

Wake Union Baptist Church Sunday School Devotion



Opening Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for keeping us safe and well and giving us another opportunity to consider your word. We pray for those that are sick to be healed that they might praise you and others might see your mighty power and believe. We pray for an end to the virus that we might meet together again soon. Give us understanding now as we consider today's scripture. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

This is now the 16th Sunday of cancelled services. As I write this, the governor has moved the start of Phase 3 reopening back at least 3 more weeks. Reminds me of Groundhog Day. I miss seeing everyone at church.

Memory Verses

*²Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. ³Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation. ⁴And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. ⁵Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. **Isaiah 12:2-5***

Last week we considered the first and last songs in our Bible (The Songs of Moses). Today we'll look at the longest song in our Bible, Psalm 119. This Psalm celebrates the word of God and emphasizes how important it is to guide and help us in our daily life. It is organized as an acrostic of 22 stanzas, one for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet, with the eight verses of each stanza beginning with the same Hebrew letter (thus the subheadings ALEPH, BETH, GIMEL, DALETH, and so on). This organization helped those who spoke Hebrew remember it. Within this Psalm the Bible is referred to as: "laws", "statutes", "precepts", "commandments", "judgments", "testimonies", "decrees", "word", and "promise". It contains 176 verses; the verses below are a sample.

Psalm 119

⁹Wherewithal (How) shall a young man cleanse his way (stay pure)? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. ¹⁰With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. ¹¹Thy word have I hid (treasured) in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. ¹²Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.

Everywhere we look today there are temptations to lead impure lives. In the Bible we find the strength and wisdom to help us overcome those tempting influences and live as we should. The Bible is the only sure guide for living a pure life. May we keep God's Holy Word in our hearts.

¹⁶I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.

The Bible helps us stay on God's path. When we meditate and delight in God's Word, we are not apt to forget it.

²⁵*My soul cleaveth unto the dust* (completely discouraged): *quicken* (revive) *thou me according to thy word.*

Our world and the news we hear each day, are filled with discouragement. In the Bible we find encouragement, answers to life's problems, and the hope of eternal life through faith in Christ. God's Words are spirit and life (John 6:63) to those that receive them. Read your Bible regularly and be revived.

²⁷*Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.* ²⁸*My soul melteth for heaviness* (drops or weeps with sorrow): *strengthen thou me according unto thy word.*

The Holy Spirit works to help us understand and apply the guidance we read in our Bibles; thereby strengthening our personal testimony and providing comfort in times of sorrow.

⁴¹*Let thy mercies* (lovingkindness) *come also unto me, O LORD, even thy salvation, according to thy word.* ⁴²*So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth* (taunts) *me: for I trust in thy word.*

The Bible is a record of God's tender love, mercies, and saving grace.

⁵⁷*Thou art my portion, O LORD: I have said* (promised) *that I would keep thy words.* ⁵⁸*I entreated thy favour with my whole heart: be merciful unto me according to thy word.* ⁵⁹*I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.*

May we regularly reflect on our ways in light of God's Word and turn when we stray to follow "Jesus the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2).

⁷³*Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.* ⁷⁴*They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; because I have hoped in thy word.*

We have been "fearfully and wonderfully made" by our Creator (Psalm 139:14). Through the scriptures God gives understanding of His purpose for our lives and helps us to encourage one another.

⁸⁹*For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.* ⁹⁰*Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth* (stands, endures).

God's word is eternal. An enduring foundation for our faith. Revealing the only way to salvation is through the blood of Jesus. "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" (1 Peter 1:23).

¹⁰³How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth! ¹⁰⁴Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way (wrong path). ¹⁰⁵Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

May we savor the sweetness of God's Word and through understanding and applying the truths of light therein, stay on the safe and true path of righteousness through a world darkened by sin.

¹¹⁴Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.

In the Bible we find assurance of God's love and protection, and "a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus" (1 Peter 1:3).

¹³⁵Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; and teach me thy statutes.

May we faithfully live according to God's Word that He be pleased with us and not hide his face from us because of sin (Micah 3:4).

¹⁴³Trouble and anguish have taken hold on me: yet thy commandments are my delights.

Although difficulties and discouragement may come, Christians will still find peace and joy in God's Word.

¹⁶²I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil (treasure). ¹⁶³I hate and abhor lying (falsehood): but thy law do I love. ¹⁶⁴Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments. ¹⁶⁵Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them (cause them to stumble). ¹⁶⁶LORD, I have hoped for thy salvation, and done thy commandments. ¹⁶⁷My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly. ¹⁶⁸I have kept thy precepts and thy testimonies: for all my ways are before thee. ¹⁶⁹Let my cry come near before thee, O LORD: give me understanding according to thy word. ¹⁷⁰Let my supplication come before thee: deliver me according to thy word. ¹⁷¹My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes. ¹⁷²My tongue shall speak (sing) of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness. ¹⁷³Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts. ¹⁷⁴I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law is my delight. ¹⁷⁵Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me. ¹⁷⁶I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.

We find in the treasures of scripture many reasons to sing praises to God, none greater than remembering that we all like sheep have gone astray and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all (Isaiah 53:6).

The longest song in our Bible is all about the importance of God's word. Let's make sure we read and study it regularly and depend on it to guide us to a closer fellowship with our Lord.

¹³And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:13

Closing Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the sure word of your Holy Bible. Help us to read and study it regularly, and treasure your scriptures in our heart that we might stay on your paths of righteousness. Help us to share the truths that you teach us with everyone that you place in our lives. Please keep everyone well until we meet again. We love you Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.