

Psalm 119

A Verse-by-Verse Study

MEM: WATER (SOURCE)

- The direct meaning of Mem is water.
 - To a Jew, it might illustrate the *spring of the Torah* (living water)
 - or the *sea of Talmud* (deep mysteries of God),
 - reminding them that there is always more to learn in addition to what they already know.
- And just like there are 2 bodies of water, you can write the letter in two forms: open and closed.
 - An open body of water flows from one place to another,
 - whereas a closed one is more like a basin; a lake, pool, or even the ocean.
 - According to some Hebrew scholars, the open form represents the revealed truth of God,
 - while the closed form represents the mysteries of God.
 - In shorter terms, there's the accessible truth and the mysterious.
- Ultimately, we can see how there are two sides to the Word:
 - things we do and do not understand.
 - Along with this dual truth comes another:

- it's essential for us to study the Word, but equally important to rest in the truth that we don't have to figure it all out right away.
- We must trust that through constant dripping of the Word, God is at work in us
 - **Philippians 2:13** For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.
- In the following verses, the psalmist talks to God about His love for the Word and reveals how it has helped and affected his life.
- In prior sections of Psalm 119, he seems to cry out to God about his enemies, difficulties, and trials more than anything.
- But here, I think it's more than a coincidence that the definition of Mem connects with these verses.
- Just as water is a symbol of life, growth, and refreshment, so is the Bible for us today.
- We need it daily! As you read through the verses, think about the ways God's Word affects you every day:

97 O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

- **I cannot encourage you enough to open the Word of God each day and seek life from its source (Christ)**

- **Psalm 1:2** But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.
- **Deuteronomy 6:6-9** And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:
7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.
8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.
9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.
- **Joshua 1:8** This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

- **Now as a New Testament Child of God...we must translate this to what is relevant to us and loving God's Word!**

- **John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2 The same was in the beginning with God.
3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.
- **John 1:14** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

98 Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they *are* ever with me.

- **Wouldn't I be correct in assuming that most of us have some desire for people not to think us foolish or for lack of a better word, dumb?**
 - We want most to see us as possessing some sort of intelligence, right?
- **God's Word WILL make you to have wisdom that you would otherwise not possess!**
 - **Proverbs 2:6** For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding.
 - **Colossians 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
- **When we open God's Word we MUST be seeking Him!**
- **Knowing that what we need will only come from Him!**
 - **James 1:5** If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.
 - **6** But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.
7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.
 - **James 1:25** But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies *are* my meditation.

100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.

101 I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word.

102 I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me.

- **In these verses our Psalmist may seem proud and boastful, but consider this...**

- He has spent time in God's Word
- Hard times came
- Enemies attacked
- Yet God's Word did not change or move
- The psalmist had a place he could flee to and find refuge and safety
- He found things to remember about the mercies of God
- He is now baptized in the Water of the Word once again finding the source of life that is God's Word
- His understanding is vast now having experienced a full spectrum of circumstances...
 - His teachers being life's choices, circumstances, attacks, and corrections
- His understanding comes with a wealth of wisdom from those who have failed before
 - It is truly a biblically wise person who can learn from other's failings rather than their own
 - It is a truly biblically wise person who chooses to follow the Word of God rather than their emotions, feelings, desires, or life's circumstances

- It is a truly biblically wise person who allows God to be their teacher, not just hearing but doing what the Word says
- **James 1:22** But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

103 How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

104 Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

- **It is only the person who has truly tasted the sweetness of God's Word that will become one who pursues to taste again**
 - **Psalms 34:8** O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man *that* trusteth in him.
 - **Job 23:12** Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.
 - **Proverbs 24:13** My son, eat thou honey, because *it is* good; and the honeycomb, *which is* sweet to thy taste:
14 So *shall* the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found *it*, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.
- **We will never have the Lord's view of sin if we don't know Him**
 - **We will never know Him if we don't let His Word show Him**