

A WORD TO WAITERS

Friday, July 7

Reading: Psalm 119:153-176

Psalm 119:165 Great peace have they who love Your law, and nothing can make them stumble. **166** I wait for Your salvation, O LORD, and I follow Your commands. **167** I obey Your statutes, for I love them greatly. **168** I obey Your precepts and Your statutes, for all my ways are known to You.

There is a red light as I exit Wal-Mart that can drive me crazy. It seems to last forever! Ever wish you could push a button and change the light? A 2003 article reported on just such a device. MIRT stands for mobile infrared transmitter. It is a device that can change a red light to green in two seconds at the push of a button. It has been used by police and fire/emergency crews for years but has become more popular with the general populace. A 2003 article in the LA Times reported:

“Some Internet entrepreneurs, apparently more interested in cash than in road rage or the possibility of a fatal crash, have been offering MIRTs and knockoffs for \$300. Their pitches are tempting: "Never wait for a red light again!" "Tired of Waiting for Red Lights?" and "Changes Stop Lights From Red to Green in Seconds."¹ Though illegal in most states, many people continue to buy MIRTs because they are tired of waiting for the light to change on its own. Their impatience brings peril to themselves and to others.

None of us like to wait. Yet much of life is about waiting. The author of Psalm 119 was in God’s “waiting room.” His enemies were persecuting him and he was waiting for God’s deliverance (119:166). The amazing thing from these verses is the attitude he expresses during this time of waiting for God to act.

First, he will not let go of God’s Word. He rejoices in it, loves it, and obeys it (119:159, 162-164). When God is slow to act by our standards, the promises of His Word assure us that He can be trusted and that He cares deeply about us.

Second, the author has “great peace” (119:165). The word “peace” is the Hebrew word *shalom*. Its basic meaning is fulfillment or wholeness. It carries the idea of peace, prosperity, health, and safety. How can these attitudes be displayed when everything seems to be against you? By a firm love for God’s Word.

Third, the psalmist is sure that “all my ways are known to You” (119:168). It is a comfort in trials to realize that God knows everything. He knows us better than we know ourselves! This truth should drive us to love and obey the Word He has given us.

POINTS TO PONDER:

The word translated “salvation” in verse 166 is the Hebrew word *yeshû‘â*. This is the Hebrew form of the name Jesus. Our Lord’s name means “salvation.” How can we not trust Him in the trials of life and cling to the Word He has given us! How can we doubt that He knows what is best for us! Don’t get in a hurry and try to run ahead of God’s “stop light.” He has a purpose in His delay. Trust His Word and wait!

¹ Warren Brown. “Civilian use of MIRTs should get red light” Los Angeles Times, Nov. 12, 2003 (reprinted from the Washington Post)