

Psalms 19-07-25a

Good evening, welcome to the Thursday evening Bible class at Grace and Truth Bible Church. We're going to continue tonight our study in the book of Psalms specifically Psalm 119. If you haven't already turned there, we're going to be continuing tonight in the Alphabetical Sequence we left off looking at maim and noon. And we'll be picking up with psalmic and ion. This would be verses 113 through 128. So we're moving smartly through. We're also going to do a little bit of a review tonight and a Summary not a not a detailed review. But just a an overview of what we've covered thus far if you had to answer in just a few words. What has the psalm been about so far, what would you say? Well, I asked myself that question and Wrote up an answer. So I'll share it with you and that way hopefully when we think back on this detailed study We'll have a few big ideas that will then lead our memories and our souls back into some of the deeper Investigations and understandings that we've developed over these past weeks. But let's take a moment as we begin to ask God's blessing on our fellowship and study and then we'll begin. Father what a blessing and a privilege it is to spend these hours together in the study of your word in seeking an understanding of it in Committing ourselves to the way that it describes in seeking to be transformed by Your truth and your power we thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit that enables us and Transforms us and enables us to Apply the things that we've learned we thank you most of all for the Lord Jesus through whom all of these blessings and opportunities have come to us and we pray that as we Develop a better understanding and a more conscientious Application that the Lord Jesus will be glorified and that you will be pleased with us when that day comes when we stand before you. Hopefully faultless before the throne of grace we pray that Our study will be beneficial and edifying to each one who's participating that the function of the spiritual gifts distributed among us will be in evidence and that We will be drawn closer together even as we are drawn closer to you through the Lord Jesus. We pray these things in his name Amen. Well, I thought it might be good since we've had a little hiatus last week to just do a quick summary of What we've learned so far in Psalm 119. It's an acrostic Psalm we know that this invites our attention to structure and Without doing anything by way of a verse-by-verse Review we've reviewed some of the content in times past. But you'll remember structurally that this psalm proceeds with a two-step approach there is a left foot and a right foot a left foot and a right foot and so Although we start with a psalm of a hundred and seventy six verses and you think it's just an overwhelming amount of information It's the longest chapter in the Bible.

What are we going to do? It's broken down into subsections, so there are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet. We have eight verses for each letter. So instead of having to deal initially with a hundred and seventy six Separate items we can deal with 22 items the letters of the alphabet each Having eight verses dedicated to it. We also saw to even simplify further that these seem to be occurring in pairs. So the Aleph and the Bait Center on a theme and The Gimel and the Dalet center on a theme and so they're in pairs and that's even easier because now we just have 11 pairs. Well, if I wanted to try to remember And this is my encouragement to you. This is what I'm going to endeavor to do for myself my fear is We've spent week after week after week

looking at this psalm, but maybe a couple of months down the road We were in a new study.

We're not looking at the psalms anymore, or we're not looking at this psalm anymore You say well, what was that psalm 119 about anyway? What was the what was the idea? It's nice if you can at least have some thematic memory Like we do for Hebrews chapter 11. What's that about? Hebrews 11 It's the faith chapter. What's first Corinthians 13 about? It's the love chapter What's? Matthew 5 and 6 and 7 contain It's the teaching of the Lord Jesus we call it familiarly the Sermon on the Mount the Matthew chapter 5 and following They say Matthew 5 Sermon on the Mount.

It's the teaching on the hill that we're seeing what wonderful content It has in it, but for quick reference you say Sermon on the Mount Matthew 5 and it's going to extend through chapter 6 and 7 It's about a three chapter coverage there. It's all red ink beautiful material right there if I say Letters to the seven churches. Where are they? Revelation chapter 2 and 3 member chapter 4 verse 1 John hears voice come up here.

