Intro: 105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. 106 I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous rules. 107 I am severely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to your word! 108 Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your rules. 109 I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law. 110 The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts. 111 Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart. 112 I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

• I know a young man at the age of 18 went to the streets of Buffalo New York and started witnessing to the pimps and prostitutes in the slums of Buffalo. And I am very proud of him because he was my son. Now he is leading in youth activities, and out reaches programs, and so many other ministries for his church. This is what Jesus was saying to his disciples when he warned them that they would a dangerous world in Jn. 15:15-18.

° 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another. 18 “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. John 15:15-18

I. Never walk in the dark without God’s Light – 105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

a. God’s word will show us which path we should take

• I know that there a some that see this a being hypocritical, where the word tells us to separate ourselves from evil, and here it seems we are walking in place where we should not be. But I see it as we are already in this dark world trying to walk the best way we can, and it is God’s word that is helping us, and guiding us through it.

° 16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, 2 Corinthians 6:16, 17

b. You need to rekindle your obedience to God’s word – 106 I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous rules.

• We are taught that if you can’t keep a commitment don’t make it. This is a good proverb, but we apply this to all our Christian walk. That is why some will not teach a class, preach a message, knock a door, visit the sick, clean a toilet. It even will reach to our daily bible reader of God’s word. We just won’t vow to commit to daily bible study because we are afraid that if we miss a few days, we have broken our vow to God, and it is better not to make a vow than make a vow then break it. The problem is we are to study God word this is a commandment not a vow.

° 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

c. Remember God’s word can carry you though any trail

• This faithful man of God was suffering from some type of type of life misery. But that was not going to stop him from face them why because he had the word of God to carry him through. Paul says we wrestles (trials and persecutions) not against flesh and blood but against the spirit world.

° 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak. Ephesians 6:14-20

Something to think about:

1. We need to trust the light of God’s word

2. We must never doubt God’s promises

II. You need to worship Him even in dark times – 108 Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your rules.

a. These are reliable worshipers

• These are the one who will worship God no matter what state their in. If the church voted to replace the sanctuary with church and they voted not too. They will be the first one on Saturday unloading the truck and the first one there in church on Sunday morning. You can count on them.

° 16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16

b. True worshipers will worship all the time

• We will not go to church when we have a job and paying the bills, but we will worship when we have no job, and the bills are do. There are biblical characters who have worshiped God while facing a horrible crisis or a deadly illness. After the death of David’s first born he went and worshipped.

° 19 But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David understood that the child was dead. And David said to his servants, “Is the child dead?” They said, “He is dead.” 20 Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. He then went to his own house. And when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate. 2 Samuel 12:19-20

Something to think about:

1. We worship God out of love not duty

2. Worshiping God is an everyday commitment

III. Never forget God’s word in your darkest of days – 109 I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law. 110 The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts. 111 The wicked have laid a snare for me, for they are the joy of my heart. 112 I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

a. Hold yourself responsible for your daily walk – “I hold my life in my hand continually”

• This is something that is not taught anymore in our churches today and that is self-responsibility. We have become so reliant on others that we have forgotten how to take care of ourselves, both physically and spiritually. Examples of this is “I can’t go to church because the pastor didn’t come and visit me, or I can’t pay my tithe because I didn’t get my way in the last board meeting. I can’t read my bible because I can’t see the words. All of those excuses can be remedied with some self-responsibility.

° 4 But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. 5 For each will have to bear his own load. Galatians 6:4-5

b. Avoid the traps laid by unbelievers – “The wicked have laid a snare for me”

• I worked at a police department for years and there was this one Major who was an agnostic, and he for years would set thing up that would put me in a position to fail in my walk with the Lord. How do I know this? He told me. And it was hard as it was to try to avoid those traps, and a couple of times I didn’t not see them coming. But in the end, he apologized to me and told me that I had made a very deep impression on him. I could never get him to make that confession to the Lord he needed to make.

° 9 Keep me from the trap that they have laid for me and from the snares of evildoers! Psalms 141:9

c. Remember God’s word is your Joy – “for they are the joy of my heart”

• In the other verses the Psalmist (Ezar) would make a statement then follow it up with his deep love for the word. Here he makes a statement then there is the pause or comma, and he seems to not mention the word but instead talk about his joy for his enemies. This is not what he is saying the flow of the song and the pattern in which the song is given, and the context of the song itself leaves us with the conclusion he is talking about the joy that the word has in his heart. Does God’s word put a joy in your heart?

° 6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 1 Thessalonians 1:6

d. Strat your walk strong but always finish well – “I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end”

• You should start your Christian walk with the Lord strong, as most your converts do, but the Christian walk is not made up of a quick sprint, but one of a marathon which takes endurance. It is one of pacing your self for a strong finish.

° 12 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved. Matthew 24:12-13

Something to think about:

1. Not forgetting God’s word starts with memorizing God’s word

2. Every believer should make a vow to keep God’s word