

Introduction:

1. Psalm 119 may be the most unusual chapter in the entire Bible.
  - a. It is very much a prayer; many of the verses are an appeal to God.
  - b. It is the longest chapter in the Bible, containing 176 verses.
  - c. It is unusual in that almost every verse mentions God's word in some way.
  - d. It is broken into eight-verse segments according to the Hebrew alphabet. It is arranged in this unique way for the purpose of memorization.
2. If we were to choose one of these eight-verse segments, could we learn something about God?
  - a. Indeed we could. For these verses are not just about God's word, but about God Himself.
  - b. These verses are also about ourselves and our need for God.
3. The segment we choose is Psalm 119:57-64. Eight verses. Does every verse tell us something about God's word? Indeed, every verse does. Do you see anything that we might learn in these verses about God? Is there anything here we can learn about ourselves?

The Lesson:

**I. The Lord is my portion.**

- A. We draw our title from the language of verse 57.
  1. Does this language sound unusual or strange to us? It is in a song we sing. "Close to Thee." The first line speaks of God as "my everlasting portion."
  2. The word used in verse 57 for "portion" is also translated "inheritance, allotment, share."
- B. The word has to do with our lot in life. What belongs to you? What is your life really about?
  1. Is your portion or lot in life about wealth? If so, it is sure to disappoint, Ecclesiastes 5:10.
  2. Is your allotment in life about pleasure? That is vanity; it passes away, Ecclesiastes 2:1.
  3. Is your lot in life to seek honor, wisdom or fame? You will be forgotten, Ecclesiastes 2:16.
- C. The only portion, allotment or inheritance that truly satisfies—and lasts—is God.
  1. King David is telling that he has laid hold on God. With his whole heart he entreats Him.
    - a. I am not sure the translators have done us a favor by inserting "You are." The phrase is literally an exclamation to God, "My portion, O Lord!"
    - b. David had seen all the things that men covet—wealth, power, fame, treasure. He had seen victors in war as they divided up the treasures and spoils of war. When David grasps treasure, he lays hold of God! David says, "This is *my* portion." The Lord belonged to him, and he to the Lord. He wants the fullness of God in his life.
  2. For the Christian, Christ is our portion. "Christ is our life!" Colossians 3:4. It is the Lord, not luxury; Christ, not cars; God, not gold; the Prince of Peace, not pleasure or power.
  3. To grasp after anything else is to wind up empty handed.

## II. The Lord is my portion; therefore I will seek His favor (57-58).

- A. Verse 58 says “I entreated your favor with my whole heart.” How is that done? It’s no secret.
1. It is done by keeping God’s words (57). “I promise to keep thy words...” (RSV).
  2. We live in a time when men deceive themselves. They claim God in their lives, but feel no sense of allegiance to His word. God has standards, but men neglect His standards.
  3. Men want God to be merciful to them. Indeed, we need His mercy and forgiveness. But it doesn’t come just by needing it. His mercy comes through His word.
- B. Are we trying to exalt the word of God? Of course, Psalm 138:2. We do not live in a time when men hold God’s word too high; they hold it too low. Do you want God’s favor on your life?

## III. The Lord is my portion; therefore I will change my ways (59-60).

- A. David examined his life; he recognized the wrong he had done. He had committed terrible sin.
1. Realizing his sin, he did not make excuses, hide, cover up, or in any way minimize his sin.
  2. Note the two things David did when he realized his sin. He turned to God’s testimonies. “What does God say I need to do about this?” He did not delay to obey God.
- B. If God is our portion, we must think and turn; thought, followed by response.
1. No man can be saved unless he changes his ways, Romans 3:23; Acts 3:19.
  2. Men are sometimes in a big hurry to sin. Why are we not in such a hurry to obey God?

## IV. The Lord is my portion; therefore I will trust in Him (61-62).

- A. God was David’s portion even if he was persecuted by the wicked. He would not quit on God.
1. When evil men oppose us that doesn’t mean God has abandoned us, Matthew 5:10-12.
  2. It is easy to forget promises to God when the pain of persecution comes. Don’t forget His promises to us in such a time. David may have lost sleep over evil done to him; but in the midnight he could still offer praise to God; he believed God’s ways would vindicate him.
- B. Remember, God is our portion at all times—not just when days are easy. Evil men may use evil devices to try to destroy us, but we continue to trust in God. We praise His faithfulness.

## V. The Lord is my portion; therefore I will associate with His people (63-64).

- A. David finishes his final “I” in this text. “I am...” Why would he want to be with God’s people?
1. Because the Lord was his portion—and theirs. It is like 2 Peter 1:1 says.
  2. David was a companion with “all.” It wasn’t the elite or a select few. They were a comfort.
  3. At one time he was driven out of Jerusalem, but he was never driven beyond the range of God’s mercy. Whether in a cave or desert he had seen God’s lovingkindness.
- B. David knew God’s mercy was expressed in His statutes. Do we know that? See verse 58.

### Conclusion:

1. Is God truly our portion—share, inheritance—in life? Or, are other things more important to us?
2. If God is our portion, then let us turn our feet to His testimonies and keep His words. (Song 114)