We say that's the rapture come up here watch the rest of it unfold below I like that idea come up here share John's perspective on the whole wrath of man and wrath of God unfolding in the seven years three and a half years of false peace followed by three and a half years of Seals and trumpets and bowls and thunders and all literally hell breaking loose on earth Revelation 2 and 3 though is Jesus last words to the church Last words of the church last red ink in your Bible Revelation 2 and 3 if you want the creation account. Where do you go? Genesis chapter 1 and if you want that that's the summary account if you want the detail Genesis chapter 2 culminating with man and the fall is in Genesis chapter 3 the the sub tile serpent is in Genesis 3 and the fruit and the Putting out the hand and eating and so on So it's good to know these big areas of Scripture and there are others Comfort you my people in Isaiah. You should be able to locate that Where is the big break in Isaiah between? 39 chapters of dismal condemnation and then the the spine of the book in 40 through 48 and then 49 366 you have the the hopeful future basically Well, that's helpful to know just big ideas.

So I'm back to my question. It's a pop quiz We've covered How many letters of the Hebrew alphabet You know, we've at least covered 10 because you remember that we were counting off and we got to the two hand letters the Yod And the cough it was the hand of supplication in the hand of power Yod is the hand held out to be filled cough is the hand of power that's cupped over things to grab the levers and pull them and so that was 10 and 11 right there and We've gone on from there. Even if you don't know the Hebrew alphabet, we've covered a few since then so Over arching theme in Psalm 119 What is mentioned in all but maybe two verses Of Psalm 119 In some way shape or form it's the Word of God statutes precepts ordinances law Testimonies, right We saw all of those synonyms one or another of those is mentioned in nearly every verse of the 176 over 170 of them directly referenced God's Word God has magnified his word above his name.

And so if you had to say what is the theme of Psalm 119? I'm telling you now this will be on the

test The theme of Psalm 119 is God's Word Everything in it revolves around God's Word now I will further Amplify that by saying that there are two sides to God's Word In baseball, we have a thing called the pitch You don't have baseball if you don't have pitching right it's the heart of the game Nothing happens until the ball is pitched Well, somebody's trying to steal a base or something and even that they typically wait until the pitcher is in the throes of delivering the pitch before they try to steal but it centers on the pitch. It's all about the pitch. Well there's There's two parts to the pitch if you're the If you're the defensive team, you're the ones Defending the bases.

You've got a pitcher on the mound. You've got outfielders in the outfield You're on defense offense or the guys swinging the bat and trying to run the bases and score points. That's offense So the pitching team is the defense Batting team is the offense in baseball because you tend to think about everything in terms of offense and defense But in the pitch you got two parts you've got what the pitcher does when the ball leaves his hand and You've got what the batter does or does not do on the other end and of course if the batter Fails to swing or misses then you got the catcher who stops the pitch, but there's two parts of it There's the delivery and there's the reception Pitcher delivers the ball batter receives the ball makes up his mind.

Is he gonna swing is he gonna stick? Is he gonna bunt what's he gonna do two parts? Well with God's Word there are two components There is the God side of God's Word. This is what God says what God means what God will do All of that is God's self-expression God's commitments God's promises his doctrines the expression of his righteousness the communication of his actions and his intentions his desires That's the God side of his Word right he originates it he he authors it he Communicates it he delivers it and he makes sure through the presence of his spirit that we can understand it So this is the God side of God's Word What do you think the other side is? If God's pitching What's supposed to happen? We're supposed to be at the plate Doing something with it there is the receiving there is the taking in and the response God initiates to us in his Word. We have a response There are people who just stand there and do nothing right You can ignore God's Word You can be staring off into the sky watching the birds fly by or thinking about what you're gonna have for dinner You can be apathetic you can be indifferent You can be disinterested Doesn't change the fact that the Word is getting pitched That pitch is coming no matter what you think of it no matter what you do about it Now you may walk away and not even stand in the batting gauge Doesn't matter the Word is coming.

It's going to be delivered as all of God's Self-expression his intent his expectations the potential is there So you get the God side and the man side Not surprisingly in Psalm 119 These are the two primary Things that we see about God's Word So you say the theme of Psalm 119 is God's Word within that it's going to talk about The God side of it what God does with it and through it what he expects from it and the man side What should I be doing with it? What happens if I don't what happens if I do? Delivery and response initiation and response, okay So if you go back to the aleph and the bait Left foot right foot pair the initial two letters. I would summarize them this way It is the psalmist's expression He looks at the lives of people who have committed themselves To God and to his Word this this is about commitment if you remember

I noticed that people who walk in God's ways who commit themselves to his precepts How blessed they are? I'm going to make that commitment. I'm going to be one of those people you remember that from the aleph and bait sections, so there is a The theme of aleph and bait, and this is really the beginning place when God Presents his word to us.

