Praise

1. The 2016-2017 Missions Budget passed with 97% voting “Yes.”

Prayer Requests

Psalm 119:105-112

Opening: Georgia Governor Nathan Deal caved to “big business bullies” and vetoed a religious freedom bill in that state. Last year, Indiana Governor Mike Pence caved when he signed a “compromised” “religious freedom law” that “cannot be used as a legal defense to discriminate against patrons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.” In other words, it provided no protection whatsoever! Just last month South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard caved and vetoed his state’s transgender bathroom bill that would have made it a law in that state that men must use the men’s restroom and women must use the women’s restroom. (Just in: The Virginia Governor vetoed a “religious freedom law” today!)

Now, the pressure is on our governor, Pat McCrory, and our state to cave to the pressure and allow the expansion of Charlotte’s non-discrimination policy to stand. Big business is applying the pressure. Other states and municipalities are applying the pressure. Sport’s leagues are applying the pressure.

One Georgia state senator, Josh McKoon, stated, “It’s open season on people of faith in our state.” May I follow that up and state that it is open season on people of faith regardless of the state they live in?!

Charles Spurgeon, about this section of verses, states, “[David] is evidently in great fear of the powers of darkness, and of their allies, and his whole soul is stirred up to stand against them with a determined opposition.”


Quote: “Every dislike of evil is not sufficient; but perfect hatred is required of us against all sorts and degrees of sin.” – David Dickson

“I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.” Psalm 101:3

a. The Hebrew word that is used here for “vain thoughts” is used nowhere else in the OT. It means, “divided.” Thus referring to someone who is unsure.

“A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.” James 1:8
b. Now is not the time for us, as Christians, to be “undecided” – to be unsure of where we stand as it relates to the truth.
c. In fact, we need to “hate” that type of mentality in ourselves.
d. We must determine to stand upon the law of God!

“O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.” Psalm 119:97

“Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.” Psalm 119:165

2. Psalm 119:114 Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.

   a. As I read this verse, I am reminded of Corrie ten Boom, a Dutch Christian who, along with her father and other family members, helped many Jews escape the Nazi Holocaust during World War 2. [Link to Corrie ten Boom's story on Guideposts]

   b. After their arrest, Corrie and her sister eventually found themselves in a number of concentration camps, the worst being Ravensbruk. In each camp, they would use a smuggled Bible to tell others about the love of God.

   Quote: “If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. If you look at God you'll be at rest.” – Corrie ten Boom

   Quote: “In darkness God's truth shines most clear.” – Corrie ten Boom

   c. Even as we see the world becoming darker, we must remember that God is our hiding place. He is our shield. Our confidence must be in God’s Word – the truth!

3. Psalm 119:115 Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the commandments of my God.

   a. Those who do and love evil and wickedness are going to try and pressure us to give in to evil. Joseph felt that pressure. Daniel felt that pressure. Shadrach, Meshack, and Abendego felt that pressure. Jesus Christ felt that pressure! It should come as no surprise then when we feel that pressure!

   “My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.” Proverbs 1:10

   b. We must have a determination that we are going to do right according to God’s commandments!

   “But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.” Daniel 1:8
4. Psalm 119:116 Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope.
   a. Uphold me...
      i. Sustain me in the trials and temptations of life
      ii. Help me to bear afflictions without sinking under them
      iii. Help me meet temptations without yielding to them
      iv. Help me to encounter opposition from the enemies of religion without being overcome

   “We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;” 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

   “But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.” Isaiah 43:1-2

   b. Have you ever been disappointed? A person who has put their hope – their confidence – in God and His Word will never – whether in this life or the next – be disappointed!

5. Psalm 119:117 Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually.
   a. Yesterday, my family and I visited some of the waterfalls in Pisgah National Forest. As we were hiking there were times when – especially with the youngest ones in our group – I had to say, “Don’t go there!” “Stay away from there!” “Be careful!”
   b. Why? Because I wanted them to be safe.
   c. If we desire to be safe, then we need to listen to God’s Word not to the pressure from those around us who would seek to push us into evil!

   “Unless the LORD had been my help, my soul had almost dwelt in silence. When I said, My foot slippeth; thy mercy, O LORD, held me up.” Psalm 94:17-18

   d. Be thankful for God’s mercy that provides us not only with eternal life but so many times preserves our physical life as well!?!?

6. Psalm 119:118 Thou hast trodden down all them that err from thy statutes: for their deceit is falsehood.
   a. However, should you decide to persist in living apart from God’s Word, then we should not expect God’s blessings.
   b. Living a life in opposition to the truth means that you are living a lie!
c. We should teach our children that the safest place for them to be is walking according to God’s Word!

“Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.”
Proverbs 19:27

7. Psalm 119:119 Thou puttest away all the wicked of the earth like dross: therefore I love thy testimonies.
   a. God judged the world in the days of Noah for its wickedness.
   b. God judged Sodom and Gomorrah for wickedness.
   c. God judged Egypt for its rejection of Him.
   d. God judged the nation of Israel for their wickedness and rejection of Him.
   e. We should be thankful that God will not tolerate wickedness, particularly in the lives of His children.
   f. When you take away the dross you are left with an object that has been made better.

“Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer.
“Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness.” Proverbs 25:4-5

g. Do you desire to be made better? God’s purifying work is done through His Word! Be thankful for God’s Word and allow it to work in your life.

8. Psalm 119:120 My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy judgments.
   a. The love in vs. 113 goes hand in hand with the fear in vs. 120.
   b. Our love for God, and His Word, – the love a child has for a Godly father – is going to lead us to reverence God to the point where we will willingly obey God.
   c. If we are walking in obedience to God and His Word than we do not need to fear God’s wrath!

Closing: Turn to and read Acts 5:25-29; 41-42