

# Westwood Baptist Church Grounded. Growing. Going.

Worship Guide for October 25, 2020

## Sermon Notes

### **Single-minded and Rightly Fearful**

Psalm 119:113-120 [Samekh] (pew Bible pg. 515)

The fifteenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet is Samekh. Scholars tell us this letter, which resembles an enclosed circle, represents support and upholding, or protection and encircled for safety. So, the central idea in this section of Psalm 119 is critically important to our spiritual wellbeing – it's foundational to our relationship with God. That central idea is seen in verse 120: *My flesh trembles for fear of you, and I am afraid of your judgments.* When a person fears of the Lord as they should, he/she is safe, protected, and supported by God. This passage shows us what this protection and support look like.

Directly related to the fear of the Lord is a second central concept in today's passage, and that is single-mindedness. The psalmist hates the "double-minded" – the ambiguous, on the fence, conflicted about what is true and who/what is God. This same idea is seen in David's prayer in Psalm 86:11b: "...give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name." (NIV) Our fear of God flows from our heart for God. We will have a heart for God and fear him as we should when we see him as we should. The only place we can see him as we should is in his Word. The psalmist stands in awe of God's Word because he is in awe of the God who spoke it and reveals himself in it. It is only through the Word that we get a view of God that leads to "the deep, trembling joy and wonder that increase as we relate to God not as we imagine him, but as he truly is." (T. Keller)

God knew that his people would be prone to doublemindedness, to having divided hearts. The beginning declaration in verse 113 about doublemindedness directly relates to idolatry, to God's command that "*You shall have no other gods before Me.*" So the psalmist, as he meditates on God's Word, as we've seen throughout Psalm 119, is reflecting specifically on how the Word of God helps him fight idolatry and double-mindedness, and maintain a healthy fear of the Lord. This passage shows us what it means to be single-minded and rightly fearful.

The single-minded man has the affections of God – so he is not ambivalent.

The single-minded man has the protection of God – so he is safe and hope-filled.

The single-minded man has discretion from God – so he makes wise choices.

The single-minded man has perspective from God – so he rests in God's judgment.

The single-minded man fears God – so he is filled with trembling reverence and love.

# 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:*

What are some the most influential aspects of our culture that are prone to draw us into doublemindedness? In what ways should we guard against this?

Which point from the sermon concerning the outcomes of singlemindedness resonated most in your own heart and why?

How does a lack of a fear of God result in a lack of clarity in the way we both perceive and interact in our world?

What is the connection between the two?

**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.

### Westwood Staff

**Gerald Hodges:** Lead Pastor

**Jonathan Taylor:** Associate Pastor

**Jim Fulp:** Counseling Pastor

**Jason Engle:** Pastor of Students  
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**Katie Austin:** Children's Ministry  
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### Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday

8:00am - 1:00pm

*Other times by appointment.*

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