

Activate Group Resource for 14 October – The Foundations of God’s Word – Part 2 (Ps 119:17-24)

Big Idea:

We are pilgrims who are passing through who will spend eternity in Heaven...The second thought is that freedom is not the absence of boundaries. God is not out to spoil our fun but to give us life in all of its fullness.

Psalm 119:17-24 (The Message)

- ¹⁷ Be good to your servant,
 that I may live and obey your word.
- ¹⁸ Open my eyes to see
 the wonderful truths in your instructions.
- ¹⁹ I am only a foreigner in the land.
 Don't hide your commands from me!
- ²⁰ I am always overwhelmed
 with a desire for your regulations.
- ²¹ You rebuke the arrogant;
 those who wander from your commands are cursed.
- ²² Don't let them scorn and insult me,
 for I have obeyed your laws.
- ²³ Even princes sit and speak against me,
 but I will meditate on your decrees.
- ²⁴ Your laws please me;
 they give me wise advice.

Key Points:

- 1) Gratitude is the only reason to serve God (v17)
- 2) We will only really live when we see God redeeming people's lives (v18)
- 3) As a follower of Jesus, life here on earth as wonderful as it is, is not our permanent home (v19)
- 4) Your soul (mind, will and emotions) will be unsatisfied unless there is spiritual food (v20)

Discussion Questions:

- 1) How can the bible help us to cultivate an attitude of being grateful? Talk about the significance of a sacrifice of praise?
- 2) Why do we need to be sowing seed about becoming a disciple of Jesus and discipling others? Discuss how it might be more for our benefit than for Gods.
- 3) How do your priorities change when you no longer see earth as being your permanent home?
- 4) What is spiritual food? How can be Bible be a source of such food?

Application:

The illustration is sometimes given of the difference between a river with defined boundaries which can support growth and a river with no defined boundaries which becomes an anaerobic swamp which is no longer able to sustain life. Spiritual life comes through the revelation that God's word brings in the Bible and God's commands channel that water by providing boundaries, so that it brings life.

The thought here is that we need to cherish and use the revelation that we have received. Revelation if it is not cherished and used will not bring life.