**TAU – STANZA #22: PSALM 119:169-176**

**The Psalm of the Bible Finale**

Today we finish up this wonderful Psalm of the Bible with a study in the 22nd and last stanza, entitled “Tau.” This is the last letter in the Hebrew alphabet and corresponds to our letters, “t” and “th.” The theme of this final stanza is two-fold: prayer and purpose. Every verse will fall into one of those two categories. A great practice to adopt from the study of this stanza is to want what the psalmist requests, and to do what the psalmist purposes. As we have seen from the beginning, this psalm may be the best chapter on how to build your Christian life in the entire Bible. Every facet of the Christian life has been covered, as well as the overarching theme of the greatness of God’s Word. We begin this final stanza with:

1. **A plea for answered prayer – Psalm 119:169-170 -.** Both verses begin with the word “Let”, which shows us that these two verses are prayers. The psalmist is asking God that his “cry” or prayer in verse 169, and his “supplications” or general requests be heard by God. Most people would assume that God hears all prayers. It is clear from Scripture that many things can hinder our prayers from reaching the throne room of God. We find in the Bible, many conditions for a prevailing prayer life. If those conditions are not met, then our prayers are hindered from reaching God. The psalmist so wanted communion and communication with God, that he asked God to receive those prayers. The psalmist was really praying that God would reveal to him what was hindering his prayers, so that he could overcome the problem. We should also learn to pray like this. We should ask God to reveal whatever it is that might be blocking our prayers before Him. Once God reveals that obstacle, we should do all that we can to remove it. What good are prayers that don’t reach heaven?
2. **A purpose to praise and prophesy – vs. 171-172 -.** In these two verses we see purpose. In verse 171, the purpose is to praise the Lord. This praise comes from being taught the statutes of God. Praise ought to be automatic when we learn some new truth, or come upon a well-known one in the Bible. A great practice to undertake is that of praising the Lord for His truth. Whether we whisper it quietly while reading, telling the Lord about it in prayer, or testifying it before others, we should purpose to praise the Lord often for His truth. A second purpose is found in verse 172 prophesying, “My tongue shall speak of thy Word.” This prophesying is not the same as what was done in Bible times. Before the completion of the Bible, prophets would “foretell” as a result of Divine inspiration. In NT times, we prophesy by “forth telling”, the idea of bringing “forth” already inspired and revealed truth from the Bible. The Bible is wonderful enough to share with others. We shouldn’t keep it to ourselves. We should purpose to praise and prophesy as often as possible.
3. **A request for God’s help –** **vs. 173 -.** Here we find another request – “Let thine hand help me.” This godly helping hand can come in the form of any needed help, but it especially is referring to God’s help in our work for Him. Many people today are trying to do the work of God without the help of God. Much work for the Lord is being done by the power of man’s flesh instead of God’s Spirit. This request is a great example of humility and dependence. It shows our humility by virtue of our asking for help, and it shows our dependence by realizing that our work can only succeed with the help of God. Never get to the point of thinking that your work for God is solely dependent upon you. An attitude like that assures a work doomed to fail or succeeding solely as a work of man. Either way, that work fails in the eyes of God. Purpose to seek out and give way to God’s help in the work that He has called you to.
4. **Thy Word is my delight – vs. 174 -.** The verse begins with another statement of purpose for God’s deliverance in time of trial. We have seen this on several occasions, and will move to the last part of the verse. The verse ends with the phrase, “and thy law is my delight.” Can you say that? Is the Bible your delight? One great way to know is how you respond to it. If you don’t read, obey, share, follow, and fight for the Word of God, then it is not your delight. Virtually every Christian would say that the Bible is their delight; but would that statement be proven true by examining our conduct in relation to it? Make the Bible your delight by grasping that it is God’s Word, that it is truth, that it provides all answers to our questions, gives peace and comfort, helps us how to know, experience, and live for God, and reveals the error and sin that we must stay away from. The Bible is God’s Handbook for this life, and the one to come. If all that, can’t become your delight, then you have far too many worldly delights that need to go. Make the Bible your delight!
5. **A request for life and guidance –** **vs. 175 -.** In this verse we see two more requests. The first is for life, “Let my soul live.” Now why did the psalmist want to live? Did he want to live for the sake of life? Did he want to live to get the most out of life? The answer to both is no. The psalmist wanted to live, so that his life could praise the Lord. He wanted to live so that he could live for God. Too often we pray for good health without having a desire to use that good health for the Lord. We should primarily want life so that we could live it for God, and as a result send forth all glory to Him. The second request in the verse is for guidance, “let thy judgments help me.” The psalmist wanted God’s laws to be his help and guidance in this life. It is important to understand that something in life will be your help and guide. Your flesh can help you to live a life of sin, and guide you away from God. Every person is helped and guided by something. We should pray as the psalmist, that God would help and guide us according to His Word. What better guide to have than the Bible. In this life, we need all the help and guidance that we can get. Just like everything else about the Christian life, if we want the help and guidance, we simply need to ask God for it. Start your day by asking God to take over the wheel of your life, and give you the help and guidance that you need.
6. **The psalmist’s confession – vs. 176 -.** This wonderful Psalm ends with something we have rarely seen from the psalmist, a confession of sin. In this psalm, we have seen a man that is totally devoted to God and His Word. We have rarely seen any semblance of spiritual weakness. In reality, this psalmist would not be genuine without the weaknesses that we all have. In this verse, the psalmist confesses that he has “gone astray like a lost sheep.” At points in his life, he has failed God and strayed away from fellowship with Him. He admits that he is as prone to sin as we are. Yet despite his wanderings and failures, he still has a request that God will always honor – “seek thy servant.” When we stray, God comes seeking. What a comfort to know that God never gives up on us. Some stray for a short time and others longer, but God still is faithful in seeking our return. Something else about the psalmist as he ends this chapter, “I do not forget thy commandments.” The best way to keep short our periods of wandering is by never forgetting the Word of God. Even in the midst of his straying, he never forgot the Word of God. Surely it is that purpose that helped bring him back. Purpose never to stray. If you do stray, purpose to keep it short, and in order to avoid straying and shorten its duration, never forget God’s Word. I hope you have enjoyed as I have, the Psalm of the Bible!