

WESTBORO BAPTIST CHURCH SERMON OF NOVEMBER 3, 2013
PSALM 119—PARADISE OF ALL DOCTRINES AND SCHOOL OF TRUTH

I recently heard an interview of our beloved Brother Tim on a radio program out of Rhode Island. It was excellent explication of God's sovereign power bringing this nation down to the sides of hell as God has promised for their hatred of and rebellion against Him and their love of themselves and their sins. [See e.g., Psalm 9:17.] The Lord opened that door of utterance apparently in connection to our Gospel preaching at the World Series. The interviewer began with this quote: "The Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) of Topeka, Kansas, is an Old School (or, Primitive) Baptist Church. We adhere to the teachings of the Bible, preach against all form of sin (e.g., fornication, adultery [including divorce and remarriage], sodomy), and insist that the sovereignty of God and the doctrines of grace be taught and expounded publicly to all men." He got that from our web page: www.godhatesfags.com, from our FAQ Page: "Who are you, what do you do, and why do you do it?"

The theme of all my sermons in this pulpit I pray will be to adhere to the teachings of the Bible, preach against all forms of sin and insist that the sovereignty of God and the doctrines of grace be taught and expounded publicly to all men. To that end I lay down this proposition: (2 Timothy 3:16-17): "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." So, open the Bible in any place and read: jumping out at you will be preaching against sin and the instruction on the sovereignty of God and the doctrines of grace. And, one such place is Psalm 119.

Psalm 119 consists of twenty two parts, according to the number of the letters in the Hebrew alphabet; the names of which letters stand between each part; and every part consists of eight

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verses, all of which begin with the same letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

“This Psalm is called the Alphabet of Divine Love, the Paradise of all the Doctrines, the Storehouse of the Holy Spirit, the School of Truth, also the deep mystery of the Scriptures, where the whole moral discipline of all the virtues shines brightly.” --Johannes Paulus Palanterius, 1600.

“In our German version it has the appropriate inscription, ‘The Christian’s golden A B C of the praise, love, power, and use of the Word of God.’” Franz Delitzsch, 1871.

In Matthew Henry’s “Account of the Life and Death of his father, Philip Henry,” he says: “Once, pressing the study of the Scriptures, he advised us to take a verse of this Psalm every morning to meditate upon, and so go over the Psalm twice in the year; and that, saith he, will bring you to be in love with all the rest of the Scriptures.”

Some say David, the “Sweet Psalmist of Israel” [2 Samuel 23:1], composed Psalm 119 throughout his life from young age to old age in order. Listen to the Holy Spirit at the mouth of David from when he was young to when he was old:

1 ¶ ALEPH. [ah-lehf]. Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the **law** of the LORD.

2 Blessed are they that keep his **testimonies**, and that seek him with the whole heart.

3 They also do no iniquity: they walk in his **ways**.

4 ¶ Thou hast commanded us to keep thy **precepts** diligently.

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5 O that my ways were directed to keep thy **statutes**!

6 Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy
commandments.

7 ¶ I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have
learned thy righteous **judgments**.

8 I will keep thy **statutes**: O forsake me not utterly.

9 ¶ BETH. [b EH th]. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his
way? by taking heed thereto according to thy **word**.

10 ¶ With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander
from thy **commandments**.

11 ¶ Thy **word** have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against
thee.

12 ¶ Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy **statutes**.

13 ¶ With my lips have I declared all the **judgments** of thy mouth.

14 I have rejoiced in the way of thy **testimonies**, as much as in all
riches.

15 I will meditate in thy **precepts**, and have respect unto thy ways.

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

17 ¶ GIMEL. [g ih m ehl]. Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I
may live, and keep thy **word**.

18 ¶ Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out
of thy **law**.

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19 ¶ I am a stranger in the earth: hide not thy **commandments**
from me.

20 ¶ My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto thy
judgments at all times.

21 ¶ Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed, which do err
from thy **commandments**.

22 ¶ Remove from me reproach and contempt; for I have kept thy
testimonies.

23 ¶ Princes also did sit and speak against me: but thy servant did
meditate in thy **statutes**.

24 ¶ Thy **testimonies** also are my delight and my counsellors.

25 ¶ DALETH. [Dah leth]. My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken
thou me according to thy **word**.

26 ¶ I have declared my ways, and thou heardest me: teach me thy
statutes.

