

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Book of Psalm (*Psalm 119: 105, 127-131*)

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path. Truly I love Your commandments more than gold, more than the finest gold. Thus, I follow all Your precepts; every wrong way I hate. Wonderful are Your testimonies; therefore I keep them. The revelation of Your words sheds light, gives understanding to the simple. I sigh with open mouth, yearning for Your commandments. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection – In our current age of moral relativism and confusion, God's Word is the Guide and Standard we can absolutely rely on

We live in an age of deceptive moral relativism and confusion. Political correctness and pleasing people has become more important than seeking the truth and pleasing God. God's commandments are rebelled against, and all kinds of antithesis to His commandments are promoted and even legalized. Abortion is widely accepted as a right of choice over one's body and the emancipation of women. Homosexual acts are promoted as an alternative kind of love. The sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman is increasing profaned as same-sex union is on an uptrend with legalization in some countries. Transgenderism is now promoted even to young children as an inherent right to choose one's gender identity. St Paul tells us that because people exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator and persisted in their wickedness, God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity and the degrading of their bodies with one another (cf. Romans 1:21-25).

God's Word is an absolutely reliable guide and counsel. *Your Word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path (Psalm 119:105).* God's Word is an absolutely reliable guide because it is true (cf. John 17:17) and infallible as God stands solidly behind it. Jesus says: *Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away (Matthew 24:35).* St Peter tells us God's Word is totally reliable because it is not the product of man but the Holy Spirit and we should be attentive to it (2 Peter 1:19-21). God's Word reveals to us God's eternal truths which testify to God's existence, where we come from, the purpose of our life, what awaits us in eternity and how to get there. God's Word instructs us on how to live our lives in accordance to God's will which is in His commandments, precepts and teachings. We can turn confidently to God's Word for guidance and counsel in any situation in our life. God's Word is a bright, unfading light shining in the pitch darkness of this world. *All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16).*

God's Word is an absolutely reliable standard for determining the truth and exposing falsehood. As God's Word is true, infallible and eternal, it serves as the absolutely reliable standard for determining truth and exposing falsehood and lies. We live in a world in which moral confusion is the order of the day. In its false impression of appearing to be just and neutral, moral relativism has gained wide-spread popularity as it appeals to the human ego. In conscience that is formed by false ideologies such as moral relativism, the truth of the difference between good and evil in God's eyes becomes obscured. **God's Word provides the moral authority and moral clarity that we can totally rely on.** On the final day, we will not be judged by the world's shifting standards but by God's commandments which are cast in stone, clear with no confusion. Adhering to God's Word will form our conscience in the truth which can discern the truth of the difference between good and evil.

God's Word has power to change us. There is tremendous hidden power in God's Word. The entire universe is created through God's spoken Word. God simply spoke and creation came about. *Indeed, the Word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).* Depending on the openness of our heart, God's Word can have power over our physical bodies, judge the way we think and the secret intentions of our heart. Spontaneous physical healing has been observed many times in Spirit-filled retreats when God's Word is proclaimed and preached. Over the millennium, God's Word has been transforming minds and hearts so that souls can grow into the spiritual maturity of Jesus Christ. God's Word can help us grow in spiritual maturity "so that we may no longer be infants, tossed by waves and swept along by every wind of teaching arising from human trickery, from their cunning in the interests of deceitful scheming" (cf. Ephesians 4:14).

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, You are the Incarnate Word. You are the Eternal Truth. In Baptism, I am consecrated in the truth. Give me a great love for God's Word, a bright lamp shining in our darkness. Form my conscience and mind according to Your Word. Help me build my life on Your Word, impart Your Word and bear witness to Your Word. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. www.twohearts.hk