Intro: 1 Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord! 2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, 3 who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways! 4 You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. 5 Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! 6 Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. 7 I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules. 8 I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me!

• Throughout this Psalm the Psalmist describe God’s direction for our lives by using His: Word, testimony, commandments, precepts, law, ways, Truth, judgments, righteousness, and statutes. It is divided into twenty-two parts or stanzas, denoted by the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Each stanza contains eight verses, and the first letter of each verse is that which gives name to the stanza. Its contents are mainly praises of God's Word, calls to its review, and respect for its, prayers for its proper impact, and complaints of the wicked for despising it. There are two verses which do not contain some term or description of God's Word (Ps. 119:122; 132).

I. We are to walk in the ways of God’s Word – 1 Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord! 2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, 3 who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways!

a. We are blessed when we keep his word

• Notice the two-step process here. One you must hear the word of God preached in its purest form. Then you must keep it, in its purest form. Hearing is one thing but living what you hear is a totally different story. I can hear the word of God all the time, it is when I start living it in its entirety that is when it starts to affect my life for the better.

° 28 But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” Luke 11:28

b. Those who walk in His word are blameless

• The word for blameless does not mean perfection, but instead it carries with it the idea of a character that is irreproachable. They may have some flaws but you know where they are going to stand when it comes to the Word, the Trinity, the Church, Sin, Salvation, etc.

° 5 In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6 And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. Luke 1:5, 6

c. We are blessed when we seek Him completely

• We search the word to find out what His will is for our lives, how to raise our family, what does the word say about a certain subject, and we do this with the idea that we will follow through with what God says completely. We understand that God’s word is the final authority on all matters, and this is non-negotiable, in other words there is no debating, this is final. God’s word does not change, but we should.

° 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him. Matthew 21:32

d. We can’t go wrong keeping His word

• Where in God’s word, anywhere, that says it will lead you away from Him and His righteousness? When you walk in death’s valley His word is with you, when you climb the highest mountains, His word is with you, in the midst of your most horridness trail His word will lead you. There is nothing that God’s word will not help you with if you would just look for it.

° 31 The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip. Psalms 37:31

II. Our ways must follow God’s Word – 4 You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. 5 Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

a. We must follow His precepts diligently

• Here are some excuses mankind uses not to follow the Word of God

° The bible was written by old men thousands of years ago. We have evolved into a better society where we don’t need the bible.

° Me and Jesus have our own way of working things out.

° God is love and therefore He understands that I just can’t follow the Bible like others, I’m just not made that way.

° And my personal favorite “who are you to tell me how to interpret the bible? I don’t need you to tell me what to do!!

b. The desire for our ways to be steadfast in His word

• This is a total sold out commitment to have your ways match His word. Notice God’s word is not the one doing the changing here. It’s my commitment to God word that changes me, not me changing God’s word to fit my lifestyle.

° 25 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. 26 You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean. Matthew 23:25, 26

III. Allowing God’s word to lead us into Worship – 6 Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. 7 I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules.

a. If you live right you will worship right

• Once having a desire to live the word of God and having our eyes fixed on His commandments, God will put an unfound confidence in you spirit that is unprecedented. The Holy Spirit will be imbedded so deep within you that this world will seem put just a piece of sand compared to the worship of His mighty hands. You will not be ashamed of Him, His word, or His Son. You will proudly say “I’m not ashamed of the gospel of Christ”.

° 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.” Romans 1:16, 17

b. You must worship Him with a clean heart

• Pulpits are filled with Pastor’s preaching that we can worship God just the way we are, and that is a false premise. Yes, God accepts you as a sinner, and changes you from a sinner to a saint. It is the idea that we can worship God as a sinful sinner I would argue is flawed. Your worship needs to come from a clean heart of a person who has been forgiven and saved by the blood of Christ that has been changed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

° 5 And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” 6 And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, “ ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; 7 in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ 8 You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.” Mark 7:5-8

c. Learning is a form of worship – 7 I will praise you . . . when I learn your righteous rules.

• Learning God’s word is a form of worship. It can be one of the most enjoyable forms of worship next to singing that there is. This form of worship opens our eyes to see things no one else can, it forms a bases of faith believing that is mark by commitment and prayer, it sets the stage for strong biblical leadership in our pulpits, and it teaches us how to get closer to God by being obedient and faithful.

° 10 Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! Psalms 143:10

° 1 Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, “Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there, Revelation 11:1

IV. Keeping God’s word brings blessing – 8 I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me!

• This is not a plea of God leaving the Psalmist, but a plea for God to stay with the Psalmist. It is on the lines of when Jesus prayed lead not into temptation”. He is not praying that God would lead him into temptation on purpose, but he is praying that God will lead him out of temptation by delivering him from evil. “Do not forsake me” is just a simple saying, stay with me Lord. He is asking for God to bless Him. How does the Word of God bless us?

° It keeps us with a clear conscious in our walk as we seek Him with our heart (vs. 1, 2).

° It shields us from iniquity (v. 3).

° It defends us from shame (v. 6).

° It leads us to worship as God fulfills His Word in us (vs. 7, 8)