

## Theology: The Study of God through Scripture

### Psalm 119

#### Scripture: The Theologians Best Friend

Psalm 119:9-16 (NASB95) <sup>9</sup>How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. <sup>10</sup>With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. <sup>11</sup>Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You. <sup>12</sup>Blessed are You, O Lord; Teach me Your statutes. <sup>13</sup>With my lips I have told of All the ordinances of Your mouth. <sup>14</sup>I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches. <sup>15</sup>I will meditate on Your precepts And <sup>16</sup>regard Your ways. <sup>16</sup>I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word.

God's Word graciously reveals to us who God is and how we can walk closely with Him. Through Psalm 119 God is reminding us that His Word is the key to knowing Him.

- Verse 10 – staying faithful to the commands (the Word) allows us to seek God with all our heart.
- Verse 11 – treasuring God's Word allows us to keep our relationship with God strong.
- Verse 12-16 – we need to be meditating on, thinking about, rejoicing in, learning from God's Word.

God's Word will make us wise unto salvation.

- 2 Timothy 3:14-15; Romans 10:17

How we approach the Bible matters. The Bible is a wonderful revealing of who is God.

- Luke 24:44-45

Far too often people approach the Bible as a self-help book. Or as a means to earn salvation.

Good Theology → Sound Doctrine → Good Works in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:10)

Our quest to live a life for the glory of God begins with knowing God personally. Which is why Ephesians 1:17 (CSB) we see Paul pray: <sup>17</sup>that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

Good Theology – studying to know God...leads to...

- God draws us to Himself.
  - John 12:32
  - John 17:3

Sound Doctrine – which is good teachings...which leads to...

- Good teaching is required to know "how to live for God's glory".
  - Titus 1:9
  - Matthew 28:19-20
  - Psalm 119:9

Good Works – the fruit of the spirit being evident in your attitude and actions.

- Good works is rooted in Christ.
  - Ephesians 2:8-10
- Good works is an overflow of the work of the Holy Spirit in your life.
  - Galatians 5:22-25



Far too often, people try to reverse the order. Good works → sound doctrine → good Theology

It doesn't work that way. The major issue in using our "good works" to somehow get closer to God or to be justified before God is that our "good works" aren't actually good. Good works can never replace or make up for a lack in personal devotion to God. In other words, good works do not make us closer to God. Being closer to God creates the good works.

- Isaiah 64:6a (NASB95): *For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment;*

When we look at "good works" from a human perspective. We can easily find ourselves saying...well...they do a lot of "good things", therefore, they must be teaching "good things", so, they must know God and be walking really close with Him. This is how cults, false teachers, false religions, wolves in sheep's clothing can move freely among the churches. We look at their knowledge or works through a worldly lens and assume they are good theologians.

Good works cannot replace a personal relationship with God. Good works cannot replace your time spent in Bible Study and prayer. Scripture is a theologian's best friend. James 1:22.

### Jesus: The Theologians Light

Hebrews 1:1-3 (NASB95): *God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, <sup>2</sup> in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. <sup>3</sup> And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.*

Jesus is the exact expression of His nature...therefore, to know Jesus is to know God. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are in perfect harmony and unions so much so that to know Jesus is to know the Father and the Spirit. Before we begin to chase that rabbit trail...we will spend our time next week exploring the Trinity more in depth. In God's infinite wisdom and graciousness, we have been given Jesus so that so we can know God. Jesus is essential to knowing God.

John 14:6-7 (NASB95): *<sup>6</sup> Jesus \*said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. <sup>7</sup> If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him."*

Regardless of how "sincere" someone may be... Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam...they are never getting to God. Jesus is the only way. All roads don't lead to God.

So, once we have Jesus. How do we continue to walk with Him and follow Him? Great question.

John 15:9-10 (NASB95): *<sup>9</sup> Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.*

It goes back to God's Word. We are to keep God's Word. The word keep (τηρέω) means to guard/watch over. Walking in the Spirit, remaining in the love of the Father is not conditioned on being "good enough" or doing enough "good things". It's centered around knowing God personally. You must be a Good Theologian.

As we get to know God more and more...we will understand His teachings...and we will naturally produce good works in Christ Jesus.