



# Psalm 119

By Alexander S. Brown, Minister

FOR many of us, Psalm 119 is to the Book of Psalms what Numbers is to the Pentateuch – when we reach it in our daily readings we silently groan, take a deep breath and set our jaws for a trek through this mammoth song.

Like with Numbers we know that this portion of Scripture is holy and good, but it breaks the pace of our

*This is very much a psalm for our times.*

Bible reading and can seem like a labor to get through.

However, the fact that the

Book of Psalms is interrupted by this extended meditation on the Word of God is significant.

Here, in the midst of this Book that celebrates the Person and Work of God, and the unique relationship that His people have with Him that enables us to bear the hostilities of life in a fallen world, we find a magisterial treatise on the means by which we know any of that. In this psalm we are reminded of our indebtedness to God's personal revelation. In their commentary on the Psalms, Keil and Delitzsch note that in German Bibles this psalm was given the inscription, "The Christian's golden ABC of the praise, power, and use of the word of God."

That inscription gets to the core of what Psalm 119 is teaching us.

The psalm is divided into a series of 22 stanzas of eight verses each, which reflect in different ways upon what the revelation of God is and how the Christian should respond to it.

Jack Collins, commenting in the *ESV Study Bible*, notes "The psalm speaks the language of one ravished with moral beauty, to which there is only one fitting response – to try to reproduce this beauty, as much as possible, in one's daily life. There is no pretense of perfection here... only yearning, and trust (vv. 41, 176), and dependence upon God (v. 125)."

Psalm 119 considers the attributes of the Word of God and ascribes to it the very same attributes of God Himself, showing the intimate connection of the Divine Author to His Self-Revelation.

That very fact impresses upon the reader the due reverence that is to be paid to God's Word. This is not some human meditation that can be edited, amended or ignored, but is a Divine communication that bears all the authority of its author. One can hardly read this psalm without coming away with a sense of the holiness of the Bible.

*Continued on page 2*

## June Calendar

### Sunday Schedule

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship  
*Gospel of Matthew*

6:00 p.m. Evening Worship  
*Westminster Shorter Catechism*

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Wed 6/1          | Book Group (pg. 4)<br>9:30 a.m., Magnolia Manor                        |
| Wed 6/1          | "1st Wednesday" Dinner<br>6:30 p.m., Picnic at<br>Neptune Park (pg. 4) |
| Sun 6/5          | The Lord's Supper<br>10:30 a.m. Worship                                |
| Tue-Fri 6/7-6/10 | Backyard Kids Club<br>9:00-11:00 a.m.,<br>Brown home (pg. 3)           |
| Sun 6/12         | Church Lunch<br>12:00 p.m., GIPC (pg. 4)                               |
| Tue 6/14         | Stated Session Meeting<br>6:00 p.m., GIPC                              |
| Sun 6/19         | "Father's Day"<br>CareNet Baby Bottle<br>"Change-for-Life" ends        |
| 6/20-6/24        | 44th PCA General<br>Assembly meets this week<br>in Mobile, AL          |
| 6/26-7/5         | Brown family vacation  |

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## Psalm 119 (Continued from page 1)

**H**OWEVER, it is important to note that the focus of this psalm is not on the attributes of the Word of God in the abstract. Rather, there is an intensely practical side of the psalm that teaches the reader how the Word of God ought to operate in their lives.

