

Your Statutes Have Been My Songs

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. Psalm 119:54 - "Your statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage."
- B. Facts about Psalm 119:
 - 1. It is the longest chapter in the Bible -- 176 verses
 - 2. It is arranged according to the Hebrew alphabet. The first eight verses all begin with the letter aleph. The next eight begin with the letter beth. There are eight lines for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
 - 3. It was a poetic device arranged to make it easy to memorize.
 - 4. All but five verses contain a synonym for the Word of God.
 - 5. There are eight different expressions used to describe the Word of God.
- B. Psalm 119 is David's psalm of praise for the word of God; in it he states:
 - 1. Psalm 119:9 - Cleanses our walk
 - 2. Psalm 119:13 - Gives us the message to proclaim
 - 3. Psalm 119:19 - Guides our walk
 - 4. Psalm 119:23 - Prepares us for opposition
 - 5. Psalm 119:26 - Teaches us the difference between our ways and God's
 - 6. Psalm 119:28 - Gives us daily strength
 - 7. Psalm 119:45 - Has a liberating effect on the believer
 - 8. Psalm 119:49 - Gives us hope
 - 9. Psalm 119:50 - Comforts us (et al)
- C. Who reads Psalm 119 or the rest of scripture for that matter?
 - 1. 45% of American Christians claim to read the Bible. 12% claim to read it every day. 55% will read it only once per year.
 - 2. Here is what an outsider had to say about American Christians and Bible reading: "I like your Christ. I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ. Christians have in their keeping a document with enough power in it to turn society upside down, to bring peace to this war-torn world. But you read it as if it were just good literature, and little else" (Mahatma Gandhi)

I. THE MATCHLESSNESS OF SCRIPTURE

- A. Its source - 2Tim. 3:16
- B. Its central figure - John 5:39
- C. Its endorsement - Psalm 138:2
- D. Its ability to convict - Ezra 10:3
- E. Its ability to save - Rom. 10:16-17
- F. Its universal message - Matt. 28:19
- G. Its ability to search the depths of man - Heb. 4:12
- H. Its ability to open the spiritual eyes - Psalm 119:18
- I. Its inviolate nature - Titus 1:2
- J. Its ability to bring man and God together - Isa. 1:18
- K. Its authority in the beginning of the world - Heb. 11:3
- L. Its holiness - 2Tim. 3:15

1. Only the word of God can give these things in abundance. What of this world can offer us this?
2. Jer. 29:13; John 1:3-4; Psalm 119:81-88
3. Bernard Edinger - "Inside the will of God there is no failure. Outside the will of God there is no success."

M. When Martin Luther stood before the Diet of Worms to answer to charges of heresy for his writings, it was a dangerous time. He could have been executed for standing against the "official" church. Luther spent the night before in prayer. When asked to retract his writings on justification by faith, he said, "Since your most serene majesty and your high mightiness require from me a clear, simple, and precise answer, I will give you one, and it is this: I cannot submit my faith either to the pope or to the councils, because it is clear to me as the day that they have frequently erred and contradicted each other. Unless therefore I am convinced by the testimony of Scripture, or by the clearest reasoning - unless I am persuaded by means of the passages I have quoted - and unless they thus render my conscience bound by the Word of God, I cannot and I will not retract, for it is unsafe for a Christian to speak against his conscience. Here I stand, I can do no other. May God help me. Amen."

1. Psalm 119:9-16; John 1:3-4

Vance Havner - Years ago in the days of the old camp meetings a preacher set out after the evening service to find his way along the edge of a dangerous cliff to the cottage where he was to spend the night. He had no lantern and flashlights were then unknown. An old farmer, sensing the preacher's predicament, lit a bundle of pine sticks and handed them to the minister saying, "Take this, it will light your way home."

"But what if the wind blows it out?"

"It will see you home."

"But if the rain extinguishes it?"

"It will see you home."

"But what if it burns out before I get there?"

"It will see you home."

And see him home it did.

Long ago my parents put into my hands the Word of God. They told me that it would be a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. There have been times when the winds threatened to put out its glow and the storms seemed almost to overcome it. There were times when I was tempted to lay it down and make my way unaided. But I am almost home, and I have never been more sure of my torch. I pass it on to you. It may look old-fashioned in this nuclear age but man's little flashlights are failing fast and more poor souls are groping in the darkness than ever before. Let the critics scorn and the cynics laugh; this kindly light will lead you on "o'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till the night is gone."

It will lead you home.