



AUGUST 10-15, 2020
SESSION 8: PSALM 119:137-152

HOMEWORK (one hour of your choice)

OPENING THOUGHTS

What is something you own that you only use for special occasions?
(Chinaware, guest towels, outfit, etc.)

What makes it significant? Why do you keep it for only certain situations?

Together, the attributes and characteristics we listed here make that item unique, set apart even. That's where we want to start our time today by talking about the attributes of God and how they make Him unique in contrast to humanity.

READ

Psalm 119:137-152

WATCH

Session 8 Video (13:15 minutes)

ANSWER

(DISCUSSION PREP)

Throughout the Old Testament, we are often given glimpses of the gospel message. Certain sections more than others foreshadow the coming of Jesus Christ and the fulfillment of God's promise of salvation to His people. This passage is a great example of that foreshadowing as David lays bare the gospel message we believe today.

Verses 137-144.

Which of the descriptions of God and His Word stands out to you the most from this passage? Why?

What characteristic of God and His Word does David use repeatedly?

How would you define the term "holy"?
(Matt explained that it means to be "set apart" in every way.)

David paints a clear picture of God as one who is set apart because He is holy. God is righteous, faithful, good, true, and reliable in every way. In contrast, David provides a picture of himself, which is representative of all of our experiences.

What are some of the descriptions David uses for himself?
(“Small,” “despised,” experiencing “trouble” and “anguish”)

In verse 139, what did Matt key in on as a characteristic of all humanity?
(We have forgetfulness about the truth of who God is as revealed in His Word.)

When we turn away from God’s Word, our hearts harden. We begin to prefer creation to its Creator and blame the consequences of sin on God rather than seeing them as the culmination of our rebellion. Yet, no matter how far we have strayed God provides hope, which is what we see in the following section.

Verses 145–152.

According to these verses, what is the opportunity God provides in the midst of our brokenness?

How has God used brokenness in your life to bring you to a place of recognizing your need for Him?

Our rebellion has consequences, but God is powerful enough to use our brokenness as a means to draw us to Him. As He opens our eyes to our sin, we come to see the helplessness of our situation such that He becomes our only answer. And when we cry out to Him, He listens.

In verses 145–146, we see the call of salvation, an act shared by every Christian at some point in their lives.

What circumstances did God allow in your life that eventually led you to cry out to Him for salvation? How did He respond?

Matt highlighted that our hope of salvation rests on 1) the steadfast love of God, and 2) the nearness of God.

How have you experienced the steadfast love of God? In what ways is it different from any kind of human love you’ve experienced?

How have you experienced the nearness of God? In what ways has God's presence encouraged you during difficult times?

The hope of our faith rests on God's steadfast love and His presence in our lives, both of which have been made available through faith in Jesus Christ. Yet many today—including some in the Church—misunderstand what it means to be a Christian.

Matt said being a Christian is ...

1. To understand we've sinned against God.
2. To believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
3. To continually repent of sin.
4. To walk in newness of life through obedience to God's Word.

Being a Christian means knowing God, which changes the way we live.

As you reflect on your life, how have you changed since beginning a relationship with Jesus Christ? What has God done to transform you?

Where do you desire to grow in your walk with Christ? What are you asking God to do in your life?

Where do you need to surrender to the love and presence of God? In what ways are trusting in yourself as opposed to the promises of God?

How will you take steps toward repentance and new life as a result of this session?

LIVE IT OUT

Pray: Throughout this week, ask God to reveal to you the areas of your life where you need to grow and be proactive about pursuing maturity.

Remember: Write out Ephesians 2:1–10 on a piece of paper and place it somewhere where you will see it on a daily basis as a constant reminder to you of the truth about who you are, who God is, and the hope you have through faith in Jesus Christ.

Worship: Take some time to reflect on how God has been gracious to you in your failures and disobedience. As you do, worship Him for the steadfast love that He has shown you continually.

Memorize: Commit to memory the four marks of being a Christian that Matt shared in this session in order to clearly communicate to others what it means to believe in Christ.

Invite: Reach out to a mature believer in Christ and invite him or her to mentor you in a discipleship relationship as a way of growing in your walk with the Lord.

GROUP MEETING

Zoom (Saturday, August 15, 9-10pm)

