Back 2 Basics: Christianity 101

Scripture

Psalm 119:41-48 (CSB)

Let your faithful love come to me, LORD, your salvation, as
you promised. ***42*** *Then I can answer the one who taunts*
me, for I trust in your word. ***43*** *Never take the word of truth*
from my mouth, for I hope in your judgments. ***44*** *I will*
always obey your instruction, forever and ever. ***45*** *I will*
walk freely in an open place because I study your
precepts. ***46*** *I will speak of your decrees before kings and*
not be ashamed. ***47*** *I delight in your commands, which I*
love. ***48*** *I will lift up my hands to your commands, which I*
love, and will meditate on your statutes.

Where would you be without the Bible?

Psalm 119

- Psalm 119 is longest psalm, 176 verses.
- Alphabetic acrostic of 22 strophes, 1 for ea. letter of Hebrew Alphabet
- Ea. strophe = 8 verses.
  - 8 = # of celebration in Hebrew traditions
  - 7 = # of rest, completion (8 = party in God's victory and goodness)
- Psalm 119 has characteristics of Lament Psalm
  - Crying out to God in pain, Questioning God's presence, Trusting in God
- Key of Psalm 119: Trust in God's Word
- *Waw* strophe (41-48)

i. The bible contains the words of God

- This book is not just a religious text made up by humans. It contains the very words of God!
- A Plea & Waiting… Remembering God's words:
  - Isaiah 41:10 *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*
  - Deut. 31:8 *The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.*
  - Psalm 32:8 *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.*

ii. The bible instills confidence in God

- Psalm 119:42-46
- *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile*. Romans 1:16 (NIV)
- *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,* ***16*** *keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.* 1 Peter 3:15-16 (NIV)

iii. The bible invites the praise of God.

- Psalm 119:47-48
- Roughly 50% of Psalms are praise.
- Praise is consistent theme from Genesis to Revelation.
- What stands out here?
  - **Delight** – God has a certain delight in you and me. “Regular, deep engagement with God’s word trains believers to find satisfaction in what delights God, counteracting the hollow allurements of the age.”
  - **Loving** God’s commands (2x). Commands = Torah, and all God’s instruction.
  - **Lift up my hands**. “To raise eyes, voice, or hands is to reorient the whole person Godward.”
  - **Meditate**. Means the quiet, intense pondering of God’s word.
- The truest marker of my Bible reading is not how much knowledge I possess, but in how much praise I pour out.

Recap: Scripture

i. The Bible contains the words of God.
ii. The Bible instills a confidence in God.
iii. The Bible invites the praise of God.