

Sermon Psalm 119 (1-16) Delight in his word

Opening Prayer

Father, may we treasure your voice, your words and your Word, that we might see Jesus and discover your delights

Intro

Who likes Walking? What's the longest or hardest walk you've done? (feedback)
One of the hardest walks I've done was when I was 11 years old and walked the 'Lyke wake walk', it's a walk of 42 miles across the North York Moors. We started early evening one day, walked through the night and finished the next afternoon near Whitby on the Yorkshire coast with a well earned ice-cream!

To have a successful long walk requires a number of things - fitness, a map, the right equipment, refreshments (food and drink).....**have you wondered how you walk well with God?**

Bible Intro

The Bible is an amazing book, it's the most popular book in the world. It's the most successful literary creation of all time. Yet many people today, think: 'A Bible – that's so dull! It's boring. It's kind of full of contradictions. It's just a rulebook, of no relevance to my life in the 21st century.'

But For Christians It's the most precious book in the world. Our Psalm shows us that this morning. It's a book of delight. The Queen at her coronation was handed a copy of the Bible with these words: 'We present you with this book, the most valuable thing which this world affords.' Why? Matthew 4:4 Jesus said this: 'People do not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' In other words, Jesus says this: 'Material things alone don't satisfy.' Even the best human relationships don't ultimately satisfy. There's always this what you might call a 'spiritual hunger', which can only be satisfied by something spiritual. And Jesus says that that is the words that come out of God's mouth. And the primary way in which God communicates with us is through this book. God has spoken; it's his revelation. It's his story.

Psalm 119

Psalm 119 celebrates God's word. God's revelation. God's words are central and precious to God's people, always have been. God speaks and what he speaks, and how he reveals himself to us is the very key to life itself. That's why it matters so much.

Psalm 119 is the longest (176 verses) psalm in the Bible. It's an acrostic psalm in 22 sections of 8 verses each, each starting with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet,. It's also called a wisdom Psalm, that celebrates, and delights in God's word, not just for itself, but for how following and being obedient to God's word is the way to a good and fulfilled life, In the real world - even in the midst of opposition. Throughout the psalm, the psalmist delights and meditates on how

God's words bring life (bear in mind this was written over 2,500 years ago). *It talks of Testimony – instruction – precepts – statutes – commandments – ordinances – decrees – word -ways – path – promises - judgements and rulings*

God's words reveal to us God's extraordinary love for us, his longing and heart for us. His words are authoritative, majestic and his words can lovingly bring us back to life. *Rick Warren the American pastor wrote this about the Bible : 'Reading the Bible generates life. It produces change. It heals hurts. It builds character. It transforms circumstances. It imparts joy. It overcomes adversity. It defeats temptation. It infuses hope. It releases power. It cleanses the mind.'* The whole point of our words is to express ourselves, to let people outside know our desires and thoughts, to know who we are. And that's what God words do for us. The whole point of having this written gospel is so that you can have faith, and through believing you can have life!

God has revealed himself in creation, through history, through his words in OT and supremely in the person of Jesus. But how do we know about Jesus? We know about Jesus because of this book - the Bible and as we chose to listen, receive and follow his words day by day and put it into practice we discover his truth, his life.

Application

This is a bold Psalm, how do you react to it? Do you feel the psalmist is a bit over the top? I mean would you say what the Psalmist says? Do you delight in God's words? Do u want to discover more

I wonder whether you're finding it easy to make time for God in your own life? To read God's word? If you're struggling why not commit to read thro *John's gospel, an account of Jesus' life over the next week or two?*, make a plan. Find a time and place and take maybe fifteen minutes a day. Use some notes - the Bible In One Year app, Pete Grieg app.

A number of years ago a mentor of mine asked me to put aside some time an hour or so and write down on a piece of paper all the verses of the Bible that were personally important to me and to meditate on them and consider what God was saying to me. I had a wonderful couple of hours as I remembered all God had revealed to me and how God's words have brought and do bring me life!

Closing Prayer

Father, thank you for giving us your Word, forgive us for our neglect and our lack of treasuring your word. Help us discover more of the wonders and treasures of your word and your living Word Jesus. Help us to follow your ways day by day, may your Word be THE lamp to our path. We praise you, praise you, praise you that you reveal yourself. Thank you for Jesus the Word made flesh and what he has done for us. It's in his name we pray, amen.