We're either going to respond or react. We're either going to receive or reject The psalmist's response is right at the front of the psalm When faced with the issue of God's Word the theme of God's precepts statutes ordinances law testimonies What is what is the the manward side of it it is? commitment not just assent not just Lack of disagreement. This is a commitment.

This is an investment. This is a positive Doing something about it Right you cannot just be in acceptance mode and non-violent Non-confrontation non-oppositional mode that doesn't get you anywhere with God's Word you either commit and move forward or You stand there and move backward There is no passive place You're either moving forward or moving backward so aleph and bait that first pair of stanzas those first 16 verses express The observation of what the committed life is like and Making that commitment. I'm going to do that.

I'm going to be one of those people That's all if and bait Gimel and Dalit if you look at it there is an appeal there for strength and for support and You can look at those verses if you if you want to summarize these differently for yourself. These are mine this is what I see and I'm not going to go back and read individual verses because I'll never finish my My course I'll never run my race tonight, so you can look and see but you remember We've covered these in extensive detail you look back at your notes. There is an appeal for insight I've committed my way to you.

Oh Lord. I've I want to be one of those people that understands your words So give me understanding teach me your ways Show me The truth help me understand it help me get it. There is an appeal for insight and Support in the process this isn't something that we can Walk into and do with our own strength if we're going to commit our way to the Lord God has to help us So in this appeal for support there is an appeal for knowledge There is an appeal for inner strength, and there is an appeal for vindication Lord Don't let me be ashamed when I make this commitment.

I don't want to be laughed out of town I don't want to find out that it was all a big joke or a myth or a false understanding Vindicate I'm making this commitment, but you know Verify it show it to be right Establish me strengthen me help me But it's an appeal to God. I'm making this commitment, but I can only do it in your strength. Oh Lord So that's the gimel and doll at the the third and fourth stanzas are essentially And there are other components around this, but the thrust and the emphasis is Lord I'm making this commitment.

Let me not be put to shame You've got to help me, and you've got to really make this happen you have my Absolute commitment, but I need your absolute help, so that's your first four stanzas, and then finally you get to hey, and wow and Where in the previous two there was an appeal for insight and an appeal for God's? support in in upholding and vindicating this commitment now There is an appeal for practical wisdom and outer strength This covenant and

this commitment that I'm making with God to walk in his ways and by his strength Then there is an appeal Oh Lord in my outer life I need strength and I need Practical wisdom I need application when I'm rubbing up against people and circumstances So it starts in the in the gimel and doll at phase Lord square me way internally Support me internally and now with that squared away Give me strength and practical wisdom on the outside so commitment inner strength wisdom and support and Then outer strength wisdom and support and guess what with those three concepts we have covered six letters of the alphabet and 48 verses in Psalm 119 You're a quarter of the way there already give or take But you can see it's a logical flow isn't it you can't get anywhere if you haven't first committed yourself and your way to God Recognize the importance of wisdom and inner strength and ask God for that and Recognize that that has to be working itself out faith without works is dead because it doesn't bear fruit so Lord Now that I'm getting this inner wisdom and strength help me put it into application on the outside That's your first six letters. That's your first 48 verses and by the way Those six those three sections you can kind of draw a line under it because they're all sort of interrelated So you've got a set of three there three pairs two four six Now we kind of take a turn in the thematic element when it comes to Zion and hate Taith and Yod Koth and Lamed these are going to be the next three pairs the next 48 verses they're going to hang together as a set The the next pair Zion and hate Which begins at verse 49 and continues for the next 16 verses? is Or continues for 16 verses expresses confidence Based on what God has done God's words and God's works. I look at God's word and I look at his works I Have hope Because I know what God has done in the past.

It's comfort in my affliction. It is sustaining grace It is Strength from knowing God knowing who he is and what he has done you know many times you want to Buy something and you go to eBay. Well, is this a trusted seller you go to Amazon and do they have a lot of Positive reviews you you search for something on the web.

