

Psalm 119: For The Love Of Scripture!

Psalm 119:89-96

Psalm 119:89

(KJV) LAMED. For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

(NIV) Your word, LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

Lamed! The twelfth letter, the tallest letter, the middle letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Meaning *teaching* or *learning* and representing the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, God Himself! He authored the Holy Bible. Think about it! The Book you hold comes from the One Who gave you ears to hear it, eyes to read it, and a voice to proclaim it!

Proverbs 20:12

The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them.

Oh, beloved, but it doesn't stop there. God also gave us a heart to obey His Word!

It is because Jesus, the Author of God's Word through the Holy Ghost, endured the cross for us that we know His love, and we obey His commandments.

Hebrews 12:2

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

John 14:15 *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

So, God included the letter Lamed to create context for verse 89, and for the other seven verses in this section. We are taught the Word of God by our Master and Lord Jesus, through the Holy Ghost our Teacher. And as we love Him, we learn to obey Him. This is a supernatural education through real life sanctification!

John 17:17 *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

Hallelujah!

Enter our psalmist. He is under the care and teaching of the Holy Ghost. His life is being changed by the Word of God. Never mind just mere information - this is transformation!

Romans 12:2

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

And this transformative work is faithfully carried out in our psalmist and in each believer by God until the day of Christ Jesus!

Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

That God's Word is unchanging, settled and firm should bring us much confidence in it. Like the moon fixed in the night sky, God's Word points to His unchanging nature and to His faithfulness.

Psalm 19:1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Lamentations 3:22-23

It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

God made sure to settle His Word in heaven, where the deceitful, wicked hands of men - and Jesus knew what in the heart of a man (John 2:24) - would not be able to manipulate or steal it. In the Greek, the word *settled* is *natsab*, and it means "to station." Woe to those false teachers who distort God's Word and devise wicked imaginations toward it!

Proverbs 6:18

An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief.

God hates it! Both those who manipulate God's Word to their own end, and those who gather for themselves false teachers who will teach only what they want to hear, will pay a dear price for their deception.

Ezekiel 34:1-10

And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks? Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered. My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them. Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; as I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock; therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.

2Timothy 4:3

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

But God is not mocked. These false teachers and believers can be sure their sin will be found out.

Numbers 32:23

But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.

Galatians 6:7

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Leave God's Word alone! It is settled. It is firm. It is eternal. It is safe, secure, solid. Trustworthy. Just like it's divine Author!

And allow me to encourage you dear Christian that God is pleased, as you daily take the time to humbly bow before Him to seek His face, and to study His living Word for all its worth - because You love Him, and because You need Him more than ever.

Psalm 63:1 A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.

O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

Proverbs 18:10

The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

Psalm 119:90

(KJV) Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth.

(NIV) Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures.

Our children's children's children will experience God's faithfulness. It never ends. We will do well to pass along the great truths of Holy Scripture - and the faithful love of Jesus that has sustained us for a lifetime - to our children, praying that they will acknowledge and experience the faithfulness of God also:

Psalm 89:1 Maschil of Ethan the Ezrahite.

I will sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations.

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

And to what is God faithful? His eternal Word:

Matthew 5:18

For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Matthew 24:35 *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*

If we were to invest our minds and hearts - indeed, our precious time - to any discipline while here on earth, the Bible teaches us to invest in things which are eternal, things which reap eternal rewards.

Colossians 3:1-4

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Notice in Psalm 119:90 the two parallel proclamations, first about God's faithfulness, and second about God's faithfulness in creation:

Psalm 104:5

Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever.

Psalm 19:1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

The next time you venture out for a night walk, gaze into the heavens and note God's handiwork - the moon, the stars, the vast expanse of sky - in all its glory. Fixed, set, and settled is the universe He created and which He sustains by His mighty power! He might even had wielded His mighty power over nature as He did with a flood in Genesis 6-9, but oh, dear one in Christ He now proudly displays His trophies of grace fixed forever above us day in and day out, that we might look up in wonder and praise Him!

