



Psalm 119

Lesson 5

Because of the psalmist comprehension, even though it was imperfect, of the greatness, glory, and holiness of God, he desired to wholeheartedly apply the laws that God gave as the truths that are to be lived out in relationship with Him. Not only would following these laws enable man to have fellowship with a holy God, but it would give man the ability to become his best self, because man was created to be holy as God is holy. The psalmist desired God to revive or give life to his soul, but to achieve that God would need to teach him His law so he could follow it fully and truly. Because God is highly exalted in His wisdom and understanding, man needs to have new eyes to see things from His point of view. The psalmist fully realized that he would never be able to know, much less live, according to God's wisdom unless he dedicated his life and all his effort to that end. God is always ready to teach us His ways, but we are very rarely ready to submit ourselves to the discipline of the learning process. But it is clear by the petitions seen repetitively in Psalm 119 that the writer was entirely committed to allowing God to provide him with everything necessary to identify and follow in the path of righteousness. For him, the key to knowing the righteous path was in obedience to the law which is righteous, just, and true. But blindly following a list of rules wasn't what he was doing, instead, he was seeking to comprehend God's mind and heart that required those things of those who wanted to know Him. He wanted to know not just "what" God asked him to do, but he wanted to know "why" those things were important. Therefore, he repeatedly asks God to not only teach him, but he asks that He give him understanding of what he is being taught.

Understanding-bin- The Hebrew verb is a fundamental term in the Old Testament, often associated with the intellectual and spiritual capacity to discern and understand. It appears in various contexts, emphasizing the importance of insight and comprehension in the life of faith. The term is frequently used in wisdom literature, such as Proverbs, where understanding is portrayed as a key attribute of the wise. For example, Proverbs 1:2 states, "To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight." Here, bin is linked with the ability to grasp deeper truths and apply them to life. TWOT

1. *Fill in the purpose statement following the request for understanding in these verses.*
Psalm 119:27...make me understand...so I will meditate on the way of Thy precepts
Psalm 119:34 ...give me understanding ...
Psalm 119:73...give me understanding...
Psalm 119:104...I get understanding...
Psalm 119:125...give me understanding...
Psalm 119:144...give me understanding...
Psalm 119:169...give me understanding...

2. *According to Psalm 119:66, what does the psalmist want in addition to knowledge?*

3. *Define those terms and explain the difference between knowing something and understanding it.*

4. *Explain what you think the psalmist actually wants from God in the use of those two words. How would that process happen?*

5. *The psalmist wanted those so he could apply God's law to his life. Why did Paul pray for those things for believers? Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:9-12. How does that process happen in your life?*

6. *What is another specific word the writer uses repetitively in chapter 119? Psalm 119:16, 24, 35, 47, 70, 77, 92, 143, and 174? What does the use of that word tell you about how this author views God's Law?*

7. *How does that parallel the declaration of the writer of Psalm 1:3? What does he say is the result of doing that in 1:3?*

8. *How does Jesus say the same thing in Matthew 5:6?*

9. *If those things are true, why does living out righteousness seem like a burden to many? How does Paul explain that problem in Romans 7:14-25?*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
