

Oh Lord –Teach Me Your Paths

Text : **Psalms 25: 1-15**

INTRODUCTION :

A. Our text is part of a Psalm of David.

1. From a youth David had a heart for God like few others.
 - a. **Acts 13: 22b** – **He (God) also testified and said, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My heart, who will do all My will.’ (cf I Sam 13: 14)**
 - b. God described David like this while he was yet a youthful shepherd boy.
2. Our text was written by David further on in his life after he had matured.

B. None of us are who we once were or who we will soon become.

1. As we move forward in our lives, it’s natural to look back at some past decisions.
 - a. When we made them, we most likely thought they were good decisions.
 - b. Looking back at them through the eyes of maturity, some may be embarrassing.
2. We can identify with David’s prayer in **verse 7** :
 - a. **“Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;”**
 - b. When my father admonished me to learn from my mistakes, he would say,
“If hindsight was foresight, we’d all be millionaires.”
3. My own life experience and my observations of that of others have taught me that :
 - a. *Though potentially effective, experience is the most expensive of all tutors,*
 - b. *But even experience can teach only the willing student.*

C. Thus, David here prays that God will teach him His Paths so he will not repeat his mistakes for which he seek forgiveness.

1. **Vss 4-5** **Make me know Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths. 5 Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; For You I wait all the day.**
2. David realized that trusting in one’s own discretion is a path of fools.
 - a. **Prov. 14: 12** – **There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.**
 - b. No man can fully understand his own heart so his heart is able to deceive him.
Jer. 17: 9 – **The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?**
 - c. **Matt. 7: 21-23** ... These are the most terrifying verses in the entire bible.

3. Every Christians should be praying this prayer of David :

Vss 4-5 **Make me know Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths. 5 Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; For You I wait all the day.**

I. When we pray that God will teach us, we must make sure we are teachable.

A. Twelve questions to ask yourself to determine how teachable you are :

1. Am I willing to listen more than to talk ?
(Cowboy's Wisdom : *Never miss a chance to shut up.*)
2. Do I admit when I am mistaken?
3. Do I observe before acting on a situation?
4. Am I willing to agree to disagree?
5. Do I desire information more than answers? (*Think for myself, not wait to be told.*)
6. Do I enjoy asking questions?
7. Am I open to suggestions and new ideas?
8. Do I feel comfortable asking for advice or directions?
9. Am I a patient and willing student?
10. Do I enjoy reading for information that is both practical and applicable?
11. Do I seek out new perspectives on the questions of life? (*challenge my conceptions*)
12. Can I appreciate criticism without becoming deeply wounded?

B. Those who would be taught, must have a deep thirst for the word of God.

1. Jesus said :
Matt. 5: 6 – **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.**
2. The Apostle Peter commanded Christians to :
I Pet. 2: 2 – **Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,**
3. The psalmist gave us the proper example :
 - a. **Psa. 119: 97** – **O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.**
 - b. **Psa. 119: 127** – **Therefore I love Your commandments above gold, yes, above fine gold.**
 - c. **Psa. 119: 148** – **My eyes anticipate the night watches, That I may meditate on Your word.**
* *As you head home in the evening, what do you long for ?*

II. There was a time when men were willing to give their lives for the word.

A. During that same time in history so called church leaders tried to keep the word out of the hands of the people.

1. Few common people could read and write.
2. Copies of the scriptures were very expensive.
3. Those who did not know the word could not object to apostasies.
4. Those who controlled the apostate church in Europe tried to prevent the bible from being translated from Latin to the local languages.
 - a. The well educated could read Latin, but there were very few who could.
 - b. Those who could not read had to depend upon the clergy to tell them.
 - c. The priests still have this attitude where the papal church dominates.

B. In 1384 the British theologian, John Wycliffe, completed translating the bible.

1. Wycliffe translated into English from Jerome's Latin translation, the Vulgate.
2. This was the first translation in the common English language.
3. The papists tried to destroy his work, but copies were made.
4. So hated was Wycliffe that 44 yrs later the pope ordered his bones were dug up, burned, ground to powder and the ashes thrown into the River Swift. (1415)
5. In spite of the Papal wrath, Wycliffe had lit a fire that sparked the reformation.

*** After Wycliffe, men like Luther, Zwingli and William Tyndale aggressively challenged men to study the bible. This was the great protestant reformation.**

C. In the spirit of the great reformation William Tyndale was the first to print the bible in the English language.

1. Tyndale was infuriated to action by an encounter with a papal theologian :
 A clergyman hopelessly entrenched in Roman Catholic dogma once taunted Tyndale with the statement, "*We are better to be without God's laws than the Pope's*". Tyndale was infuriated by such Roman Catholic heresies, and he replied, "*I defy the Pope and all his laws. If God spare my life ere many years, I will cause the boy that drives the plow to know more of the scriptures than you!*"
2. Tyndale's said to have been a true genius who spoke 8 languages as a native speaker.
 - a. Thus, he was able to translate the bible from the original Greek and Hebrew texts.
 - b. Persecution forced him to flee to Germany where he had the bible printed.
3. His translation was banned in England, but he smuggled them into the country.
 - a. A shipment of 1000 bibles was interdicted being smuggled in bales of cotton.

- b. But Tyndale would not be stopped.
- c. After smuggling bibles for 11 yrs he was betrayed by a friend and arrested.
- 4. He was strangled in a German prison and his body burned.
- *a. His final prayer was, “*Lord open the eyes of the King of England.*”**
- b. Three years later his prayer was answered.

D. Henry VIII hired Miles Coverdale to translate the bible into English.

- 1. He used much of Tyndale’s translation. (*He had been an assistant to Tyndale.*)
- 2. His translation became known as the “Great Bible” because of its size.
- 3. The King ordered one to be chained to every pulpit in England.
 - a. The chaining was to guarantee that it would be there, not to limit access to it.
 - b. Few in Brittan could read so the King wanted it read to them.