27 Make me to understand the way of thy **precepts**: so shall I talk
of thy wondrous works.

28 ¶ My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according
unto thy **word**.

29 Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy **law**
graciously.

30 ¶ I have chosen the way of truth: thy **judgments** have I laid
before me.

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31 I have stuck unto thy **testimonies**: O LORD, put me not to shame.

32 I will run the way of thy **commandments**, when thou shalt enlarge my heart.

33 ¶ HE. [hey]. Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy **statutes**; and I shall keep it unto the end.

34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy **law**; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

35 ¶ Make me to go in the path of thy **commandments**; for therein do I delight.

36 Incline my heart unto thy **testimonies**, and not to covetousness.

37 ¶ Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy **way**.

38 ¶ Stablish thy **word** unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear.

39 ¶ Turn away my reproach which I fear: for thy **judgments** are good.

40 ¶ Behold, I have longed after thy **precepts**: quicken me in thy righteousness.

41 ¶ VAU. [vahv]. Let thy mercies come also unto me, O LORD, even thy salvation, according to thy **word**.

42 So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in thy **word**.

43 ¶ And take not the **word of truth** utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy **judgments**.

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44 So shall I keep thy **law** continually for ever and ever.

45 ¶ And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy **precepts**.

46 I will speak of thy **testimonies** also before kings, and will not be ashamed.

47 And I will delight myself in thy **commandments**, which I have loved.

48 My hands also will I lift up unto thy **commandments**, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy **statutes**.

49 ¶ ZAIN. [zah-yeen]. Remember the **word** unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope.

50 ¶ This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy **word** hath quickened me.

51 ¶ The proud have had me greatly in derision: yet have I not declined from thy **law**.

52 ¶ I remembered thy **judgments** of old, O LORD; and have comforted myself.

53 ¶ Horror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake thy **law**.

54 ¶ Thy **statutes** have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage.

55 ¶ I have remembered thy name, O LORD, in the night, and have kept thy **law**.

56 This I had, because I kept thy **precepts**.

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57 ¶ CHETH. [kheht]. Thou art my portion, O LORD: I have said
that I would keep thy **words**.

58 ¶ I intreated 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.

60 I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy **commandments**.

61 ¶ The bands of the wicked have robbed me: but I have not
forgotten thy **law**.

62 ¶ At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy
righteous **judgments**.

63 ¶ I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that
keep thy **precepts**.

64 ¶ The earth, O LORD, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy
statutes.

65 ¶ TETH. [teht]. Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O LORD,
according unto thy **word**.

66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed
thy **commandments**.

67 ¶ Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy
word.

68 ¶ Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy **statutes**.

69 ¶ The proud have forged a lie against me: but I will keep thy
precepts with my whole heart.

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70 Their heart is as fat as grease; but I delight in thy **law**.

71 ¶ It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy **statutes**.

72 ¶ The **law** of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.

73 ¶ JOD. [YOOD]. 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**.

75 ¶ I know, O LORD, that thy **judgments** are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.

76 ¶ Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy **word** unto thy servant.

77 Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy **law** is my delight.

78 ¶ Let the proud be ashamed; for they dealt perversely with me without a cause: but I will meditate in thy **precepts**.

79 Let those that fear thee turn unto me, and those that have known thy **testimonies**.

80 ¶ Let my heart be sound in thy **statutes**; that I be not ashamed.

81 ¶ CAPH. [kahf]. My soul fainteth for thy salvation: but I hope in thy **word**.

82 Mine eyes fail for thy **word**, saying, When wilt thou comfort me?

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83 ¶ For I am become like a bottle in the smoke; yet do I not forget thy **statutes**.

84 ¶ How many are the days of thy servant? when wilt thou execute **judgment** on them that persecute me?

85 ¶ The proud have digged pits for me, which are not after thy **law**.

86 All thy **commandments** are faithful: they persecute me wrongfully; help thou me.

87 They had almost consumed me upon earth; but I forsook not thy **precepts**.

88 ¶ Quicken me after thy lovingkindness; so shall I keep the **testimony** of thy mouth.

89 ¶ LAMED. [LAH-mehd]. 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.

91 They continue this day according to thine **ordinances**: for all are thy servants.

92 ¶ Unless thy **law** had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction.