To quote Keil and Delitzsch again:

*The poet is a young man, who finds himself in a situation which is clearly described: he is derided, oppressed, persecuted, and that by those who despise the divine word (for apostasy encompasses him round about), and more particularly by a government hostile to the true religion, vv. 23, 46, 161. He is lying in bonds (v. 61, cf. 83), expecting death (v. 109), and recognizes in his affliction, it is true, God's salutary humbling, and in the midst of it God's word is his comfort and his wisdom, but he also yearns for help, and earnestly prays for it. – The whole Psalm is a prayer for steadfastness in the midst of an ungodly, degenerate race, and in the midst of great trouble, which is heightened by the pain he feels at the prevailing apostasy.*

And so, when we read it like this, we see that this is very much a psalm for our times. As our culture grows further and further away from the acceptance of a Christian-like morality and we find ourselves increasingly opposed by those who “despise the divine word,” this psalm comes to us as a tutorial, teaching us that the Word is of utmost importance if we are to stand firm – not only does it provide us with comfort and security, as it reminds us of our relationship with God, but also leads us to pray, helping us to know how to pray and encouraging us to make our requests known to God (Philippians 4:6).

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**A**s a church we began reading through Psalm 119 last week (22<sup>nd</sup> May), and as we continue to read this psalm over the next few weeks I hope that our slow pace will open up to you its manifold riches. Please do open your Bibles and trace the flow of the psalm as we read it together, and then meditate upon it throughout the week. It is my hope that as we do so we will treasure all the more the tremendous gift that is God's self-revelation in Holy Scripture. ☞

## Loan Update

Loan Balance (as of 4/25/16)	\$687,289
May Payment:	
Interest	\$ 3,181
Principal	\$ 2,767
Additional Principal	\$ 1,000
Total Payment	\$ 6,948

## Significant Sessional Actions

- Approved the purchase of 12 chairs for Children's Church;
- Approved a new Child Safety Policy;
- Approved updates to Shepherding Groups and the Phone Tree;
- Approved a Congregational Lunch for Sunday, June 12th.

The next Stated Session Meeting is scheduled for June 14th.

## Men of the Church

The monthly “2nd Saturday” Study will resume in the fall.

## Women's Discipleship

The Women's Bible Studies are scheduled to resume in September.

## GOLDEN ISLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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# psalm

OF THE MONTH

## Psalm 119

### O that the Lord Would Guide My Ways

(Isaac Watts)

O that the Lord would guide my ways to keep His statutes still!  
O that my God would grant me grace to know and do His will!

Order my footsteps by Your Word and make my heart sincere;  
let sin have no dominion, Lord, but keep my conscience clear.

Assist my soul, too apt to stray, a stricter watch to keep;  
and should I e'er forget Your way, restore Your wandering sheep.

Make me to walk in Your commands, a most delightful road;  
nor let my head or heart or hands offend against my God.



### Westminster Shorter Catechism

1 year plan: Study Q & A:  
 Week of June 5: 47,48  
 Week of June 12: 49  
 Week of June 19: 50, 51, 52  
 Week of June 26: 53  
2 year plan: Study Q & A\*:  
 Week of June 5: 23  
 Week of June 12: 24  
 Week of June 19: 25  
 Week of June 26: 26

### Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #47

**Question:** What is forbidden in the first commandment?

**Answer:** The first commandment forbids the denying, or not worshipping and glorifying the true God as God, and our God; and the giving of that worship and glory to any other, which is due to Him alone.

### Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #48

**Question:** What are we specially taught by these words [*before Me*] in the first commandment?

**Answer:** These words [*before Me*] in the first commandment teach us, That God, who sees all things, takes notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other God.

### Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #49

**Question:** Which is the second commandment?

**Answer:** The second commandment is, You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them. (see Ex. 20:4-6)

### Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #50

**Question:** What is required in the second commandment?

**Answer:** The second commandment requires the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God has appointed in His Word.

### Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #51

**Question:** What is forbidden in the second commandment?

**Answer:** The second commandment forbids the worshipping of God by images, or any other way not appointed in His Word.

### Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #52

**Question:** What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment?

**Answer:** The reasons annexed to the second commandment are, God's sovereignty over us, His propriety in us, and the zeal He has to His own worship.

### Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #53

**Question:** Which is the third commandment?

**Answer:** The third commandment is, You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

\*WSC Q & A are available online in the GIPC monthly newsletter archives at: [gipc-pca.org/newsletters](http://gipc-pca.org/newsletters).

