

Psalm 119:105

Today's verse is one of the most famous, well-known, verses in the 119 Psalm. I assume that many of you are like me, you remember this verse from childhood as one that was constantly referenced and easily memorized. This text has been familiar, and increasingly precious, to me for the vast majority of my life. Today, as we consider yet another beautiful blessing of God's Word, may we consider again the functionality and glorious joy of knowing, and walking according to, the Scriptures.

1. The guiding light of the Word of God
 - a. The Bible uses two synonyms to emphasize the directing power of the Word of God
 - b. Both lamp and light denote illumination and they both communicate quite nicely
 - i. We all know what its like to attempt to navigate a dark room or dimly lit roads late at night
 - ii. In each case, and countless others, men are far more prone to accident and harm without proper light!
 - iii. If a light is on in the room, the furniture and various items strewn about the floor are not all that threatening but when the light goes out, every obstacle lurks as a potential pitfall!
 - c. Likewise, we live in a dark, challenging world
 - i. Without the light of the Word of God, there is no hope that we will navigate its difficulties well
 - ii. We must constantly choose which path to follow or which direction to go and we must do this knowing that there are real blessings and consequences awaiting the result of our decisions!
 - d. It is into this context that Psalm 119 reminds us that God's Word is the means that God has given us to navigate the world with comfort and precision
 - e. How does God's Word function this way?
2. First God's Word guides us in its precepts
 - a. There are many things that the Bible explicitly condemns or affirms
 - b. In many respects, we as Christians have very little thinking to do regarding what decision we should make
 - c. The Bible condemns certain behaviors and enterprises
 - d. Its commandments are sure and unending and, therefore, create for us barriers and comfort in knowing God's plan
 - e. While it can be tempting for us to take these things for granted, a simple perusal of the world around us shows us that, devoid of God's wisdom and guiding light of the Word of God, many is hopelessly lost and prone to wander into dangerous and depressing circumstances
3. Second, God's Word guides us in its principles
 - a. There are some issues that God's Word specifically speaks to, but what about other, more complex and nuanced decisions?

- b. While the Bible tells us it is wrong to murder someone or commit adultery, how does it illuminate our path when considering which job to accept or who to marry?
- c. The answer is that the Bible gives us plenty of principle to bring to bear on each circumstance and decision
- d. It speaks to the danger of too much debt, or the characteristics of a Godly spouse
- e. It gives us a rubric through which we can rightly evaluate the wisdom of taking a specific job or attending one school over the other
- f. These principles are given for our consultation and application and are to be exercised by one who desires to know and apply God's Word to their particular circumstances
- g. Some folks get uncomfortable here because the answers are, admittedly, relative
 - i. For instance, it may be wise for a man to take a job that requires some traveling over/against other options while a different man with other familial circumstances might be unwise in taking the same job!
 - ii. It may be wise for one person to go to college in light of the skills that God has given them for a vocation and it may be totally unwise for another person to go to the same school precisely because they lack such direction!
- h. How do we tell the difference? The Bible is the light!
 - i. It illuminates our strengths and gifts
 - ii. It illuminates our weaknesses and temptations
 - iii. It helps us discern God's will
 - iv. It gives us principles that we can apply to arrive at a God-honoring conclusion