need a Savior. This church opens wide her doors with a welcome from Jesus Christ, the Ally of His enemies, the Defender of the guilty, the Justifier of the inexcusable, the Friend of sinners. Welcome.

Worship

Dismiss Children

Announcements

Greeting

Prayer for Sermon:

Our Father, give our church — give me — an abiding delight in Your word. Cause us always to hunger for the truth while being ever satisfied with the truth. Lord, make our church a Bible-saturated church.

There's a reason that God has shown you grace. (And if you have no idea what I'm talking about by the phrase God's grade, you may not have experienced God's grace yet.)

So, let me clarify this thing called grace. Biblically, grace means undeserved favor. I want to make this really clear so that I will not be misunderstood as we cover today's Psalm of Wisdom.

Salvation (our entrance into God's presence in heaven after we die) is solely a free gift that God has provided in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. There is nothing we can add to it. His death in our place pays for all our sins, every sin we could ever commit. His perfect life is given to us as a gift, placed in our life account (as it were) so that God treats us as if we were as perfect as His Son. The same Holy Spirit that raised Christ from the dead now abides in us as another gift. So, salvation is free from beginning to end and it provides us everything we need to have a relationship with God in this life and the next.

Now, what we're going to talk about this morning is the result of this salvation, the reason God has saved us. The house of salvation has been built. God has taken us and placed us in the house of salvation as a free gift. We're going to talk about what the inside of that house of salvation looks like, specifically we're going to answer the question, "Why has God placed us in this house?" Or put another way, "Why has God saved us?"

God has shown us grace because we are not like Him, meaning we are not holy. But He has shown us grace to make us like Him.

One of the primary characteristics of God's nature is holiness.

Leviticus 19:2

2 “Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

That was said in the OT, but the Apostles reiterated the same verse in the NT.

The Bible speaks more about holiness than any other personality trait of God. God does not tolerate sin *because* He is holy.

Habakkuk 1:13

Your eyes are too pure to look on evil;
you cannot tolerate wrongdoing.

If God tolerated any sin He would not be holy. God is in opposition to everyone and everything that works against His holiness. This is why we need grace. We are not holy. We are the opposite of holy. We are sinful. We do not think, act or desire to have lives

that are set apart for God to do with us what He wills.

That's what holiness is — to be set apart for God and to look for His guidance in all of life. Does holiness mean we are perfect people? No. Far from it. Does it mean we do not sin? No. Far from it. But we can never be saved by our moral behavior. We will always fall short. We will always be tainted by our sin. That's why we need God to provide salvation.

Once again, in order to make absolutely sure that I am not being misunderstood, let me restate this in a slightly different way. We are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. That's salvation.

Jesus lived the perfect life that we could not live and God credits His righteousness to us. We get His life.

He died the death that we deserve for our crimes against God. He gets our penalty.

Then His resurrection from the dead proves to the world that He has the authority to forgive sins, because it proves He is sinless. The wages of sin is death, but He is sinless so

death had no claim on Him. He conquered death for us.

And He gives us new life by sending His Spirit to live inside of us. This is what it means to be born again. That's salvation and it's a complete and total gift. We can't add anything to it.

2 Timothy 1:9

9 who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

If God gave us grace in Christ before the ages began then grace cannot possibly be based upon our works, upon our merit, upon anything in us.

We lacked both the desire and the power to do good works. God's grace gives us new hearts and thus the desire to do His will. With the new birth of the Spirit also comes the power and the desire to do His will.

Now, with all that being said, today we're going to gain some wisdom about our salvation. We're going to look at God's reason for showering grace upon grace on

us. And the reason God saved you is simply this — that He might make you holy.

Now that we have freedom in Christ we are free to give all for Christ. Before we become Christians we do not want to give all of ourselves to God because our hearts are hard and dark toward God and our hearts are bent inward toward self. But after the new birth, after we are given a new heart by God we want to please Him.

Kevin DeYoung says, "The reason for your entire salvation, the design behind your deliverance, the purpose for which God chose you in the first place is holiness."

The wise person is a holy person. Or let me put it this way — the wise person is the person striving after holiness, not to gain God's favor, but because he has God's favor.

Holiness doesn't come about because we love rules. Holiness comes about because we love Jesus. When you love the Lord, you want to please Him in every way.

