

WEEKLY ENCOURAGEMENT

from Johnny Hunt

PRAYING WITH THE END IN MIND

PART ONE

Scripture: Psalm 119:33-40

I. INTRO

- This passage contains several petitions united with the use of imperatives. The overarching theme is a new beginning. In this Psalm, the Psalmist truly desires and covets a “good ending.”

- Many requests are made in these few verses by the psalmist:

Teach me (Verse 33)

Give me (Verse 34)

Make me (Verse 35)

Incline my heart (Verse 36)

Turn away my eyes (Verse 37)

Revive me (Verse 37)

Establish Your Word (Verse 38)

Turn away my reproach (Verse 39)

Revive me (Verse 40)

- With each request the Psalmist pledges to observe that which he is taught for the rest of his life. As the Psalmist is restored to life by the power of God, he must grow in that life. Therefore, he continues to pray, asking that the God who will *revive* him now *teach* him. The Bible is not just a book to read, but a book to obey.

- It is one thing to be taught and another to understand the teaching. With the Lord, it is His responsibility to grant not only *content* but also *understanding*.

- As we ask for it, and obey what He shows us, our knowledge will grow through a lifetime.

- The Psalmist wanted to end well, but not every believer achieves that coveted goal. A good beginning ought to lead to a good ending, but that is not always the case. Lot, Samson, King Saul and Demas all had good beginnings, but their lives ended in tragedy. Ending well is the consequence of living well.

II. PRAYER FOR EDUCATION | VERSE 33

- **NOTE:** The Psalmist is *teachable* and has a desire to learn. Also note in this petition a tone of *humility* and *dependence* comes through. He sees God’s Word as a path to be followed.

- The Psalmist makes a *petition* and makes a *promise*. There is a principle of training in this passage in that he is *learning in order to do*, not just learning in order to know. Let us seek to comprehend the teachings of God’s Word sufficiently to be able to use it.

- **HIS PROMISE:** “**I will keep it to the end**”—“*Yes, Lord, yes, to your will and to your way.*” The commitment is made before the truth is revealed. He’s not even sure what God’s going to teach, but because He knows God’s character, He trusts God’s instructions.

- **CONTRAST: 2 Timothy 3:7, “always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”**

- Note the difference when one “**wills to do His will**”

- **John 7:17, “if anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.”**

- Give your life as a blank sheet of paper and let Him fill it in!

III. PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING | VERSE 34

- **Understanding**—the idea of dividing between things, or discerning. We have knowledge of God available to us by reading the Bible. That does not mean we understand biblical principles. And it is *understanding* them that enables us to see the sense in them. We need inner illumination to discover what it means to our lives. What we learn with our minds and apprehend with our hearts must motivate the will to do what God commands.

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- **Verse 33** deals with **duration** “**keep it to the end**”
- **Verse 34** deals with **devotion** “**with my whole heart**”
- May God give us churches that are not filled with half-hearted Christianity. May we have minds filled with not just information about Bible, but also understanding for His purpose for our lives.