Rev. Brown is preaching through the questions each Sunday evening. Sermons are available at: [gipc-pca.org/sermons](http://gipc-pca.org/sermons).

## Children's Ministry



### Children's Church

Each Sunday during the Morning Worship Service all children ages 4 years through 2nd Grade have the opportunity to attend "Children's Church" where they are

learning about common elements of worship, such as the Call to Worship, Prayer, Praise, Reading of the Word, Confession of Faith, etc. During the month of May they studied what it means to PRAISE GOD. *Learn more by visiting the display across from the Nursery.*



### Bible Clubs

A Bible Club for kids will be held June 7-10 at the Brown home, from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

We are looking for hosts for two more 4-day clubs—you may choose the dates and times (morning or afternoon) that work best for you. (Teachers, snacks and supplies will be provided.) *If you are interested in hosting a club, please get in touch with Sara Brown or Cindy Parrish.*

**JUNE**

*"Blessed is the one who reads...and blessed are those who hear." (Revelation 1:3)*

**Family Worship**

**Old Testament Reading**

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<b>Deuteronomy</b>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		12	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		13,14	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		15	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		16	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		17	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		18	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		19	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		20	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		21	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		22	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		23	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		24	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		25	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		26	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		27-28:19	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		28:20-68	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		29	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		30	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		31	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		32	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		33,34	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	<b>Joshua</b>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		2	<input type="checkbox"/>

**JUNE**

*"Blessed is the one who reads...and blessed are those who hear." (Revelation 1:3)*

**Family Worship**

**Psalms Reading**

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<b>Psalms</b>	88	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		89	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		90	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		91	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		92,93	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		94	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		95,96	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		97,98	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		99-101	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		102	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		103	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		104	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		105	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		106	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		107	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		108,109	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		110,111	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		112,113	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		114,115	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		116	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		117,118	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		119:1-24	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		v. 25-48	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		v. 49-72	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		v. 73-96	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		v. 97-120	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		v. 121-144	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		v. 145-176	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		120-122	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		123-125	<input type="checkbox"/>

**JUNE**

*"Blessed is the one who reads...and blessed are those who hear." (Revelation 1:3)*

**Private**

**Old Testament Reading**

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<b>Isaiah</b>	33	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		34	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		35	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		36	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		37	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		38	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		39	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		40	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		41	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		42	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		43	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		44	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		45	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		46	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		47	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		48	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		49	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		50	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		51	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		52	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		53	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		54	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		55	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		56	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		57	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		58	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		59	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		60	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		61	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		62	<input type="checkbox"/>

**JUNE**

*"Blessed is the one who reads...and blessed are those who hear." (Revelation 1:3)*

**Private**

**New Testament Reading**

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<b>Revelation</b>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		12	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		13	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		14	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		15	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		16	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		17	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		18	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		19	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		20	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		21	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		22	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	<b>Matthew</b>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		10	<input type="checkbox"/>

**"Beyond the Pages" Book Group**

The Book Group plans to meet on Wednesday, June 1st, 9:30 a.m. at Magnolia Manor\* on St. Simons, and is open to anyone who enjoys reading and discussing books. The June selection is entitled, "The Residence," by Kate Andersen Brower.

After the June meeting the group will take a break for the summer and resume on September 7th with a discussion of "Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania," by Erik Larson.

\*meet in the 2nd floor library of the large building beside the water fountain



Meet at the picnic area located under the oaks between the SSI Pier and the Lighthouse.

Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided— please sign up to bring sides.

An Ice Cream Sundae Buffet will be available for dessert.

Questions? Contact Dana Haza.

**Church Lunch Sunday, June 12th**

All GIPC members and regular attenders are invited to share a light lunch (provided by the church) on Sunday, June 12th, immediately following the morning service. The purpose of this informal meeting is to provide an opportunity to share ideas about ways to improve and develop the facility and property. All ideas are welcome!