John 14:15

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

The Psalm of Wisdom we're looking at this morning shows us what it looks like to love Jesus.

I could say, "If we keep His commands, we will end up holy people." But we keep His commands because we are holy. We are set aside now (by the Holy Spirit) to do God's will.

In the Christian life, there is your positional holiness, what God has made you by virtue of what Christ has done. And there is your conditional holiness, your present state. Positional holiness is set. Conditional holiness is something we grow in.

So, let me do clarify again — to be holy means to be set apart for the purposes of God. That's every Christian's call. God has special plans for you in this life. That's the simplicity of holiness.

But let me remind us how to read the Bible. Most of us read the Bible with this question first, "How does this apply to me?" That's not the first question we should ask. Remember what Jesus said about the Bible, that all the Scriptures testify about Him. They all point to

Him, so the first question we ask is, "How does this apply to Jesus?"

Psalm 119 is the longest Psalm in the Bible. It's an acrostic of twenty-two stanzas, one for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. It's theme will become apparent as we read through it this morning.

Psalm 119

Aleph

119 Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord!

Now if you begin this Psalm with yourself in mind (how does this apply to me?), you begin with conditional holiness, which means that you are approaching God on the basis of your moral goodness.

If you begin this Psalm by asking, "How does this apply to Jesus?" You begin with positional holiness because Christ has fulfilled this law perfectly and you are then placed in Christ as a free gift, thus you approach God on the basis of what Christ has done.

Jesus walked in the law of the Lord perfectly. And He is the One who has opened the way

for us to be in a relationship with His Father by grace that we too might walk in His ways.

We have positional holiness in Christ that we might actually become holy, meaning that our condition might change gradually. This again is what we call conditional holiness.

But what does it mean to be blameless?

This verse applies to us on two different levels. Jesus fulfilled this for us so that we might actually become blameless.

Jesus was accused of being:

a glutton (Luke 7:34)

a drunkard (Luke 7:34)

a false prophet (Luke 7:39)

a friend of people with bad reputations (Luke 7:34)

out of his mind (Mark 3:21)

demon-possessed (John 10:19-20, 31-33)

a blasphemer - speaking false things about God (Matt. 26:57-67)

We're going to look at Four Ways the Law of God Demonstrates our Love for Christ and therefore makes us holy (or blameless), conditionally speaking.

2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies,

As Christians — The Law of God blesses us. As unbelievers — the law of God condemns us.

- **Unpack those statements a bit - as Christians the law of God blesses us because it expresses the desires of our hearts.**

who seek him with their whole heart,

3 who also do no wrong,

but walk in his ways!

4 You have commanded your precepts

to be kept diligently.

5 Oh that my ways may be steadfast

in keeping your statutes!

- **As unbelievers the Law of God condemns us in two different ways. First, if you're a morally upright unbeliever, the Law of God will condemn you because you keep it and you don't see your need for a Savior. You are self-righteous. Now, unfortunately, self-righteousness is actually a form of pride which is the mother of all sins. So, though you are externally righteous, you are also internally corrupt, but are blind to it.**

- **Secondly, the Law of God will condemn you because you cannot keep it perfectly. You will see that you always fall short of the glory of God, His perfect standard. This should lead you to the Savior who saves sinners. Because He will not save you before He shows you that you are a sinner.**

1. The Law of God blesses us because it expresses the heart of the believer.

6 Then I shall not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

7 I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous rules.

8 I will keep your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me!

Beth

You hear in this prayer to keep God's law, the cry for the grace to do so. This is someone who knows he cannot keep God's law without God's grace.

9 How can a young man keep his way pure?
By guarding it according to your word.

2. The Law of God guards us, protects us. Wisdom is to listen to the Word of God.

10 With my whole heart I seek you;
let me not wander from your commandments!

The Word of God reveals the God of the Word.

11 I have stored up your word in my heart,
that I might not sin against you.

12 Blessed are you, O Lord;
teach me your statutes!

13 With my lips I declare
all the rules of your mouth.

14 In the way of your testimonies I delight
as much as in all riches.

15 I will meditate on your precepts
and fix my eyes on your ways.

16 I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.

Gimel

So many people want a still small voice within to whisper to them. God is not whispering. He is speaking loud and clear through His Word.