You want to know, you know Do these people have a lot of stars to the do it and other people express confidence? Why is that? Because these people are at something of a distance and you don't know them. Maybe you've not dealt with them before What are you looking to for confidence? They have dealt well with others They have a good reputation in their previous dealings that gives me confidence That if I order something expensive from these people, I'm not going to get Snookered and I'm not going to be cheated or I'm not going to be Disappointed and fall short. Well, this is essentially what the psalmist does God's reputation and God's past works Give hope comfort and encouragement what God has done in the past.

I expect him to do for me as well That's the Zion and hate confident from God's Word and God's works confidence I'm looking to God for wisdom and for vindication for inner strength and outer strength and I have some hope and some confidence that he's going to do these things based on what he's done in the past Zion and hate The the center of this second set of three is the teeth Yod Section and it is once again an appeal you remember in the first set We had an appeal for inner strength and so on in the middle and Once again, we move to appeal and this is an appeal for teaching an appeal for understanding an appeal for God to Make manifest and

make clear What it is that we've committed to learning and what we are depending on for inner strength and outer application and for our hope Make it clear to me. Oh Lord clarity understanding grasp That's Yod and taith and then cough and Lamed is An appeal for help and deliverance and strength in affliction Help and deliverance and you may remember that in in verse 86 of that section. He said Help me And in verse 94 of that section he said save me right So that's how that second set of three pairs Ends up we have an expression of confidence We have an appeal for teaching and for understanding and then we say Lord in the at the end of the first three pairs I was saying give me practical wisdom and practical outer strength to deal with Circumstances here.

It is an appeal for God to deal with what we can't Help and deliver save me when my resources are at an end when I've done everything I can do by way of application Oh Lord, you've got to deliver. You've got to save my dependences on you Okay, so that's now the first six pairs, which is 12 letters of the alphabet which is a Total of what 96 verses now So we're more than halfway through the psalm just with that analysis So let's think back stop. Take a deep breath.

Now. We're talking about Psalm 119. What is the theme? It's the Word of God how many sides does the Word of God have Two sides and in these first six pairs these first twelve letters We've seen both a recognition of what our part is in receiving there is commitment there is Reliance there is the need to learn and to understand there is the need to apply there's the need to rely on God for personal application and also to rely on God when the Outcome is beyond our control help and deliver.

That's kind of how it concludes there in the in the Cough Lamed section help me in verse 86 save me in verse 94 and those first 12 letters are a real good summary of what the psalm is about and Of course you remember between the second to the last and the last pair there the yod and the cough Those were the hand letters yod is the word for hand yod is is the Tenth letter there and the 11th letter is cough and it reminds you of what it's talking about here. There's my little hand the yod the yod Jesus said it's the one of the smallest things in the law one yod That's my hand cough is the mighty hand of God And so there's a reminder there in the yod and the cough that my part is small I'm the little hand hanging on and God's is the mighty hand providing his word and his promises and his example and his person and his deliverance Okay, so that that gets us through the first 12 letters the 13th and 14th letters we looked at over the last few weeks of study the maim and the noon and Having covered that first 12 and 12 is a nice number For things related to Israel and so now we're sort of starting over with the 13th and 14th letters the maim and the noon and so there is a recognition of the abundant life That comes through faith in God. I Love your law.

It's my meditation through your commandments. You make me wiser Everything that happens in my life is now Resonant with additional meaning and a deeper context and an eternal component So you make me for my enemies? I don't just got get opposition, but I get wisdom you make me wiser from my enemies I Have more understanding from my teachers. I Have more understanding from history and the ancients You see that not only do I have life, but I

have it more abundantly everything that happens in my life is Amplified and Multidimensional I get more out of both opposition and Teaching and experience all of these things are more meaningful my life has meaning and purpose and definition and direction and Context and hope That's the maim and noon sections your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path So I would Say that that as a result of this recognition of how fulsome and abundant life is There is a renewal of commitment So in in the noon section there verse 106 I have sworn and confirmed that I will keep your righteous judgments It's kind of going back to the beginning.