*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: Reflect on a few seasons in your life when God's faithfulness, and His unchanging Word was especially a blessing to you.

Psalm 119:91

(KJV) They continue this day according to thine ordinances: for all are thy servants.

(NIV) Your laws endure to this day, for all things serve you.

God spoke all that we see and all that we can't see into being by His Word. And how does He sustain it all? By His Word!

Psalm 89:2

For I have said, Mercy shall be built up for ever: thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens.

Hebrews 1:3

Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Colossians 1:15-23

Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

For all are thy servants. God's Word serves Him. God's creation serves Him. We are God's creation (Genesis 1:27), but we do not all serve Him. Nonetheless, His praise will not be restrained!

Luke 19:37-40

And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest. And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.

*STUDY POINT: Find three instances in both the Old and New Testaments where God commanded - and subsequently received - praise from His people.

Psalm 119:92

(KJV) Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction. (NIV) If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.

Ask God to cultivate in you a passion for His Word. We invest the most time and energy in the things we love the most, the things we treasure most, the things in which we delight.

Matthew 6:19-21

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,

where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Beloved, our psalmist understood that a cursory glance at a dusty, little-used Bible will not yield the protection and power needed in the heat of battle, when the enemy of our souls is staring us down with his demon armies in tow. No, you see, we must each take the time to grow deep roots in God's Word, meditating on it day and night:

Psalm 1:2-3

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

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.

Indeed our success in the battle and our survival in the storm will depend on our roots growing deeper in Jesus, and our foundation in His Word remaining strong.

Matthew 7:24-27

Therefore, whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Building on God's Word must include obedience to God's Word. To merely acknowledge God's Word with no heart intent to obey it is to build on a foundation with cracks in it, thus compromising the structure and facilitating its collapse.

Psalm 119:93

(KJV) I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me.

(NIV) I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have preserved my life.

Never forget. There is great value in hiding God's Word in your heart:

Psalm 119:11 *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

When the Word of God is stored up in us, the Holy Spirit can call up those verses in times of trial, temptation, and trouble. How many times has God's Word come to your rescue - in a trial, a battle, or a storm? We can be assured the psalmist here is not referring to his need for a gentle affirming word to warm his heart. Quite to the contrary! This is a man in

affliction (Psalm 119:84-87; 119:92), pursued by mockers, desperate for God's mercy, and in need of emergency revival!

Psalm 119:94

(KJV) I am thine, save me; for I have sought thy precepts.

(NIV) Save me, for I am yours; I have sought out your precepts.

Believer in Christ, we are forever God's possession. He has purchased us through the blood of His Son. Our sonship infers that an adoption has taken place at the moment we accepted Jesus, God's Son, as our Lord and Saviour.

Galatians 4:1-7

Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; but is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Hallelujah! We are His! And we seek His ways...

Psalm 119:95

(KJV) The wicked have waited for me to destroy me: but I will consider thy testimonies.

(NIV) The wicked are waiting to destroy me, but I will ponder your statutes.

Even while his enemies are plotting to destroy him, the psalmist is standing on the truth of God's Word - running it through his mind and heart, an impenetrable shield against the darts of the Evil One's lies and intent to destroy.

Ephesians 6:16

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Psalm 119:96

(KJV) I have seen an end of all perfection: but thy commandment is exceeding broad.

(NIV) To all perfection I see a limit, but your commands are boundless.

Most of us have experienced that religion has nothing for us - it is confining. But here the psalmist tells us that even the best of the best - all freedom and perfection in life - is limiting in comparison to God's Word, which is inexhaustible and unfailingly good.

So, let's feed in the broad pasture of God's goodness under the care of the Good Shepherd!

1John 5:1-5

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: How would your walk with Jesus change if you believed, along with the psalmist, that God's Word is broadly freeing, rather than restrictive?

~ Reverend Darren McClelland