



April 20

Passage: Psalm 119:161-168

Ok, we're almost through the longest chapter in the Bible. Today and tomorrow and we're done. What have you learned? What has stood out? Those are good questions to ask yourself, but first let's finish the chapter! I want to encourage you as you read to not get caught up in everything sounding "the same." There's a reason for that; we mentioned it in the beginning of all these devotions. The reason is that the psalmist, more than likely David, is drawing the attention of the reader to the importance of what God has said. So as we read today....pick out some things that stand out. We'll highlight a few.

## **READ & DIG.** Read Psalm 119:161-168 (underline every reference to God's Word.)

We begin the ending trail of Psalm 119 with some declarations.

Almost like we started, and really like we've seen all along. I'm just going to put these declarations out below.

**MY HEART STANDS IN AWE OF YOUR WORD**

**I REJOICE AT YOUR WORD**

**I LOVE YOUR LAW**

**I PRAISE YOU FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS RULES** (I LIKE THIS ONE, RIGHTEOUS RULES, NOT REGULAR ONES!)

**GREAT PEACE COMES TO THOSE WHO LOVE YOUR LAW**

**I HOPE FOR YOUR SALVATION**

**I DO YOUR COMMANDMENTS**

**MY SOUL KEEPS YOUR TESTIMONIES**

**I LOVE THEM EXCEEDINGLY**

**I KEEP YOUR PRECEPTS AND TESTIMONIES**

**FOR ALL MY WAYS ARE BEFORE YOU.**

So much here. Just a mouthful right? So convicting to me as I consider the things in my thoughts. Actually, it's the things that are *not* in my thoughts. I do feel these things above are on the tip of my tongue, but the question I must ask is this: Are these things evident in my life?

## **Apply & GO**

Here's the challenge for me, hopefully for you. Is this my story?

I believe if these things are true about my life it will change how I live my life.

We really missed verse 161, as it seems all of this overflow comes from persecution.

What is the Psalmist's response to life not going the way he planned? Praise.

I can't see God, His Word, and His salvation as something enormous and then allow my life to just be mundane, boring, and downright depressing. I can't let the bad of my life to affect how I live life.

NOW, I can't expect to be celebrated around the world because of my faith in God. We can't be looking for the next blockbuster film to come along documenting our amazing life through trials. Ain't happening!

What it does mean is that my goal is to simply live life, while loving God. Through the good, through the bad. As I do, the overflow or result would be the above things we see in this chapter being seen in my life. As I'm squeezed, those things just come oozing out. Ok, ooze is a disgusting word....how about we just say the overflow or result of my life, in good and bad, is all things good and Godly! I will declare He is Good!

**GOD'S WORD IS A SHELTER AND SHOULD LIVE US TO A LIFE OF PRAISE**

How will I walk in that today?