

THE WORD IN BAD TIMES

PSALM 119: 49-56

Introduction:

The Bible is truly a book for bad times. This is the testimony of the young psalmist who penned the Great Psalm. He instinctively turned to the law of the Lord when bad times befell him.

Bad times can include “affliction” (v. 50). Affliction would be any kind of stressful situation caused by the circumstances of life.

Bad times can include times of persecution and scorn at the hands of the wicked (v. 51).

Bad times can include times of declension from the Word of God in society (v. 53).

Bad times can include the “night”, times of darkness, when the way is not clear, or when you lack understanding. The young Psalmist turned to the word of the Lord when life became difficult and stressful. He always found help when he opened his Bible.

You will find more help in your Bible than you will in the “self-help” books that the bookstores promote.

- I. THE PROMISES OF THE WORD GIVE A BASIS FOR HOPE
IN BAD TIMES. (v. 49)

II. THE LIFE IN THE WORD REVIVES THE SPIRIT IN BAD
TIMES. (v. 50)

Jesus described the “word” as a seed. A seed contains the principle of life. Since the “scriptures” are God-breathed, the very life of God is still in them. They have the power to bring about inner renewal, the revival of life.

III. THE STORIES IN THE WORD COMFORT IN BAD TIMES. (v.
51-53)

The Word is full of stories of what God does when sin prevails. In the opening chapters of the Bible He drowns the whole family of man in a flood because of their godlessness, but preserves alive Noah’s family that remained faithful in bad times. This is a comfort. God does not forget the godly when the rest of the world turns away from His word.

IV. THE MESSAGE OF THE WORD GIVES JOY IN BAD TIMES.
(v. 54-55)

The word gives the godly a song, and even becomes their song in bad times.

V. THE LIGHT OF THE WORD GUIDES IN BAD TIMES. (v. 55-
56)