

# Being a Student of God's Word – Psalm 119:33-40

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Psalm 119 is an acrostic poem using the Hebrew alphabet. There are twenty-two stanzas with eight verses each. This lesson will examine the fifth stanza, which is headed by the fifth letter in the Hebrew alphabet—*He*. This section rhythmically reminds us of the importance of being good students of God's Word. We will see at least **three** things to do as we study our Bibles. First...

**Pray for \_\_\_\_\_ (119:33-35)**

Illumination is the process of shining light to make something visible or understandable. God wants all people to hear and understand His Word. This is why Christians start schools everywhere they take the Gospel. This is also why missionaries give their lives to translate the Bible into other languages. Christians realize basic education is fundamental for people to understand the Bible. In fact, the first universities in the United States were established to educate Christian ministers.

When applying for admission into a university, you may have to answer this question: "Why do you want to attend our university?" In verses 33-35, the psalmist tells us why he wants admission into God's "school." Why does he want to learn God's Law according to verse 34?

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Because of our fallen nature, we don't need anyone to teach us how to sin. But we do need the Scriptures to teach us how to be righteous. As the Bible teaches in Romans 3:10b *None is righteous, no, not one.*

This doesn't mean there are no decent people in the world. It does mean we all tend to sin because we are selfish at the core. The psalmist understands this and wants God to teach him to be righteous. So, he asks God to illuminate his mind so he can clearly

see God's statues and law.

List the four ways Scripture profits us, according to 2 Timothy 3:16?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

One of Satan's powerful lies is "God's way is not fun." The Evil One wants to convince us God's commands lead to a dull, boring life. However, the Bible is the source of deepest delight (119:35). There is temporary pleasure in sin; otherwise, no one would want to sin. Yet, that short-lived fun gives birth to long-term trouble and regret. Moses could have lived a princely life in Egypt, but he didn't. How does Hebrews 11:25 describe his choice?

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Psalm 16:11 gives us the eternal perspective that Satan wants us to forget: *You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

To be a good student of God's Word, **pray for illumination** and ...

**Avoid temporary \_\_\_\_\_ (119:36-37)**

In this verses, the psalmist mentions **two** kinds of preoccupation:

1. Preoccupation with \_\_\_\_\_.

The psalmist prays in 119:36: *Incline my heart to your*



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*testimonies, and not to selfish gain!* The Hebrew word The Hebrew word *בַּחַזְקָה* (Bet-sah'), translated *selfish gain*, means "to plunder." This same word is used in 1 Samuel 8:3 to describe the corrupt ways of Samuel's sons.

The truth is **everything** belongs to God. We are short-term stewards and should invest His resources wisely. Everyone will be judged on their earthly stewardship. Faithful stewardship demonstrates our love for God. Jesus plainly states this reality in Matthew 6:24: *"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other."* Write the final words of that verse below:

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The word translated *serve* in that verse means "be enslaved to." The modern form of financial slavery occurs when people borrow money for things such as clothes, cars, and gadgets that quickly lose their value. This brings us to the second preoccupation to avoid...

2. Preoccupation with depreciating " \_\_\_\_\_."

Depreciation is the loss of value. A "do-dad" is an unnecessary or vain thing. Everything we acquire that is not in accordance with God's Word is a depreciating "do-dad."

King Solomon wrote an entire "research paper" on the acquisition of these vain things. We know his writing as the book of Ecclesiastes. After getting all the gear, browsing all the books, marrying all the maidens, constructing all the castles, and experiencing all the excesses, the wisest person in the world (other than Jesus Christ) comes to a conclusion. What does he decide, according to Ecclesiastes 12:13c-d?

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# Wednesday Night Bible Study

## February 28, 2024