

Psalm 119:105 – Thy Word

Psalm 119:105

PW Emerson – 07/07/2019 – Ten:27 Ministries

We're doing a series on Psalms this summer

- Last week we looked at Psalms 1 – about the blessings God has for us

Today we're looking at Psalm 119:105

Psalm 119:105

Thy word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.

This became well known in the early 90s when Amy Grant wrote a song about this verse; it is titled "Thy Word."

The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew, not English.

As a result, translations don't always convey the correct original meaning.

The original Hebrew doesn't say "Thy Word," or "Your Word," as some modern translations say.

The original says "Torah"

It should read

The Torah is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.

The Torah being the first 5 books of the bible.

The word “Torah” is often translated “law,” meaning God’s law. But that’s not a great translation either.

Better yet would be instruction – God’s instruction for his people.

The writer is saying that the Torah guides his path.

It has the answers for ... everything!

This idea ... that the Torah has the answers for everything ... is expressed throughout the scriptures, throughout history.

Matthew 4:1-4

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.³The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

⁴Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

When Jesus said, “It is written” He was quoting Deuteronomy 8:3

He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

He is saying that the best thing to live on is the word of the Lord!

More important than

- Our coffee or donuts

- What's being served in the company cafeteria
- The specials at the meat counter at HyVee

More important than

- What you're going to grill later or
- The diet we often think of to stay in shape

Is the word of God!

The Word of God will keep us spiritually in shape – much more important than our physical shape!

Many years ago in a Moscow theater, matinee idol Alexander Rostovzev was converted while playing the role of Jesus in a sacrilegious play entitled Christ in a Tuxedo. He was supposed to read two verses from the Sermon on the Mount, remove his gown, and cry out, "Give me my tuxedo and top hat!" But as he read the words, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted," he began to tremble. Instead of following the script, he kept reading from Matthew 5, ignoring the coughs, calls, and foot-stamping of his fellow actors. Finally, recalling a verse he had learned in his childhood in a Russian Orthodox church, he cried, "Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom!" (Luke 23:42). Before the curtain could be lowered, Rostovzev had trusted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.

J.K. Johnston, *Why Christians Sin*, Discovery House, 1992, p. 121.

There is nothing in the world as powerful as the word of God!

Set aside

- Shakespeare
- Leno

- Bono

The Word of God is where it's really at!

The Apostle Paul, in Galatians 3:24 said

So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith.

Here again, the translation isn't quite right.

Where it says "the law" the real word is Torah.

This was a case where "Torah" was translated into "the law" meaning "God's Law"

But it should say "the Torah" or "God's Word"

God's Word was our guardian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith.

God's Word provided guidance and direction and power and nourishment and answers and ... andand continues to do so today!

Matthew 22:34-40

³⁴Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

³⁷Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

All the Law and the Prophets hang on these ... except it doesn't really say "law"

Here again, it says "Torah."

All the Torah and the Prophets hang on these.

- Books of Moses – the Torah
- The Books of the Prophets – the last 17 books in the Old Testament

Jesus isn't saying "law" in a legal sense, like we think of it today.

Jesus is saying that all of God's Word hangs on these two commandments!

- Love God
- Love your neighbor

God's Word hangs on these!

The Word that is a lamp onto our feet and a light onto our path tells us

- Love God
- Love your neighbor

Psalm 119:105

Thy word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.

Or more accurately ...

The Torah is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.

Remember, this was originally written in Hebrew.

The Hebrew language & culture conveys concepts in terms of pictures.

Hebrew doesn't deal in abstract concepts.

Rather it makes its concepts understandable by conveying them in terms of pictures.

In the case of Psalm 119:105, God's word is

- a lamp for my feet,
- a light on my path.

A lamp is fixed; it is stable, reliable.

God's Word is fixed, stable and reliable.

It can be counted on!

Light comes and goes.

- The Sun – is up, then sets. Sometimes it is obscured by clouds.
- Flashlight can be turned off and on.

Light is used to show the way ...

- Headlights show the way when driving at night
- Flashlights show the way when walking at night
- In earlier times, lanterns & candles lit the way

But think about what lighting the way means.

The light is ahead of us. It's ahead of

- Our car
- Our feet when walking

The Word of God is a leading light for our paths.

It will show us the way.

- When we seem to struggle with financial difficulties, the Word of God will show us the way out of those difficulties
- When we are tired of getting hurt by people who should be caring about us instead of being so selfish, the Word of God will light our path
- When we realize we have messed up again, fallen into the same sin over and over and can't seem to find our way out of that sin, the Word of God will show us to way out

A lamp is fixed

A light moves.

The Word of God is stable and reliable as well as a leading light for our path.

Thus John 1:5

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

In the midst of the darkness and struggles in this world and in our lives, God's Word shines as a beacon to answer all our calls!

The author of Psalm 119 is not mentioned.

However most scholars believe it was David, who wrote many Psalms.

The tone and expressions used in Psalm 119 matches what we see in the Psalms David is known to have written.

In Psalm 119, there are eight different English words translated from the Hebrew Torah:

- Law

- Testimonies
- Precepts
- Statutes
- Commandments
- Judgments
- Word
- Ordinances

Psalm 119 has 176 verses – more than any other chapter in the Bible

God’s Word is mentioned in almost all of them.

Take the 3 verses proceeding the one we’re looking at ...

¹⁰² I have not departed from your **laws**,
for you yourself have taught me.

¹⁰³ How sweet are **your words** to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

¹⁰⁴ I gain understanding from **your precepts**;
therefore I hate every wrong path.

Or take the 3 verses after the one we’re looking at

¹⁰⁶ I have taken an oath and confirmed it,
that I will follow your righteous **laws**.

¹⁰⁷ I have suffered much;
preserve my life, LORD, according to **your word**.

¹⁰⁸ Accept, LORD, the willing praise of my mouth,
and teach me **your laws**.

The author is saying that more important than

- The food we put in our bodies

- The jobs we go to for supporting our families
- The roof over our heads

Is the Word of God!

More important than

- The cars we drive
- The phones in our pockets
- The coffee we cling to in the mornings
- How we style our hair

Is the word of God!!!

In Luke 21:33, Jesus said

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

A collector of rare books ran into an acquaintance who told him he had just thrown away an old Bible that he found in a dusty, old box. He happened to mention that Guten-somebody-or-other had printed it. "Not Gutenberg?" gasped the collector. "Yes, that was it!" "You idiot! You've thrown away one of the first books ever printed. A copy recently sold at auction for half a million dollars!"

"Oh, I don't think this book would have been worth anything close to that much," replied the man. "It was scribbled all over in the margins by some guy named Martin Luther."

That guy had no idea the value of what he had.

Let's you and I not make the same mistake

God's Word is a lamp onto our feet and a light onto our path.

Always.