

DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER

Thursday, June 29

Reading: Psalm 119:49-64

Psalm 119:54 *Your decrees are the theme of my song wherever I lodge. 55 In the night, LORD, I remember Your name, that I may keep Your law.*

“Remember the Alamo!” After over 185 years, this cry still brings up images of bravery and sacrifice. Those 200 men who defended the San Antonio fort against the might of Santa Ana’s Mexican army inspired the battle cry that would spur the army of Sam Houston to victory and lead to a free Texas. We remember them because they fought for what they believed in, no matter the cost.¹

In this acrostic psalm, three of the eight verses in the *Zayin* section (119:49-56) begin with the Hebrew word *zākar* – remember. The next section (*Heth*) picks up this thought with the psalmist’s promise to “not forget Your law” (119:61). In Hebrew thought, to remember is more than simply a mental exercise. It requires action!

The psalmist knows that God will remember His promises and this gives him hope and comfort in his time of suffering (119:49-50). While the wicked mock him for his trust in God’s Word, he remembers God’s “ancient laws.” The arrogant find these ancient laws out-of-date and irrelevant, but the psalmist makes them the song of his life and remembers God even during the night hours so that he may obey God’s voice (119:51-56).

Two great words frame the *Heth* section (119:57-64) – portion (*hēleq*) and love (*hesed*). Each Israelite was given a portion of the Promised Land by God except the Levites. God scattered them throughout the nation to teach the people His Word. He promised them “I am your portion and your inheritance” (Numbers 18:20). With God as your portion you have everything you need. If you have the Lord, you have everything.

“The earth is filled with Your love.” This is that great untranslatable Hebrew word *hesed*. Since it defines the infinite love and mercy of God it is not surprising that *hesed* cannot be easily grasped. Some of the English words used to try and translate this powerful word are kindness, mercy, grace, goodness, faithfulness, unfailing love, and loyalty. We will spend eternity learning about and experiencing the *hesed* of God!

These two truths should drive us to seek God’s face with all we are (119:58), turn our steps to obey His commands (119:59-60), and forever thank Him for revealing Himself through His Word (119:62).

POINTS TO PONDER:

The plea of the psalmist is “Remember the Scriptures – no matter the cost!” Have you remembered to meet with God today in His Word? How have the Scriptures led you to a deeper relationship with the Lord?

¹ <https://history.howstuffworks.com/history-vs-myth/remember-the-alamo.htm>