



Intentionality

In this rich passage we are memorizing, verses 93 and 94 are our focus this week. One of my favorite parts of these memorization projects is hearing the stories God of watching over His Word. I love the stories of people memorizing for the first time, of people who are getting direction and of people finding the voice of God speaking to them through the day. So... if you have a story, make sure you share it, it gives glory to God and to His Word!

***“I will never forget your precepts for by them you have preserved my life.
Save me, for I am yours; I have sought out your precepts.”***
Psalm 119:93-94 (NIV)

This week, as I have committed verses 93-94 to memory, a certain word has come to mind. That word is “intentionality”. In our busy world, we intend to do countless things, but many fall by the wayside. Verses 93-94 are full of intentionality toward the Word. In verse 93, I see the writer being very intentional about how he is going to handle the Word himself. In verse 94, I hear the writer asking God to be very intentional to him because of the Word.

So let’s look at this intentionality, beginning with our own. Verse 93 says,

“I will never forget your precepts for by them you have preserved my life.”

After searching through countless Bible versions, I found they all use the same verb in this verse, “forget”. All of them make a proclamation of never forgetting the precepts of God, the Word of God, the Truths that He has spoken to us. As a parent, I know the frustration of my children forgetting what I have told them. I have even heard one parent say, “Forgetting is worse than disobedience, because you didn’t even care enough to remember what I said.” That is an interesting thought, but as far as what God says, His Word is clear, He intends for us to remember His Words.

In our loose culture, it is easy to make a commitment and not follow through with diligence or to forget altogether. That isn’t only true to our culture. We can remember Peter telling the Lord, “I will never forsake You, I will go with You to death.” But, when push came to shove, he didn’t follow through. Our nature as people overrides culture; people make promises, but don’t always fulfill them. As we memorize this week I think we need to keep that in mind. It is great to make a statement that we will never forget God’s Words. I know that is our intention. But I would ask each of us, including myself, “What am I intentionally doing, to make sure that I don’t forget His Word in the day to day moments of my life?” You see, if I’m going to speak verse 93, I want to really mean it!

That is a question we have to individually answer. What are we each one doing to make sure we don’t forget. One thing we are all doing, is memorizing! And... I encourage you to intentionally follow through to the end of this passage. But it goes beyond that. In our personal lives we use calendars, electronic devices, notes, reminders, schedules and a myriad of other things to make sure we are remembering. In the book of Deuteronomy, God told His children to be very intentional to remember the things He said. He told them to write His words on their doorposts, and on their foreheads. He told them to talk about His words all the time... at work, at dinner and in travel time. And before they entered the Promised Land, He even told them to write His words on rocks and put them in distinct places. Why? So they wouldn’t forget. Even though God had preserved their life, as humans, He knew they were prone to forgetting. And... so are we! I encourage you to stop for a moment right now and see if you can name 5 things you are personally doing with the Word of God, to make sure you don’t forget it. Let’s be intentional!

Let’s continue to look at intentionality as expressed in verse 94. It says,

“Save me, for I am yours; I have sought out your precepts.”

In this verse, the writer is asking God to be very intentional toward him. What is the basis for his request? That he has sought out the precepts of God. In other words he has positioned himself for the blessings that come from walking in the Truth of what God says in our day to day living. Now for salvation, we know we are not under a covenant of works. God has saved us on the basis of grace and mercy (Ephesians 2:8-9). And yet, it is clear that when we position ourselves in the Truths of God, when we live by His standards and His ways, we position ourselves for the day to day “saving” where God’s Truths usher in a blessed life of righteousness peace and joy for our life moments here on earth. His Truth saves us from the consequences of daily choices we would have made if we were left to ourselves. For example, as I deal in the Truth of God’s grace and forgiveness with people, I experience the blessing of unhindered relationships. As I deal wisely with my money as God’s Word says, I escape the strangle of

debt. As I live with discipline and follow the Spirit's leading, avoiding indulgence, I escape the shame of bondage and addictions. We could go on and on. As we seek out God's Truth, we can count on God being intentional in "saving" us. Why, because what He has said is settled forever and we can trust it, forever! O may we position ourselves in the Word, seeking out His precepts, allowing God's intention of blessing to flow over us...

"Forever O Lord, help us not forget Your Word. May we be intentional toward it and love it forever!"

