

Eleutheros Newsletter

June 2021

News of Interest

Eleutheros Books is dedicated to offering literature and course offerings that will help believers to think Biblically.

Feel free to check out the following:

[*The Ramifications of Our Salvation*](#) explains what happens Biblically when a believer is saved by God's grace.

[*Bible Translations: A Closer Look*](#) explains the challenges translators face and gives reasons why the wording in some versions is so much different from that of other versions.

[*Spiritual Gifts Verse by Verse: A Commentary on I Corinthians 12-14*](#) deals with every phrase in these three chapters which are key to understanding the blessings and challenges of the gifts God gives to every believer.

[*A Portrait of Jesus*](#) looks at our great Savior for Who He is and what He has done (and will do) from eternity past to eternity future.

[*The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ*](#) presents clear and important evidence for our Lord's resurrection, the greatest event in all of history.

[*19th Century Influences on 21st Century Christianity*](#) gives insights into many factors from the past that are still influencing the Church today.

All these books can be purchased by going to the website: www.eleutherosbooks.com

Very soon the first of several courses will be available through Eleutheros Books. Entitled Soteriology, it will involve 30 audio/visual lectures, tests, quizzes, and Bible memory assignments.

God willing, other future courses will be made available: I and II Corinthians, Life of Christ, and Elementary New Testament Greek.

Thoughts from the Psalms

In addition to being inspired by the Holy about 3,000 years ago, [Psalm 119](#) is a truly amazing piece of literature! Some basic facts: [Psalm 117](#) is the shortest chapter in the Bible (2 verses); [Psalm 118](#) is the mid-point of the Bible; [Psalm 119](#) is the longest chapter in the Bible (176 verses).

Perhaps you have noticed that Psalm 119 is divided into 22 eight verse sections (Aleph, Beth, Gimel, Daleth, etc.) These sections represent, in alphabetic order, all the

consonants in the Hebrew language. In each section every line begins with the same consonant, each verse being composed with two lines. Thus, there are 16 lines in the Aleph section, and each of those lines begin with an Aleph! There are 16 line in the Beth section, and each line begins with a Beth! The Psalm continues all the way through the alphabet this way!

God is truly creative in how He reveals Himself!

It is also amazing to consider that almost every verse in his Psalm is explaining/exalting God's Word, the Bible! There are a few verses here that do not make reference to Scripture directly, but those few verses are setting the context so that the next verse explains/exalts holy Scripture!

We will take a look at the Aleph section of [Psalm 119](#).

1 Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the Law of the Lord.

In the first three verses of this section reference is made to those who take the Word of God seriously. Here a *promise* is made to them: they will be blessed for their holy living ("undefiled") and their daily relationship with God ("who walk in the Law of the Lord").

The world we live in would tends to tell us that holy living and obedience to Scripture are *boring* and sometimes *unproductive*. God tells us otherwise! May we understand this in our minds and apply it to our hearts and lives!

2 Blessed are they that keep His testimonies, and that seek Him with the whole heart.

The emphasis in this verse is on *consistent* obedience ("keep His testimonies") and *committed* obedience ("with the whole heart").

God's promise of blessing is extended to them: "blessed are they."

3 They also do no iniquity: they walk in His ways.

Those who have learned that God blesses obedience avoid the negativity of sin ("do no iniquity") and consistently practice positive things ("walk in His ways").

When God tells us to avoid certain things, He also gives us instruction on what we should do!

4 Thou hast commanded us to keep Thy precepts diligently.

In verses 4 and 5 the focus shifts from those who walk with God to the God Who commands the obedience to His Word, His will, and His ways.

Why should a believer obey God? *Thou hast commanded us to keep Thy precepts diligently.*

Our Lord made it clear that this was truly a matter of loving Him as we ought: *If ye love Me, keep My commandments* ([John 14:15](#)).

5 O that my ways were directed to keep Thy statutes!

God is the Creator and sustainer of all things. He has revealed Himself and desires that we live in harmony with Him! He knows that this is only accomplished when we have *our* ways redirected from selfish ambition to “keeping His statutes.”

Simply put, God knows what is best!

6 Then shall I not be ashamed when I have respect unto all Thy commandments.

The Psalmist, probably David, begins to apply the thoughts in this Aleph section to his own life. Notice the consistent use of “I” and “me” in verses 6-8. A close walk with God is not merely for others to take seriously. It needs to be personal!

Obedience to God and His Word brings *confidence* (“not be ashamed”) to the conscience of a believer! The world scoffs at such things, but a big part of God’s promised blessing is the awareness that walking with God is far better than the sin that so dominates mankind!

The Apostle Paul, a man who had previously murdered Christians, devoted his entire life to preaching the Gospel to unbelievers and discipling believers after his amazing salvation experience, and he was not ashamed to do so: *For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek* ([Romans 1:16](#)).

7 I will praise Thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned Thy righteous judgments.

Learning the truth (“Thy righteous judgments”) causes joy (“praise” to God) and purity (“uprightness of heart”) to those who “walk in the Law of the Lord” (see verse 1 of this Psalm).

Jesus prayed that the sanctifying power the disciples would need after He left this world would come from the Word of God: *Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy Word is truth* ([John 17:17](#)).

8 I will keep Thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly.

David's will was to "keep" God's statutes, not only knowing that He would bless him for obedience, but because he truly longed to maintain a close relationship with His God ("O forsake me not utterly")!

We will look at another chapter in the Psalms in next month's newsletter.