We've covered 12 letters of the alphabet and what was the first section about I? Observe those who have committed their way to the Lord. I want to be one of them and Now here's a renewal of that commitment. I've sworn and confirmed.

I'll keep your righteous judgments I'm afflicted Revive me according to your word here are the freewill offerings of my mouth teach me your judgments My life is in my hand, but I don't forget your law the wicked lay a snare. I don't stray I've taken your testimonies as a heritage forever. They are the rejoicing of my heart.

There's an affirmation of everything that was in that first 12 I Have inclined my heart to perform your statutes forever to the very end it is a renewal of commitment So there's a sense in which we're starting over here in the 13th and the 14th letters you see that So you can label maim and noon abundant life renewed commitment now tonight, we're going to pick up in the Psalmic and I in section and Just to to fill out the rest of the pattern if you want to just go ahead and write this down that the rest of this Will be Anticipating what we haven't looked at yet but this psalmic and I in section is once again going to be an appeal for something from God in the first Set of six letters the first three pairs we had an appeal for Strength and appeal for inner strength and appeal for outer strength in the second Pair of six we had an appeal for teaching and an appeal for for strength in affliction In the third set here, we're going to have an appeal for deliverance from foes preceding set of three pairs there was an appeal for Help and deliverance in affliction affliction can be circumstantial it can be just slings and arrows of outrageous fortune so to speak but this appeal for deliverance is specifically from human opposition from those Who are antagonists and enemies? Opponents in life, that's what we're going to see here in the Psalmic and I in sections. Let's read it watch for that as we read it. I hate the double-minded, but I love your law You are my hiding place in my shield.

I hope in your word Depart from me you evildoers for I will keep the commandments of my God Uphold me according to your word that I may live and do not let me be ashamed of my hope Hold me up and I shall be safe and I shall observe your statutes Continually you reject all those who stray from your statutes for their deceit is falsehood You put away all the wicked of the earth like dross Therefore I love your testimonies my flesh trembles for fear of you, and I am afraid of your judgments So you can see that in this context when he says hold me up, and I shall be safe Uphold me according to your word that I may live what is the situation where he needs this deliverance and Upholdedness What's going on? He's facing the double-minded the evildoers the ones who reject and stray from his statutes who perpetrates deceit and falsehood

They are going to be put away like dross I love your testimonies my flesh trembles for fear of you, and I am afraid of your judgments once again this is recognition of the mighty power of God and It is a sobering thing to see God's judgment on these Wicked and these enemies and to know that we deserve the same thing, but we are delivered by grace and It ought to motivate us to remain in God's grace to dedicate ourselves to his ways Because look at the alternative We ought to be afraid of the judgments of God. We ought to be afraid to be on the wrong side of God's character If we're not fearful We don't know God well enough, and there's a lot of happy-go-lucky Christianity in the modern day. That's just all the gentle Jesus and you know sunshine and light and butterflies and most of the Word of God is a depiction of his righteous and Violent judgment on the wicked the Bible starts with it At Babel and at the flood and it continues with it in Egypt and it continues with it on God's own people and it stretches through the history of Old Testament Israel culminating in their loss of what God had initially granted them and It continues in the New Testament with the Lord Jesus driving the money changers out of pronouncing the woes on the Pharisees and it continues through the Fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God and What happens to the field that the rain comes on many times? that is fit only for burning and near to a curse and it culminates in Revelation, which is all about the Bowls of God's judgment being poured out on a wicked earth The Bible is a book of judgment and it ought to sober us.

I never got anywhere near Violating the Uniform Code of Military Justice But it's a scary thing when you're under it realize that they've still got an unquestioned death penalty There are things you can do under the UCMJ and you will die die on the spot Certain situations certain circumstances certain environments you disobey a direct order your CEO can pull out his 45 and drill you right between the eyes and be absolutely justified in doing so and It's it's a fearful thing But this is not an unhealthy fear or a cowering fear or a debilitating fear this is a healthy recognition of God's options and What God has chosen to do in grace and what God has chosen to do in judgment? So my flesh trembles look at the I in section beginning in verse 121. I Have done justice and righteousness. Do not leave me to my oppressors notice that the condition for Seeking God's deliverance is met and Meeting that condition is stated Not just anybody can go claim God's deliverance There are conditions on God's promises God's promises are Conditional who has the right to claim God's grace God's deliverance God's interest in Rectifying bad circumstances who has that claim who's got that right? Those who have made that aleph bait commitment those who have made that maim noon commitment This is what's in Psalm 119 remember it when you think back on this psalm.

