**SCHIN – STANZA #21: PSALM 119:161-168**

**The Psalm of the Bible**

Today our study continues with stanza #21 entitled – “Schin”, which corresponds to our letter “s” or “sh.” After this stanza, we will finish up with the final stanza and verses of this psalm next week. We begin our study with:

1. **Standing in awe of God’s Word – Psalm 119:161 -.** The stanza begins with a familiar refrain – persecution. We have spent much time on the persecutions and corresponding diligence of the psalmist. I want to focus on the last part of the verse, “but my heart standeth in awe of thy Word.” We are told that the psalmist had an overwhelming reverence for the Word of God. Notice that it was his heart that stood in awe of God’s Word. This is so needed in our world today. Standing in awe of God’s Word can only occur if one believes that the Bible is God’s Word. If the Bible ever becomes anything less than that, then it loses all power in the life of that person. A person reveals their feelings of the Bible based on how they live. If a person does not obey the Bible, it shows that they are not in awe of it, as well as when a person does not read it, live it and share it. The psalmist was in awe of the Bible because he truly believed that it was the Word of God. Most today don’t and as a result, there is no overwhelming reverence for it. If people were in awe of God’s Word, they would not change it, ignore it, or give a meaning that suits them. Our world is in trouble, because we no longer stand in awe of God’s Word. It is sad to see multitudes today paying no attention to this wonderful letter from the Almighty Creator of the universe.
2. **The Word as a great bounty – vs. 162 -.** The idea behind this verse is the great bounty that a warrior would come upon, as a result of conquering his enemies. This great bounty would come as a wonderful surprise that he had not expected. The Word of God can be the same way to us. As we read and study the Word of God, it can become a great bounty of truth that we are excited to discover, and claim for our lives. Just as the warrior must fight to win this bounty, the individual Christian must overcome anything that would keep us from the Book. When we spend time in the Word, we will come upon new truths and insights that we never saw before. Unearthing these great truths can be like coming upon an unexpected bounty. As a result we should respond as the psalmist, “I rejoice at thy Word.”
3. **Hating and abhorring lies – vs. 163 -.** This is the best method to eliminate lying in your life. We must “hate and abhor” lies. Many times, lying is an escape route from problems. The problem with that is that lying always creates more problems. The psalmist reveals his deep hatred for lying. While it may be a tempting way out of trouble, it nonetheless is something that God hates. Since God hates lying, so should we. In contrast to his hatred of lying is his love for the truth, the Word of God. As a matter of fact, our love for the Word of God can be the vehicle to which we develop a hatred for lying. In reality, it is the Word of God which teaches us what to hate, and what to love. The more our love for the Bible grows, the more that we can learn and hate what God hates. The only way to truly avoid lying or any sin is to hate it.
4. **Praising God throughout the day –** **vs. 164 -.** In this verse, the psalmist reveals that he praises God “Seven times a day.” We should not take this a number as a requirement. The Muslim is required to pray 5 times a day towards Mecca. The child of God has the liberty to praise God as often as he feels led. The psalmist stated that he praised God “because of thy righteous judgments.”

When the psalmist took the time to meditate on the goodness and rightness of God’s laws, he could not help but to praise the Lord. This also shows us how often the Lord was on his mind. While we must focus our mind on the daily tasks at hand, there is no reason why our thoughts could not still be continually on the Lord. It is a good practice to simply take time to praise the Lord for something that he has spoken to you about or that you have been meditating about. It is a great way to stay close to God all day long.

1. **Peace and stability in loving God’s Word –** **vs. 165 -.** In this verse, we see two great reasons why the Word of God is so precious to the believer. The first blessing is that of peace. The Bible provides peace in knowing that we are right with God, that we are living the right kind of life, and that we have the truth. Unsaved religious people have an “assumed peace.” They have a peace within that it is based on an assumption of rightness with God. Believers have peace based on truth and our acceptance of it. Real peace is only available by virtue of being born again. The second blessing is that of stability. The psalmist states that “nothing shall offend” the lover of God’s Word. This literally means that a Christian can avoid stumbling in their life. This protection from stumbling is not based on knowledge of the Word of God, but an application of it. Many know about the Bible and yet do not live the Bible. A genuine love for the Bible and a desire to apply its truths will give us peace and stability in our Christian lives.
2. **Trusting God’s deliverance – vs. 166 -.** The phrase, “I have hoped for thy salvation” is not referring to our salvation in Christ. It is referring to deliverance. As we have seen, the psalmist was regularly facing persecution. It was his habit to continually look to God for deliverance. Always remember that God is there to deliver you from any situation you are in. There are no situations too great for God. His commitment to keep the Word of God is a requirement for God’s deliverance. If we are living in sin and outside of God’s will and fellowship, we have no guarantee that God will deliver in the day of trouble. God may just use the situation to shake us up, and get us right with Him. To avoid the uncertainty, stay right with God.
3. **Keeping God’s laws because** **we love them** – **vs. 167 -.** This is the difference between the unsaved religionist and the genuine child of God. A lost religious person will try to keep the 10 commandments as a means of salvation. Even then, most have convinced themselves of their own goodness and live like the world anyway. For the unsaved, the Word of God is a chore and an obligation. For the believer, we understand that salvation is through Christ and not by works. We follow the Word of God because it pleases the Lord. Since it pleases the Lord, it is something that we can keep out of love, and not of duty. With the continued watering down of right and wrong, most people, even religious people, will forsake the Word of God. We believe that God’s truths are eternal, and we live them because we love them.
4. **Keeping God’s laws because of accountability – vs. 168 -.** This stanza ends with an often overlooked truth. That truth is that, “all my ways are ever before thee.” Another great reason to live the Bible is because of the accountability that it brings before God. In other words, God sees all that we do. If we could ever fully grasp this truth, it would change our lives. Many times people try to hide wrong doing from other people. What we fail to understand is that God sees all. A great chapter on this truth is Psalm 139. That details the magnitude of God’s knowledge of all that we do. Purpose to stay right. God sees all that we do. Not only should we not want God seeing us in our sin, but we should also want to please Him in all that we do. Stay accountable to God and purpose to live for Him.