3. The Word of God makes us wise.

17 Deal bountifully with your servant,
that I may live and keep your word.

Give me grace that I might obey your word.

18 Open my eyes, that I may behold
wondrous things out of your law.

Give me understanding of Your word.

19 I am a sojourner on the earth;
hide not your commandments from me!

Give me grace to keep Your word.

20 My soul is consumed with longing
for your rules at all times.
21 You rebuke the insolent (arrogant and rude lack of respect),
accursed ones,
who wander from your commandments.
22 Take away from me scorn and contempt,
for I have kept your testimonies.
23 Even though princes sit plotting against me,
your servant will meditate on your statutes.
24 Your testimonies are my delight;
they are my counselors.
Daleth

4. The Word of God brings Life.

25 My soul clings to the dust;
give me life according to your word!
26 When I told of my ways, you answered me;
teach me your statutes!
27 Make me understand the way of your precepts,
and I will meditate on your wondrous works.
28 My soul melts away for sorrow;
strengthen me according to your word!
29 Put false ways far from me
and graciously teach me your law!
30 I have chosen the way of faithfulness;

I set your rules before me.
31 I cling to your testimonies, O Lord;
let me not be put to shame!
32 I will run in the way of your commandments
when you enlarge my heart!

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes;
and I will keep it to the end.
34 Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.
35 Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.
36 Incline my heart to your testimonies,
and not to selfish gain!
37 Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things;
and give me life in your ways.
38 Confirm to your servant your promise,
that you may be feared.
39 Turn away the reproach that I dread,
for your rules are good.
40 Behold, I long for your precepts;
in your righteousness give me life!
Waw

41 Let your steadfast love come to me, O Lord,
your salvation according to your promise;
42 then shall I have an answer for him who taunts me,
for I trust in your word.
43 And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth,
for my hope is in your rules.
44 I will keep your law continually,
forever and ever,
45 and I shall walk in a wide place,

for I have sought your precepts.

46 I will also speak of your testimonies before kings
and shall not be put to shame,

47 for I find my delight in your commandments,
which I love.

48 I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I
love,

and I will meditate on your statutes.

Zayin

49 Remember your word to your servant,
in which you have made me hope.

50 This is my comfort in my affliction,
that your promise gives me life.

51 The insolent utterly deride me,
but I do not turn away from your law.

52 When I think of your rules from of old,
I take comfort, O Lord.

53 Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked,
who forsake your law.

54 Your statutes have been my songs
in the house of my sojourning.

55 I remember your name in the night, O Lord,
and keep your law.

56 This blessing has fallen to me,
that I have kept your precepts.

Heth

57 The Lord is my portion;
I promise to keep your words.

58 I entreat your favor with all my heart;
be gracious to me according to your promise.

59 When I think on my ways,
I turn my feet to your testimonies;

60 I hasten and do not delay
to keep your commandments.

61 Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me,
I do not forget your law.

62 At midnight I rise to praise you,
because of your righteous rules.

63 I am a companion of all who fear you,
of those who keep your precepts.

64 The earth, O Lord, is full of your steadfast love;
teach me your statutes!

Teth

65 You have dealt well with your servant,
O Lord, according to your word.

66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge,
for I believe in your commandments.

67 Before I was afflicted I went astray,
but now I keep your word.

68 You are good and do good;
teach me your statutes.

69 The insolent smear me with lies,
but with my whole heart I keep your precepts;

70 their heart is unfeeling like fat,
but I delight in your law.

71 It is good for me that I was afflicted,
that I might learn your statutes.

72 The law of your mouth is better to me
than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

Yodh

73 Your hands have made and fashioned me;
give me understanding that I may learn your commandments.

74 Those who fear you shall see me and rejoice,
because I have hoped in your word.

75 I know, O Lord, that your rules are righteous,
and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.
76 Let your steadfast love comfort me
according to your promise to your servant.
77 Let your mercy come to me, that I may live;
for your law is my delight.
78 Let the insolent be put to shame,
because they have wronged me with falsehood;
as for me, I will meditate on your precepts.
79 Let those who fear you turn to me,
that they may know your testimonies.
80 May my heart be blameless in your statutes,
that I may not be put to shame!