93 ¶ I will never forget thy **precepts**: for with them thou hast quickened me.

94 ¶ I am thine, save me; for I have sought thy **precepts**.

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95 ¶ The wicked have waited for me to destroy me: but I will consider thy **testimonies**.

96 ¶ I have seen an end of all perfection: but thy **commandment** is exceeding broad.

97 ¶ MEM. [MEHM]. O how love I thy **law!** it is my meditation all the day.

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

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.

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.

105 ¶ NUN. [NOON]. Thy **word** is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

106 ¶ I have sworn, and I will perform it, that I will keep thy righteous **judgments**.

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107 ¶ I am afflicted very much: quicken me, O LORD, according
unto thy **word**.

108 ¶ Accept, I beseech thee, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O
LORD, and teach me thy **judgments**.

109 ¶ My soul is continually in my hand: yet do I not forget thy **law**.

110 The wicked have laid a snare for me: yet I erred not from thy
precepts.

111 ¶ Thy **testimonies** have I taken as an heritage for ever: for
they are the rejoicing of my heart.

112 I have inclined mine heart to perform thy **statutes** alway, even
unto the end.

113 ¶ SAMECH. [SAH-mehkh]. I hate vain thoughts: but thy **law** do
I love.

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

115 ¶ Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the
commandments of my God.

116 ¶ Uphold me according unto thy **word**, that I may live: and let
me not be ashamed of my hope.

117 Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect
unto thy **statutes** continually.

118 ¶ Thou hast trodden down all them that err from thy **statutes**:
for their deceit is falsehood.

119 Thou puttest away all the wicked of the earth like dross:
therefore I love thy **testimonies**.

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120 My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy
judgments.

121 ¶ AIN. [AH-yeen]. I have done **judgment** and justice: leave me
not to mine oppressors.

122 Be surety for thy servant for good: let not the proud oppress
me.

123 ¶ Mine eyes fail for thy salvation, and for the **word** of thy
righteousness.

124 ¶ Deal with thy servant according unto thy mercy, and teach
me thy **statutes**.

125 I am thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know thy
testimonies.

126 ¶ It is time for thee, LORD, to work: for they have made void
thy **law**.

127 ¶ Therefore I love thy **commandments** above gold; yea,
above fine gold.

128 Therefore I esteem all thy **precepts** concerning all things to be
right; and I hate every false way.

129 ¶ PE. [PEH]. Thy **testimonies** are wonderful: therefore doth
my soul keep them.

130 ¶ The entrance of thy **words** giveth light; it giveth
understanding unto the simple.

131 ¶ I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for thy
commandments.

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132 ¶ Look thou upon me, and be merciful unto me, as thou usest to do unto those that love thy name.

133 ¶ Order my steps in thy **word**: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

134 ¶ Deliver me from the oppression of man: so will I keep thy **precepts**.

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

136 ¶ Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy **law**.

137 ¶ TZADDI. [TSAH-dee]. Righteous art thou, O LORD, and upright are thy **judgments**.

138 Thy **testimonies** that thou hast commanded are righteous and very faithful.

139 ¶ My zeal hath consumed me, because mine enemies have forgotten thy **words**.

140 ¶ Thy **word** is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.

141 ¶ I am small and despised: yet do not I forget thy **precepts**.

142 ¶ Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy **law** is the truth.

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

144 The righteousness of thy **testimonies** is everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live.

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145 ¶ KOPH. [KOOF]. I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O LORD: I will keep thy **statutes**.

146 I cried unto thee; save me, and I shall keep thy **testimonies**.

147 ¶ I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy **word**.

148 Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy **word**.

149 ¶ Hear my voice according unto thy lovingkindness: O LORD, quicken me according to thy **judgment**.

150 ¶ They draw nigh that follow after mischief: they are far from thy **law**.

151 Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy **commandments** are truth.

152 ¶ Concerning thy **testimonies**, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever.

153 ¶ RESH. [REHSH]. Consider mine affliction, and deliver me: for I do not forget thy **law**.

154 Plead my cause, and deliver me: quicken me according to thy **word**.

155 ¶ Salvation is far from the wicked: for they seek not thy **statutes**.

156 ¶ Great are thy tender mercies, O LORD: quicken me according to thy **judgments**.

157 ¶ Many are my persecutors and mine enemies; yet do I not decline from thy **testimonies**.

