

- God's Word is a light to our paths. His Word leads us through this journey which is called life. We allow Him to direct us in all that we do..... Or at least that's what we say, but... is that what we are actually doing? This has been on my mind because of the recent stories on the news of the Adrian Peterson incident where he has been arrested for alleged child abuse. There has been a flurry of talking heads who are coming down on the practice of physical discipline by a parent on their children when they misbehave. That shouldn't surprise us at all from those who denounce the Word of God. However, I am left scratching my head when that same talking head turns around and acknowledges God and leaves the impression that God's Word still has some value.
- When I read this passage here, **Psalm 119:105-112**, I am afraid I have completely missed the caveat where God's Word is useful... unless we are talking about the raising of a child. This applies to many of the other issues of our day. There are too many people who are talking out of both sides of their mouths, proclaiming the need for the Bible, but directly contradicting what it teaches on the issue they are addressing. For this reason, I want to talk this morning about Letting the Word Light Our Way. We are going to use this Psalm as our springboard to hopefully gain a better understanding of what it means to allow the Word to light our way.

I. The Word is needed in our lives.

- A. As humans, we get in trouble when we try to direct our own way. (**Jer. 10:23**)
 1. When people think they know what is best then they normally run into problems.
 2. When people thought they knew the best way to organize and run the church then there were lots of problems.
 3. When people thought they knew what was best for marriage then the institution was corrupted.
 4. When people decide to ignore God's commands then they are no longer in fellowship with Him.
 5. When people think they know best, bad things happen.
- B. God knows what is best for us.
 1. He created us to be good (**Gen. 1:31**)...and we are good as long as we follow His commands
 2. Letting the Word guide us begins with understating that God's thought process is far superior to ours. (**Isa. 55:6-9**)
 3. We might not understand why God commands us to act in a certain way or to abstain from a certain action.
 4. It might not make any sense to us, and we might begin to think that we know of a better way to get things done.
 5. When we begin to think of ourselves more highly than we ought, we get ourselves in trouble because God knows what is best!

II. The Word contains righteous teachings.

- A. The Word of God gives us teachings that are for our good.
 1. This has been true all the way back from the beginning. He commanded Adam not to eat of the Tree of Knowledge because then they would die. (**Gen. 2:16,17**)
 2. He commanded the Israelites to serve Him for their own good. (**Deut. 6:24,25; 10:12,13**)
 3. David echoes this thought in **Psalm 19:7-11** as he gives great complementary descriptions of God's Law.
 4. This point continues into the New Testament and the Law of Christ. The commands of Christ are not burdensome (**I John 5:3**) and Jesus describes His yoke and burden as being easy and light. (**Matt. 11:30**)
 5. Obedience to God weights much lighter on the soul than does sins heavy load.
- B. We don't always see this because of our limited perspective.
 1. We cannot see what God sees or understand what God knows. We focus too much on the moment we're in.
 2. Solomon said well in **Proverbs 3:5,6** that we should trust in the Lord.
 3. It takes a great hope, faith, and trust to simply follow God and believe that things will be ok.
 4. It's not fun to take a stand when we might suffer for it, but God says to trust Him.
 5. It might not be fun to discipline a member of our spiritual family, but God says that it works and we must follow Him.

III. The Word is useful in all aspects of life.

- A. The Word will make a person of God complete.
 - 1. God's Word supplies us with everything we need to stand whole and complete before God. **(II Tim. 3:16,17)**
 - 2. We can stand against satan with God's Word. **(Eph. 6:10-18)**
 - 3. We can teach others how to have their sins forgiven. **(Rom. 1:16)**
 - 4. We can know how to have a happy marriage. **(Eph. 5:22ff)**
 - 5. We can know how to raise children rightly. **(Eph. 6:4; Prov. 23:13,14 "Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you strike him with the rod, he will not die. You shall strike him with the rod and rescue his soul from Sheol.")**
 - 6. We can know how to work at the job. **(Eph. 6:7)**
- B. At no point and in no aspect of life is the Word of God useless.
 - 1. It instructs us in our youth.
 - 2. It instructs us in our marriage.
 - 3. It instructs us in raising children.
 - 4. It instructs us in the workplace.
 - 5. It instructs us in old age.
 - 6. It instructs us in every part of our life.

IV. The Word will help us be successful.

- A. We will have times in our lives when we might not feel as if we know what to do.
 - 1. We are not capable of making it out of this life without God's wisdom and guidance.
 - 2. We might be having a hard time in our marriages, but God's Word provides wisdom to help us out.
 - 3. We might be struggling with raising our children, but God's Word can help teach us how to do better.
 - 4. We might feel as if all hope is lost in this life, but God's Word provides us with encouragement.
- B. God's Word will guide us, and we must hold on "even to the end."
 - 1. God's Word is useful for us and it blesses us abundantly.
 - 2. When we feel weak, God's Word can lift us up.
 - 3. When the way seems darkest, God's Word can lighten our way.
 - 4. God loves us and He wants to walk with us through this journey of life, but we must make the decision

How intertwined is the Word of God in your life? Is it in every aspect of it? Or is it compartmentalized in only some aspects of it? Do you refer to it always, or is it only a partial reference in your life? God's Word is the ultimate road map in this life. It is the perfect source of light in this dark world. We are nothing but stumbling fools if we refuse to let it light our way. May God help us to use His Word that He has freely given to us, so that we may never stumble but always walk in the light of His Word.