

Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*

Worship Guide for September 6, 2020

Sermon Notes

Good Lessons from Our Good Teacher in the School of Hard Knocks

Psalm 119: 65-72 [*TETH*] (pew Bible pg. 513)

Teth You have dealt well with your servant, O LORD, according to your word.
Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments.
Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.
You are good and do good; teach me your statutes.
The insolent smear me with lies, but with my whole heart I keep your precepts;
their heart is unfeeling like fat, but I delight in your law.
It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.
The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

Psalm 119 contains 176 verses, divided into 22 sections, each section representing a different letter in the Hebrew alphabet, and each section containing eight verses. Ordinarily each group of eight verses begins with different words that start with the letter for that section. But in today's passage, which begin with the letter *teth*, the same word is used six times. That word is *good (tov)*.

Clearly the psalmist wants us to see and know something good, and understand that the source of this goodness is God himself: 'Good you are and good you do...' (v68). *Good* is the description of how God has dealt with his servants (v65). *Good* discernment and knowledge are what we ask God to teach us as we trust his commandments (v66). *Good* for us is the instruction we get from God, more valuable than earthly wealth (v72). But all this goodness is found and experienced in a way few of us, given the choice, would pick for ourselves. These lessons are learned through affliction, being pressed down, humbled, brought low. This classroom is the school of hard knocks, and twice the psalmist says, 'Good for me it was that I was afflicted' so that I might learn your word and learn how to keep it (vv 67 & 71).

DA Carson writes, "There is a certain kind of maturity that can only be attained through the discipline of suffering. If even Jesus "learned obedience from what he suffered" (Heb 2:10,14-18; 5:7-10), what ghastly misapprehension is it – even arrogance! – that assumes we should be exempt." (*How Long O Lord*, p. 71)

Today's passage proclaims to us that God is good – and all he does is good! According to that goodness we should pray for him to do whatever he needs to do to teach us and lead us deeper into his Word, deeper into Christ, and take us through the School of Hard Knocks "with the prospect of graduation to a fuller life." (Motyer)

Good Is God – and All He Does is Good. Believe it!

Good Is the Discernment and Knowledge God Wants to Teach Us. Seek It!

Good Are the Reasons for the Afflictions We Experience. Trust It!

Good Is the Word That Comes from Our Teacher. Treasure It!

Weekly Discipleship Guide

Sunday

In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

Know

Monday

Spend some time today doing the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day.

Know > Be

Tuesday

In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Write your selected portion of the Scripture several times to aid in memorization.

Be

Wednesday

Think about this week's questions for group discussion:

How did this week's sermon challenge you in your understanding and thoughts toward suffering?

Why is it important to allow God's Word to define 'good' for us? How are you prone to try to define that on your own? Why is that dangerous, and how might this distort the way you view specific elements of your life currently?

What are some specific ways throughout your life that you can echo the Psalmist in saying, "it was good that I was afflicted?"

Be > Do

Thursday

In your journal, spend some time considering the following:

What insights have you had while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

Do

*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's passage & message.

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