

God's Truth
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Psalm 119:1-16

A short study from Psalm 119 the longest chapter in the Bible. To be accurate, a study on the first few verses of this long poem about the value of treasuring God's Word.

As I studied these familiar verses some images from childhood filled my mind. If you attended Vacation Bible School or a Christian school like I did you learned not only to pledge allegiance to the American flag, and the Christian flag, but also to the Bible: *"I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word, I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path, and will hide its words in my heart that I might not sin against God."*

The words of that pledge come from Psalm 119. Those words reminded me of another childhood memory, playing "hide and seek." Hang with me and I'll explain that connection. For now, let's look at the wonderful truth in the first verses of Psalm 119.

(NIV) — 1 Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord.

- Blessed - The scriptural meaning of being "blessed" is to be "favored by God. It is a "blissful state based not on worldly circumstances but on divine conditions."
- Blameless - We will never be sinless in this life but if we are covered in the righteousness of Christ and have his Spirit in our heart, we CAN be blameless.
- Verses 2-10 describe how we can be blameless.

2 Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart— **3** they do no wrong but follow his ways. (note the work "seek.")

- When we read, "use only as directed" how many of us follow the directions?

4 You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed. **5** Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees! **6** Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands.

- Saying to God - *"I'm convinced that Your blessing comes from obedience."*

7 I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws. **8** I will obey your decrees; do not utterly forsake me. **9** How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. **10** I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.

- Verses 7-10: My commitment, *"I will praise You while I learn and obey your instructions and live according to your word. I will seek you with all my heart."*

- There is “seek” again, not just intellectual study, but taking His word to heart!

11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

- Hiding His word in our heart is more than rote memorization, it is treasuring it!
- For example: I don’t just “know” my family; I TREASURE them!
- Verses 12-16 tell us how to treasure God’s word by hiding it in our heart:
 - I learn His statutes (V.12) and “with my lips” I repeat them to myself (V.13)
 - I value His instructions like one would value “great riches” (V.14)
 - I meditate on His word. *“What is God saying? How does it relate to my life? What changes is God calling me to make?”*
 - This reflection is like “chewing” the Scripture thoroughly to digest it fully.ⁱⁱ
 - It is more than just reading His word. Treasuring means I OBEY His word.

So, What’s the Takeaway?

- Remember that I mentioned “hide and seek?” After Adam and Eve sinned in the garden they hid from God. Their sin led to guilt and shame, so they tried to hide.
- When we sin, there is the temptation to try to hide in our shame like a little puppy hiding behind the sofa because he made a mistake on the carpet.
- Nothing can be hidden from God (Hebrews 4:13; Numbers 32:23), and if we are Christ-followers His Holy Spirit living in us will convict us of our sin but not condemn us. (1 John 1:9, 1 John 3:6, 9, Psalm 51, Romans 8:1, John 16:8-11).
- The good news: If we “hide His word” in our hearts and “seek” to obey it we can live BLESSED and BLAMELESS lives (not sinless but blameless.)
- We can enjoy the reality expressed in **Psalm 32:1–2** “Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered....whose sin the Lord does not count against them...”
- So this week when we open our Bibles let’s say to God (as we do each week in worship at FBCW): **18** Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.
- As we treasure His word let’s remember to “play hide and seek.” Let’s hide His word in our hearts and seek to obey it.

ⁱ Schemm, P. (2003). Beatitudes. In C. Brand, C. Draper, A. England, S. Bond, E. R. Clendenen, & T. C. Butler (Eds.), *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (p. 178). Holman Bible Publishers.

ⁱⁱ <https://www.gotquestions.org/meditate-on-Gods-Word.html>