

# CHIEF MINISTRIES

June 2011

*Blessed are those whose way is blameless..... (Psa.119:1 ESV)*

WOW! Half the year is already gone. What kind of fruit have you produced? Have you been envious of those that seem blessed? Psalms 119 talks of the character of a blessed man. In fact, this Psalm celebrates the gift of Torah, or covenant instruction as the perfect guide for life. There are 22 stanzas that each start with the corresponding Hebrew alphabet in sequence. Within each stanza, the first word all begins with that letter. It would be like us writing an A to Z poem or song and every eight stanzas, go to the next letter. The goal of the Psalmist was to enable God's people to admire His word so strongly that they will work and pray hard to have it shape their character and conduct. The total impact of this particular Psalm is huge! There are a number of terms for God's covenantal revelation: The "law" in verse 1 is the Hebrew word *Torah* meaning instruction; "testimonies" in verse 2 is *'edot* meaning what God solemnly testifies to be His will; "precepts" in verse 4 is *piqqudim* meaning what God has appointed to be done; "statutes" in verse 5 is *khuqqim or khuqqot* meaning what the divine Lawgiver has laid down; "commandments" in verse 6 is *mitswot* meaning what God has commanded; "rules" in verse 7 is *mishpatim* meaning what the divine Judge has ruled to be right; "word" in verse 9 is *'imrah or dabar* meaning what God has spoken. All of these except "precepts" can be found in Deuteronomy 4:8,44-45; 6:1; 33:9 and denote God's word focusing on its role in moral instruction for His people. The man who will "keep" His will and instruction in verse 2 will attend to them carefully, watch over them, and treasure them. Then you will find your way – the moral quality and orientation of your life – will more and more reflect God's own character. I pray you all are able to say that is true in your own life. These instructions given to us here are righteous and true and sure and worthy of trust, hope and faith. All of these are attributes of God Himself, so it is no surprise that God's Words would partake of His character. It is full of His steadfast love and faithfulness as is He who freely and fully forgives His people when they confess their sins. *The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation (Exodus 34:6-7 ESV).* He loves us without limits and therefore will guide us when we're faithful to a life that is genuinely good and beautiful. This Psalm speaks of one totally ravished in moral beauty to which we should try to reproduce this same beauty in our daily life. No, we're not perfect men, not at all: but we should yearn for trust in and depend on God. We should be able to identify with that psalmist and the faithful among God's people when we face trials. (vv50,67,71,75,107,153) and when we suffer contempt and ill treatment for our faithfulness, even from members of God's people who reject His grace (vv22,23,39,42,51,61,69,78,84-86,95,121,122,134,150,157,161). Even when many of God's own people forsake Him (vv 21,53,139) there will be those who want to pursue faithfulness. Be one of those pursuers. Recently I've felt

surrounded by the professors of God's kingdom but not possessors of the goodness of the Lord. You can easily tell by the strife and envy that proceeds out of their mouths. I want to be blessed but my way must be blameless. That's the hard part! Especially in prison! Men are always watching us and that's not a bad thing unless they're looking only to stir up strife. Ultimately, God is the one who is really paying attention. So, verse 1 tells us we'll be blessed if we're blameless. Let's look at Psalms 15 verses 2-5 here. *He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart;*<sup>3</sup> *who does not slander with his tongue and does no evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend;*<sup>4</sup> *in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but who honors those who fear the LORD; who swears to his own hurt and does not change;*<sup>5</sup> *who does not put out his money at interest and does not take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved (ESV).* The term, *walk blamelessly and do what is right*, are general, and the rest of the answer to the question of verse 1 – “Who will be present in God's sanctuary? Or dwell with Him as a divinely welcome guest in His house? – is a bit more specific. The striking feature of these specifics is they are matters of character and go beyond what the law required. But what I see here are the social aspects of these specifics. They are aimed at promoting the well-being of the other members of God's people, by speaking honestly (<sub>v2</sub>), by protecting their welfare and reputation (<sub>v3</sub>), by promoting their holiness (<sub>v4</sub>), and by seeking justice above personal gain (<sub>v5</sub>). So, ask yourself, are you genuinely concerned with your brothers or are you just waiting for them to make a mistake or slip-up so you can banish them from the Kingdom? Have you spoken honestly with them or talked behind their back about “their problem”. When you heard something about someone did you “nip it in the bud” because they're your Christian brother? Did you “go to bat” for them when they were being maligned or slandered? Have you been there to support them in agreement with your work for the Lord together and above all, if you did think there might be a problem, did you go after your brother just to gain something for yourself rather than seeking the truth? I see things like this quite a bit in religious circles. In fact I've fallen victim to the Judas spirit many times by seemingly well-intentioned men who say they want the truth, but really their tongues have given them away. They are self-serving with impure motives. Watch out men, they're everywhere. All you can do is walk blameless. Then there's nothing to worry about! Read the whole Psalm and find your character. Rest your life on God's grace and forgiveness and stay in the beauty of His love. Be obedient! Be blessed! I pray for you all daily.

Be strong,

*Chief*

***If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part of this, please go to [www.chiefministries.com](http://www.chiefministries.com) coming soon [www.chiefshouse.org](http://www.chiefshouse.org)***

*Christ's*

*Heart*

*In*

*Every*

*Felon*