



05 July 2024

## Hiding God's truth

The chorus of an old hymn sings,

"Thy Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee; that I might not sin, that I might not sin, Thy Word have I hid in my heart."

The words are based on Psalm 119 verse 11. This Psalm, with its 176 verses, is the longest chapter in the Bible. More importantly, this grand Psalm points us to the importance of God's word as it celebrates it. The hymn's first verse opens with the familiar,

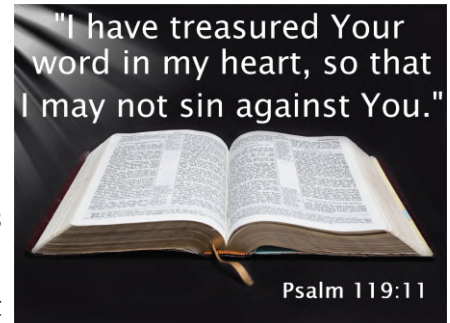
"Thy Word is a lamp to my feet, a light to my path always, to guide me and save me from sin, and show me the heavenly way." (based on Psalm 119:105)

God's word is vital to spiritual life and growth.

- It is God's word, the gospel, which is "the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16).
- It is God's word that teaches, rebukes, corrects, trains the believer in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16).
- It is God's word that keeps us pure, keeps us from sinning (Psalm 119:9, 11).
- It is God's word that keeps us from things that are worthless (Psalm 119:36-37)
- It is God's word that revives us (Psalm 119:50, 93, 154).
- It is God's word that gives us God's wisdom (Psalm 119:99).

Because of this and more, the Psalm writer tells us he "hid" (KJV) God's word in his heart. For us the word *hide* often means to keep something out of sight, secret, even out of mind. The word the Holy Spirit directed the writer to use has the basic idea of value, of being a treasure; of valuing highly, of treasuring something. The word *heart* refers to the core, the center of our being. So, the writer is telling us he valued, treasured God's word so highly that he kept it at the center of his being, in his heart and mind.

The question, then, is how did he do that, how are we to do that? Let's look at just some of the many insights this Psalm gives us on actually treasuring God's word.



- It starts with the right attitude toward God's word. As the Psalmist did, we are to recognize the great value and then love and rejoice in God's word. (14, 16, 24, 40, 67, 80, 97, 127, 159, 162-3, 167)
- Building on that is action.
  - Ask God to instruct you — remembering Jesus' promise that the Holy Spirit will do that for you. (18, 33, 36, 108, 124).
  - Reading and meditating on God's word. Reading, thinking it through. (15, 23, 27, 48, 98, 148). Stepping beyond the Psalm, Colossians chapter 3 verse 16 comes to mind, "Let the word of Christ *richly dwell* within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God."
  - Keep God's word in mind, do not forget it. Yes, this can include memorizing Scripture, but goes beyond that to always keeping God's word in your sights, in focus. (30, 16, 83, 93, 109, 141, 176).
  - Trust, believe in God's word, actually, in your day to day circumstances. (42, 66).
  - Step out in faith and do it, obey God's word. I like the Psalm writer's way of saying that in verse 32, "I shall run the way of Your commandments." (44, 55-57, 60, 67, 112, 129).

This is something all of us can do, whether you have a great detailed memory or not.

It also is something we can encourage and train others to do. A lady enjoys her time with her 12 month-old granddaughter. As she spent time with her, she included singing "Jesus Love Me" to her since she was born. One day the little girl started saying *Bobble*, which they thought meant *bottle*. But then they discovered she meant *Bible*. This grandmother was passing on a love for Jesus and the Bible to this little one, hiding the truth of God and His word in her heart.

Make sure you are hiding, treasuring God's truth in your heart.

Pastor Lyle