

Text: Ps 119.1-8

I recently completed Ps 119 in my Bible reading and thought that we could use it for our communion services over the next couple of years.

When we went through the Psalms some years ago, we didn't work our way through each stanza of Ps 119 individually. Instead, we took a Sunday and had three messages from Ps 119.

So though we've talked about Ps 119 before (and that was 13 years ago!), we haven't worked our way through it very carefully.

The Psalm is an acrostic psalm, but in a unique way. Each of its 22 stanzas has eight verses. In each stanza, every verse in Hebrew begins with the same letter.

The first stanza, vv. 1-8, each verse begins with the Hebrew letter Aleph (corresponds roughly to our "A").

For each message I am going to take Derek Kidner's name for each section. He calls Aleph "**The Undivided Heart.**"

The big theme in Ps 119 is the Word of God.

The themes aren't directly related to redemption, but I think we can relate their teaching to redemption without too much difficulty.

Read Ps 119.1-8

I. The Psalmist looks outward (1-3)**A. He sees blessing in those who walk with God (1-2)**

1. Blameless = "whole, complete"
2. Law = *Torah*
3. Preserve = "watch, guard, secure (in a safe place)"
4. Seeks with a whole heart

Dt 6.5 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

B. Not only blessing but habit (3)

1. Doing no unrighteousness
2. Walking in his ways

The blessed man of Psalm 1

This picture is one to emulate

II. The Psalmist looks upward (4)

- A. The Lord laid out the way of righteousness for his people to follow
- B. The righteous man submits to God's ordination for God's sake, not for the Law's sake

III. The Psalmist looks inward (5-8)

- A. His desire: ways established in God's will (5)
 - 1. The root of "established" means "bring into being"
 - 2. Establishment in God's will doesn't come naturally
 - 3. God must bring a "new man" into being
- B. His expectations
 - 1. Then I shall not be ashamed (6) (can look God's law in the eye)
 - 2. Then I shall give thanks (7) (worship)
 - 3. Then I shall keep your statutes (8)
 - a. This is God's will (4)
 - b. This is God's doing (5)

Conclusion:

The picture we have in this prayer is of a heart sensitive to God's blessing, made new by God's power, and committed to God's way.

The only way this can truly come about in a human life is by the regenerating power of God's Word (the Son).