Kaph

81 My soul longs for your salvation;
I hope in your word.
82 My eyes long for your promise;
I ask, "When will you comfort me?"
83 For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke,
yet I have not forgotten your statutes.
84 How long must your servant endure?
When will you judge those who persecute me?
85 The insolent have dug pitfalls for me;
they do not live according to your law.
86 All your commandments are sure;
they persecute me with falsehood; help me!
87 They have almost made an end of me on earth,
but I have not forsaken your precepts.
88 In your steadfast love give me life,
that I may keep the testimonies of your mouth.

Lamedh

89 Forever, O Lord, your word

is firmly fixed in the heavens.
90 Your faithfulness endures to all generations;
you have established the earth, and it stands fast.
91 By your appointment they stand this day,
for all things are your servants.
92 If your law had not been my delight,
I would have perished in my affliction.
93 I will never forget your precepts,
for by them you have given me life.
94 I am yours; save me,
for I have sought your precepts.
95 The wicked lie in wait to destroy me,
but I consider your testimonies.
96 I have seen a limit to all perfection,
but your commandment is exceedingly broad.

Mem

97 Oh how I love your law!
It is my meditation all the day.
98 Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,
for it is ever with me.
99 I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for your testimonies are my meditation.
100 I understand more than the aged,
for I keep your precepts.
101 I hold back my feet from every evil way,
in order to keep your word.
102 I do not turn aside from your rules,
for you have taught me.
103 How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!
104 Through your precepts I get understanding;
therefore I hate every false way.

Nun

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.
106 I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to keep your righteous rules.
107 I am severely afflicted;
give me life, O Lord, according to your word!
108 Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O Lord,
and teach me your rules.
109 I hold my life in my hand continually,
but I do not forget your law.
110 The wicked have laid a snare for me,
but I do not stray from your precepts.
111 Your testimonies are my heritage forever,
for they are the joy of my heart.
112 I incline my heart to perform your statutes
forever, to the end.

Samekh

113 I hate the double-minded,
but I love your law.
114 You are my hiding place and my shield;
I hope in your word.
115 Depart from me, you evildoers,
that I may keep the commandments of my God.
116 Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live,
and let me not be put to shame in my hope!
117 Hold me up, that I may be safe
and have regard for your statutes continually!
118 You spurn all who go astray from your statutes,
for their cunning is in vain.
119 All the wicked of the earth you discard like dross,
therefore I love your testimonies.
120 My flesh trembles for fear of you,

and I am afraid of your judgments.
Ayin

121 I have done what is just and right;
do not leave me to my oppressors.
122 Give your servant a pledge of good;
let not the insolent oppress me.
123 My eyes long for your salvation
and for the fulfillment of your righteous promise.
124 Deal with your servant according to your steadfast love,
and teach me your statutes.
125 I am your servant; give me understanding,
that I may know your testimonies!
126 It is time for the Lord to act,
for your law has been broken.
127 Therefore I love your commandments
above gold, above fine gold.
128 Therefore I consider all your precepts to be right;
I hate every false way.

Pe

129 Your testimonies are wonderful;
therefore my soul keeps them.
130 The unfolding of your words gives light;
it imparts understanding to the simple.
131 I open my mouth and pant,
because I long for your commandments.
132 Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your way with those who love your name.
133 Keep steady my steps according to your promise,
and let no iniquity get dominion over me.
134 Redeem me from man's oppression,
that I may keep your precepts.
135 Make your face shine upon your servant,

and teach me your statutes.

136 My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your law.
Tsadhe

137 Righteous are you, O Lord,
and right are your rules.

138 You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness
and in all faithfulness.

139 My zeal consumes me,
because my foes forget your words.

140 Your promise is well tried,
and your servant loves it.

141 I am small and despised,
yet I do not forget your precepts.

142 Your righteousness is righteous forever,
and your law is true.

143 Trouble and anguish have found me out,
but your commandments are my delight.

144 Your testimonies are righteous forever;
give me understanding that I may live.

Qoph

145 With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O Lord!
I will keep your statutes.

146 I call to you; save me,
that I may observe your testimonies.

147 I rise before dawn and cry for help;
I hope in your words.

148 My eyes are awake before the watches of the night,
that I may meditate on your promise.

149 Hear my voice according to your steadfast love;
O Lord, according to your justice give me life.

150 They draw near who persecute me with evil purpose;

they are far from your law.

