

Sermon Text Discussion 1/1/2017

Psalms 119:25-32: "The Bible: Pathway to God's Grace" by Taylor Sutton

Overview

As we begin a new calendar year, we are all especially aware of changes we hope to see in our lives and challenges we expect to face. God's Word not only helps us see what we should change, but provides all we need to actually make the change occur. It provides pathways or channels for receiving God's power and grace. In our passage today, we will see how God:

- Strengthens us through His Word
- Guides us through His Word

Quotations

"Give what you command and command what you will." – Augustine

"Apart from His Word, God's power would afford us little comfort." – John Calvin

Understanding & Application

- 1) Explain in your own words what it means to say the Bible is God's Word. How would you defend your explanation, if challenged?
- 2) Search and read a famous historical speech. Do you consider the written speech as the word of the historical figure who delivered the speech? Compare and contrast to the Bible being considered to be the word of God.
- 3) J.I. Packer (*Knowing God*) says our goal in reading the Bible should be to move from studying God (knowing things about God) to knowing God through prayerful meditation. Practically, what would this look like in your life? How would you know if you are moving in that direction?
- 4) The psalmist speaks of the importance of obedience to God's Word in verses 29-32. What actions does he list as having taken? How does he refer to God's Word?
- 5) What is your general position towards authority? How do you respond to being told what to do? Taylor used IKEA furniture as an example of the value of following instructions. Explain the analogy.
- 6) The Old Testament points to the pinnacle of God's expression of His Word – the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. How do John 1 and John 6:66-69 expand your thinking of God's Word?
- 7) Taylor identifies several reasons and/or excuses we use to distract us from truly studying our Bibles. What specific steps do you plan to take in 2017 to become a better student of His Word? How can you, as small group members, help each other?