

THE SEPARATED LIFE

PSALM 119: 113-128

Introduction:

In the days of my youth our pastors called for us to live a “separated life.”

They made the appeal strongly and often. It is an emphasis that is rarely heard in our contemporary churches. The pastors of my youth saw the world about us as a danger, but we seem to have changed our mind about the world. We see it more as a place to be enjoyed.

Interestingly the young psalmist of the Great Psalm agreed with the pastors of my youth. As he writes his inner thoughts and attitudes down for us to consider, it is obvious that he wants to live a separated life. He has no desire to be buddies with this world system, nor to find a place in it. Let’s explore these two stanzas to learn what we can about a separated life.

I. THE SEPARATED LIFE REJECTS THE WAYS OF THE WORLD.

1. He rejects the way the world thinks.

“I hate the double-minded, but I love Your law.”

2. He rejects the way the world lives.

“I hate every false way.”

“Depart from me, you evildoers, for I will keep the commandments of my God.”

II. THE SEPARATED LIFE DESIRES TO OBEY THE LORD.

1. He prays for strength to obey.

“Uphold me according to your word, that I may live; and be not ashamed of my hope. Hold me up, and I shall be safe, and I will observe your statutes continually.”

“Deal with your servant according to Your mercy, and teach me Your statutes.”

2. He commits to obey .

“I love Your law. You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word.”

“I will keep the commandments of my God!”

III. THE SEPARATED LIFE FEARS THE LORD.

1. He fears the judgment that is to come on the world.

“You reject all those who stray from your statutes, for their deceit is falsehood. You put away all the wicked of the earth like dross; therefore I love your statutes.”

2. He fears the displeasure of the Lord.

“My flesh trembles for fear of You, and I am afraid of your judgments.”