What's it about? It's the Word of God It's God presenting it. It's us either responding or ignoring it if you respond there are promises You can claim help me deliver me save me teach me And this is one of them I have done justice and righteousness why is he saying this He's saying Lord I meet the condition if you want Medical care at a greatly reduced cost. What do you have to do when you go up to the window? I've got the card.

I've paid my insurance premiums I've got Blue Cross Blue Shield or whatever. I'm a military retiree I'm a I've got see this I've done what I was supposed to do I am qualified to make a

claim on What you're providing right? You go bring a big basket of groceries up to the register What do you have to have so that you can walk out and put them in your car? I've got the money see this money right here. That's my Walmart card I may not actually have the money, but they'll take the card at least for a short time That's the idea.

I have done justice and righteousness. That's my Bonafides that's my claim. I meet the condition and I can make a claim on God's grace Do not leave me to my oppressors be surety for your servant for good notice.

Oh Lord you are my guarantee You're my strength you're my Deliverance you are my fortress. You are my rock. I Am one of those who dwells in the secret place of the Most High I abide under your shadow.

Oh Lord cover me with your wings and you can legitimately and rightfully claim the fulfillment of those promises but you have to know what the condition is you have to have committed yourself and and succeeded in meeting those conditions and Then you lay claim you go right up to the throne room of heaven Let us come boldly before the throne of grace to do what? Let us come boldly to the throne of grace to do what? That we may find grace to help in time of need Let us come boldly to the throne of grace that we may find grace to help in time of need come boldly Who is it that could come boldly to the throne of grace? People who are lackadaisical indifferent and apathetic Need not apply Need not come you come and knock on that door the little windows gonna open the Lord's gonna peek out and say I don't know you I'm not gonna be an awful thing for people to actually be resurrected go into the eternal future Go to the door and have the Lord say I don't know you where you are from depart from me I got some people in here that I know we're sitting down to a meal. I don't know you beat it It's a harsh truth, but that's the option that faces us. This is what Psalm 119 is about the Word of God has people who respond and People who are indifferent apathetic or who outright reject and the consequences are extremely opposite Depending on how we respond or react Do not let the proud oppress me be surety for your servant My eyes verse 123 fail from seeking your salvation and your righteous word.

You know why he's saying this It is the bona fides. It's the insurance card. It's the claim.

This is the surety for the promise I Am one of those who wear their eyes out looking for your deliverance. I'm not looking anywhere else I'm not looking for any old deliverance. It's not that I've tried everything else and now in desperation.

I'm coming back to God My eyes fail looking for your salvation and your righteous word It's the only place I look and I will keep looking until my eyes fail commitment dedication and What is the claim verse? 124 deal with your servant according to your mercy and teach me your statutes I know that by learning these statutes. This is where my strength comes from. This is where my provision comes from This is where my deliverance comes from.

This is where all of the things That allow me to lay claim on your grace and to be found worthy

in your sight come from so teach them to me I'm asking I'm seeking I'm knocking You can't be a sometimes once in a while wasn't that interesting Christian we have got to be beating on the door in the middle of the night like the the neighbor who has a need like the important widow who won't leave the judge alone and God is going to honor those who honor him and who care about him and who wear their eyes out looking for his deliverance Deal with your servant according to your mercy teach me your statutes I am your servant if you're going to deal with your servant according to your mercy. I'm that servant Do you see the emphasis and the bold claim? We enter boldly and and we've got it all over the psalmist because we enter by a new and living way through the veil The flesh of the Lord Jesus Christ himself We've been blood-bought we enjoy a special standing a special status how much more bold how much more dedicated how much more Thoroughly committed ought we to be one of the things if there's Something I could say about the Bible teaching that I received in my earlier days and All of you who know me know how much I value it how much I appreciate the source and the depth and the The benefits that it has brought the foundation that it laid and everything else but There are things that I don't cover adequately. There are things that any one person may not cover adequately and I think Not being clear enough about it Taking more than just a simple naming of your sin There there it there was a fostering of a casual attitude, you know rebound and keep moving There's no point being sorry.