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158 ¶ I beheld the transgressors, and was grieved; because they kept not thy **word**.

159 ¶ Consider how I love thy **precepts**: quicken me, O LORD, according to thy lovingkindness.

160 ¶ Thy **word** is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.

161 ¶ SCHIN. [SEEN]. Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy **word**.

162 ¶ I rejoice at thy **word**, as one that findeth great spoil.

163 ¶ I hate and abhor lying: but thy **law** do I love.

164 ¶ Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous **judgments**.

165 ¶ Great peace have they which love thy **law**: and nothing shall offend them.

166 ¶ LORD, I have hoped for thy salvation, and done thy **commandments**.

167 ¶ My soul hath kept thy **testimonies**; and I love them exceedingly.

168 I have kept thy **precepts** and thy **testimonies**: for all my ways are before thee.

169 ¶ TAU. [TAHV]. Let my cry come near before thee, O LORD: give me understanding according to thy **word**.

170 Let my supplication come before thee: deliver me according to thy **word**.

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171 ¶ My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy
statutes.

172 ¶ My tongue shall speak of thy **word**: for all thy
commandments are righteousness.

173 ¶ Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy **precepts**.

174 I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy **law** is my
delight.

175 ¶ Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy
judgments help me.

176 ¶ I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I
do not forget thy **commandments**.

With the exception of verses 90, 122, and 132 there appears in each verse of Psalm 119 one of the following words: law, testimonies, precepts, statutes, commandments, judgments, word, saying, and “way.”

These are all designations of the Divine Law; but each has a significantly different meaning. I direct you to the full outline for those meanings which has been provided to you here or can be found on our web page.

[1. "Law". This word is formed from a verb which means to direct, to guide, to aim, to shoot forwards. Its etymological meaning, then, would be a rule of conduct. It means God's law in general, whether it be that universal rule called the law of nature, or that which was revealed to his Church by Moses, and perfected by Christ.

2. "Testimonies" are derived from a word which signifies to bear witness to testify. The ark of the tabernacle is so called as are the

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two tables of stone, and the tabernacle; the earnest and witnesses of God's inhabitation among his people. Testimonies are more particularly God's revealed law; the witnesses and confirmation of his promises made to his people, and earnest of his future salvation.

3. "Precepts," from a word which means to place in trust, mean something entrusted to man, "that is committed to thee"; appointments of God, which consequently have to do with the conscience, for which man is responsible, as an intelligent being.

4. "Statutes." The verb from which this word is formed means to engrave or inscribe. The word means a definite, prescribed, written law—that moral law of God which is engraven on the fleshy tables of the heart; the in most and spiritual apprehension of his will: not so obvious as the law and testimonies, and a matter of more direct spiritual communication than his precepts; the latter being more elaborated by the efforts of the mind itself, divinely guided.

5. "Commandments," derived from a verb signifying to command or ordain. Such was God's command to Adam about the tree; to Noah about constructing the ark.

6. "Judgments," derived from a word signifying to govern, to judge or determine, mean judicial ordinances and decisions; legal sanctions.

7. "Word". There are two terms, quite distinct in the Hebrew, but both rendered "word." The latter of these is rendered "saying." They are closely connected: since out of twenty-two passages in which "word" occurs, in fourteen it is parallel to it, or in connection with, "saying". From this very circumstance it is evident they are not synonymous.

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The term here rendered "word" seems the logos, or Word of God, in its most divine sense; the announcement of God's revealed will; his command; his oracle; at times, the special communication to the prophets. The ten commandments are called by this term in Exodus. In this psalm it may be considered as, —

- (1) God's revealed commandments in general.
- (2) As a revealed promise of certain blessings to the righteous.
- (3) As a thing committed to him as the minister of God.
- (4) As a rule of conduct; a channel of illumination.

8. As to the remaining word "way," that occurs but twice as a characteristic word, and the places in which it occurs must be considered a plain rule of conduct; in its higher sense, the assisting grace of God through Christ our Lord, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Taken from John Jebb's exposition in 1846]

Each of these 176 verses in Psalm 119 could form the basis of a complete sermon. Each of these verses could be provided as examples proving Hebrews 4:12: "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Read, study, and meditate upon these verses daily, for your learning, instruction and comfort. "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" [Romans 11:33]

I love you. Amen.