E. When Mary Queen of Scotts succeeded Henry, she started a great purge.

- 1. She was a fanatical papist who killed many people. (*Known as Bloody Mary*)
 - a. She hated Protestants.
 - b. She hated the bible.
 - c. She was going to eliminate both. (*Comparable to the cultural revolution in China.*)
 - 2. She had Cramer (*Henry’s assistant*) burned at the stake for having printed the bible.
 - 3. Coverdale and Fox fled to Geneva where they produced the famous “Geneva Bible.”
 - a. The Geneva Bible became the commonly accepted version of the scriptures.
 - b. It is the bible brought to the New World by the pilgrims and the puritans.
- * The point is that there was a time when men loved the word of God so much they were willing to lay down their lives for it. They would sacrifice all to get it into the hands of lost people.**

III. We live in a time when the love of God’s word is waning.

A. People have lost their hungering and thirsting for God’s word.

- 1. The bible is more available than ever before, but they are left to gather dust.
- 2. Fewer people study each year as churches become seas of gray.
- 3. People seek out churches that are social clubs that offer entertainment.
- 4. What has become of our thirst for the “*living water* ?” (*John 4: 10-11*)

B. Actual studies have documented to dwindling of bible study among “Christians.”

1. Fifteen years ago the Barna Institute did a study of self-described “Christians.”
 - a. Only 15% of self-described “Christians” read the bible daily.
 - b. Only 32% said they read it as much as 3 times weekly.
 - c. 43% admitted they do not read it at all.
2. Do you think it is better today ? (*One survey said roughly the same. ????* *doubt*)

C. The scriptures urge us to give diligence to fill ourselves with the word of God.

1. **Col. 3: 16** – Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you,
 2. Our faith cannot be separated from the word of God.
Rom. 10: 17 – So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
 3. Our growth is directly linked to the word.
I Pet. 2: 2 – Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word,
so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,
- * Love For God and love for His word cannot be separated.*
If you don't love God's word, you should seriously consider your relationship.
Psa. 119: 97 – O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

IV. God uses everything around us to teach us.**A. We understand that God's holy scripture is His primary teaching tool.**

1. **II Tim. 3: 15-17** From childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; **17** so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
2. The very purpose the scriptures are written is to instruct us.
Rom 15: 14 – For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction

B. God teaches us through His providential dealings.

1. God has a hand in the events of our lives.
 - a. He presents opportunities.
 - b. He provides hills to climb.
2. Struggles are like a pop-quiz in the course, “*Life in Christ.*”
3. God is always monitoring our progress and watching over us.

C. Each great trial is a scheduled test. (Like a midterm or quarter final.)

1. Our first trial is growing up.
2. As we grow we have to learn how to live under supervision.
3. Before we get that down pat we have to learn to live under our own supervision.
4. Then we have to learn how to live with a mate.
5. Soon we are learning how to raise up children under our supervision and training.
6. Much sooner than we would like we are caring for and burying our parents.
7. In a blink of an eye we are old and preparing to leave this life.

* **Psa. 119: 50** – **This is my comfort in my affliction, That Your word has revived me.**

D. God teaches us by chastening us.

1. **Heb. 12: 6** – **For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives.**
2. One only profits from chastening when he receives it with a right heart. **James 1: 2-3**

E. God uses the world around us to teach us.

1. **Prov. 21: 12** – **The righteous one considers the house of the wicked, turning the wicked to ruin.**
2. **Prov. 24: 30-32** **I passed by the field of the sluggard and by the vineyard of the man lacking sense, ³¹ And behold, it was completely overgrown with thistles; its surface was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down. ³² When I saw, I reflected upon it; I looked, and received instruction.**

CONCLUSION :**A. What have we observed in ourselves ?**

1. Are we teachable ?
2. Are we aware that we need to be taught ?
3. Are we mindful that God's way is not always the same as our way ?

B. May our pray always be :

Vss 4-5 **Make me know Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths. ⁵ Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation;**

C. May our heart always be : **Psa. 119: 148 – **My eyes anticipate the night watches, That I may meditate on Your word.****

Listen Text :**Psalm 25: 1-15**

1 To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. **2** O my God, in You I trust, do not let me be ashamed; do not let my enemies exult over me. **3** Indeed, none of those who wait for You will be ashamed; those who deal treacherously without cause will be ashamed.

4 Make me know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. **5** Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day. **6** Remember, O LORD, Your compassion and Your lovingkindnesses, for they have been from of old. **7** Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your lovingkindness remember me, for Your goodness' sake, O LORD.

8 Good and upright is the LORD; Therefore He instructs sinners in the way. **9** He leads the humble in justice, and He teaches the humble His way. **10** All the paths of the LORD are lovingkindness and truth to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies. **11** For Your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my iniquity, for it is great.

12 Who is the man who fears the LORD? He will instruct him in the way he should choose. **13** His soul will abide in prosperity, and his descendants will inherit the land. **14** The secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him, and He will make them know His covenant. **15** My eyes are continually toward the LORD, for He will pluck my feet out of the net.

God's Book, The Bible

This book is the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy; its precepts are binding; its histories are true; and, its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise; believe it to be saved; and, practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to sustain you and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass and the Christian's character. In it paradise is opened, Heaven is opened and the gates of Hell are disclosed. Christ is its grand subject; our good is its design and the glory of God is its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory and a river of pleasure. Follow its precepts and it will lead you to Calvary, to the empty tomb, to the resurrection, to life in Christ, yes, to glory itself for eternity.

-- Unknown Author