Just name it claim it be gone And not giving thought to how did that sin arise? How can I resist and overcome and not be susceptible to that in the future? There wasn't as much emphasis on that as maybe I and some other people needed. I know it was mentioned but there was just a For a lot of people who sat under that particular teaching. There was a bit of casual indifference about sin and From a different perspective having the benefit of hindsight and and a different view If I were doing that, I would try to lay a little more emphasis on it another area that Concerns me that I didn't Quite have straight and I don't fault the teacher for any of this It's it's what I took away from it and to the extent that it's the teacher and to the extent that it's the student sometimes it's hard to know but in the ice Tradition of teaching that originated back then If if I were going to point out something that I consider to be a weakness in myself and perhaps in the overall perception it is in the area of commitment, I Don't think we've talked enough about Commitment there is positive volition there is faith But I've got a whole lot more plus V's in my notes and in my thinking from that time well, I'm positive I I believe everything I hear I flip on you know, I listen to the teaching I I I assent to it I understand it.

I think it's great I'm two thumbs up, but in terms of application It is not enough to just believe and it is not enough to assent and it is not enough to agree If you are going to be transformed by the renewing of your mind There is a level of commitment Reminds me one time I when I was in junior high everybody's going steady and They people come to me saying oh this girl likes you this girl likes you and I said, well, you know, I like her I think she's fine. And they said well, you know, you should go steady and and back then I didn't even know what going steady meant But people had these little snap-on ID bracelets and had your name or your initials or something on it and if somebody's going steady why they they gave him an ID bracelet, it was

like a crude form of Identification tag, you know, well this person belongs to so-and-so and So I walked up one day and I said either you want to go steady and this girl said well sure So I gave her this ID bracelet that I had made up for the occasion and but I didn't do anything different I didn't sit with her at lunch. I didn't I didn't sit with her in the bleachers.

I I didn't really know what it was. I Wasn't disagreeable to the notion. She was nice and I thought well of her but over time my conscience began to afflict me I thought you know I think this going steady thing involves more than giving somebody a little bracelet gift and I talked to my mom about it and she said, you know, what are you thinking? give her the you know, get the bracelet back and don't lead the girl into false expectations and I Think of that sometimes because we can be that way in our Spiritual life in our Christian walk.

We're not disagreeing with anything. We think it's great We think it's noble good lovely of good report and all the rest of it But if you want to be able to claim these promises and walk this road There is a level of personal commitment and dedication that is going to move us to invest time It's going to move us to invest thought to think about what we're doing to actually go back and say I'm gonna dig out those notes I'm gonna review those verses. I'm going to think about and Implement in my life.

I'm gonna examine myself and see if I'm in the faith That doesn't just sort of happen Just like cleaning out your garage doesn't just happen You know losing weight doesn't just sort of happen. Well, that's a good idea. I mean, you know exercise.

Yeah better diet Sure, I'm all for that. I think that's great. I see other people doing it and that's a wonderful thing Anything productive in life just think about it anything productive requires a commitment and you got to stick with it I'm back to wearing my tooth aligning braces, which I let fall fallow Because I did it it was great, but I didn't maintain my commitment.

Yeah, it's kind of inconvenient Yeah, well if I drink coffee, they'll get stained I take them out and I drink coffee all day So I leave them out all day because I don't want them to get stained. Well They don't work if they're not in your mouth. Well, they're beautiful.

They're not stained, but they don't do anything Well, that can be your Christian life so the appeal of Psalm 119 when you think okay theme word of God two sides God and Man, all right. I'm on the man's side. What is the man's side if you're going to boil it down to one word? It is commitment Not agreement not ascent not even oh, I hear it all the time and I think it's great it is commitment Psalm 119 Commitment, let's pause here and take our break