151 But you are near, O Lord,
and all your commandments are true.

152 Long have I known from your testimonies
that you have founded them forever.
Resh

153 Look on my affliction and deliver me,
for I do not forget your law.

154 Plead my cause and redeem me;
give me life according to your promise!

155 Salvation is far from the wicked,
for they do not seek your statutes.

156 Great is your mercy, O Lord;
give me life according to your rules.

157 Many are my persecutors and my adversaries,
but I do not swerve from your testimonies.

158 I look at the faithless with disgust,
because they do not keep your commands.

159 Consider how I love your precepts!
Give me life according to your steadfast love.

160 The sum of your word is truth,
and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.
Sin and Shin

161 Princes persecute me without cause,
but my heart stands in awe of your words.

162 I rejoice at your word
like one who finds great spoil.

163 I hate and abhor falsehood,
but I love your law.

164 Seven times a day I praise you
for your righteous rules.

165 Great peace have those who love your law;

nothing can make them stumble.
166 I hope for your salvation, O Lord,
and I do your commandments.
167 My soul keeps your testimonies;
I love them exceedingly.
168 I keep your precepts and testimonies,
for all my ways are before you.
Taw

169 Let my cry come before you, O Lord;
give me understanding according to your word!
170 Let my plea come before you;
deliver me according to your word.
171 My lips will pour forth praise,
for you teach me your statutes.
172 My tongue will sing of your word,
for all your commandments are right.
173 Let your hand be ready to help me,
for I have chosen your precepts.
174 I long for your salvation, O Lord,
and your law is my delight.
175 Let my soul live and praise you,
and let your rules help me.
176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant,
for I do not forget your commandments.

Psalm 73

A Psalm of Asaph.

73 Truly God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.

2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled,
my steps had nearly slipped.
3 For I was envious of the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
4 For they have no pangs until death;
their bodies are fat and sleek.
5 They are not in trouble as others are;
they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.
6 Therefore pride is their necklace;
violence covers them as a garment.
7 Their eyes swell out through fatness;
their hearts overflow with follies.
8 They scoff and speak with malice;
loftily they threaten oppression.
9 They set their mouths against the heavens,
and their tongue struts through the earth.
10 Therefore his people turn back to them,
and find no fault in them.
11 And they say, "How can God know?
Is there knowledge in the Most High?"
12 Behold, these are the wicked;
always at ease, they increase in riches.
13 All in vain have I kept my heart clean
and washed my hands in innocence.
14 For all the day long I have been stricken
and rebuked every morning.
15 If I had said, "I will speak thus,"
I would have betrayed the generation of your children.
16 But when I thought how to understand this,
it seemed to me a wearisome task,
17 until I went into the sanctuary of God;
then I discerned their end.

18 Truly you set them in slippery places;
you make them fall to ruin.
19 How they are destroyed in a moment,
swept away utterly by terrors!
20 Like a dream when one awakes,
O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as
phantoms.
21 When my soul was embittered,
when I was pricked in heart,
22 I was brutish and ignorant;
I was like a beast toward you.

23 Nevertheless, I am continually with you;
you hold my right hand.
24 You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will receive me to glory.
25 Whom have I in heaven but you?
And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.
26 My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

27 For behold, those who are far from you shall perish;
you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.
28 But for me it is good to be near God;
I have made the Lord God my refuge,
that I may tell of all your works.

Recent research also revealed that “deep reading”—defined as reading that is slow, immersive, rich in sensory detail and emotional and moral complexity—is distinctive from light reading—little more

than the decoding of words. Deep reading occurs when the language is rich in detail, allusion, and metaphor, and taps into the same brain regions that would activate if the reader were experiencing the event. Deep reading is great exercise for the brain, and has been shown to increase empathy, as the reader dives deeper and adds reflection, analysis, and personal subtext to what is being read. It also offers writers a way to appreciate all the qualities that make novels fascinating and meaningful—and to tap into his ability to write on a deeper level.

Light reading is equated to what one might read in online blogs, or “headline news” or “entertainment news” websites, particularly those that breezily rely on lists or punchy headlines, and even occasionally use emojis to communicate. These types of light reading lack a genuine voice, a viewpoint, or the sort of analyses that might stimulate thought. It’s light and breezy reading that you can skim through and will likely forget within minutes.