

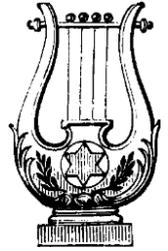


# Meeting God in the Psalms

Summer 2017

## Psalm 119 vv 97-112 Delighting in God's Word

(sermons: Aug 20)



*At the beginning of this year Adrian encouraged us to "Do the basics. Do them better." He spoke from Psalm 1 with its image of a tree that flourishes: 'Blessed is the one... whose delight is in the Law of the Lord and who meditates on his Law day and night... That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither – whatever they do prospers.'*

*Psalm 119 develops this theme of 'delighting in the Law of the Lord'; we can use it to look at our approach to the whole of the Bible. The psalm has 22 sections of 8 verses, the first word of each section beginning with one of the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. This affects the order of topics tackled in the psalm; they are repeated and woven together for reflection, rather than to develop a logical argument.*

### Psalm 119:97-104 Heavenly Wisdom

*v.97 your law – the 'Law' (Torah) refers especially to the first 5 books of the Old Testament; its meaning includes 'teaching' and 'revelation'*

*v.97 meditate – to turn over in our hearts and minds, not so much to bring us contentment as to change our lives; the same word as for 'meditates' in Psalm 1:2 but also for 'plot' in Psalm 2:1*

*v.98 your commands – God's Word has his authority to command us; it isn't just wise advice*

*v.99 your statutes – this word (like 'engraved') emphasizes the unchanging nature of God's Word*

*v.100 your precepts – like an officer's orders for the day: the detailed instructions that show God's interest in, and care for, every aspect of our lives*

*v.103 your words – the word used here for 'words' (unlike the general 'word' in vv 101, 105) can have the more specific meaning of 'promises'*

1. What do the different expressions for God's Word in these verses tell us about what it is meant to do for us, or how we are meant to respond to it? Which ones do we find comforting, or challenging?
2. How is the Bible different from other books of wisdom, or words of advice?

### Psalm 119:105-112 Finding the Way

*v.105 a light – 'light to walk by, not to bask in..... not convenient guidance for one's career, but truth for moral choices' (Derek Kidner, IVP Commentary)*

*v.109 I constantly take my life in my hands – perhaps standing up to the wickedness of those in authority*

3. Which words and phrases does the psalmist use to emphasize the practical value of God's Word?  
Can we share experiences of when we have allowed the Bible to shape our actions?
4. How can God's Word help us when we face opposition and suffering?

### Delighting in God's Word

5. Do we share the psalmist's delight in God's Word (see verses 97, 103, 111)?  
What can dampen our enthusiasm for the Bible? What can rekindle it?

6. Is there ever a danger that studying the Bible, or upholding its authority, can become an end in itself?  
How can we make sure that we always seek to meet God through his Word?