

THE MARKS OF THE MATURE

PSALM 119:73-80

Introduction:

Would we dare measure our perception of the Christian Life with the perception of the young Hebrew who penned the Great Psalm? Each stanza provokes even greater amazement at the depth of this young man. We are called to a higher walk if we are going to keep step with this young man.

The YOD stanza is no exception. It opens with a declaration of who he knows himself to be, and a prayer about who he wants to become. He knows himself to be a special work of God. “Your hands have made me and fashioned me.” Wow! That is a good foundation on which to build a life. I am a creation. I wonder what the Creator had in mind when He made me. This points us in the direction of maturity. The stanza ends with a petition that reflects this, “Let my heart be blameless regarding Your statutes.” “Blameless” can be translated “perfect”, or “mature.” The burden of the petition is that the purpose of the Creator may be accomplished in my heart, and consequently in my behavior.

But how will I know when I am moving toward maturity? Are there any signs or marks of maturity that I may identify? The young psalmist seems to

be aware of some marks of the mature. I think they will work for you and me—they will give us standard by which to measure our progress toward maturity.

I. THE MATURE UNDERSTAND THE THINGS OF GOD. (v.

“Give me understanding, that I may learn your commandments.”

1. Understanding precedes knowledge.

2. Understanding precedes obedience.

II. THE MATURE APPRECIATE THE CHASTISEMENTS OF GOD.

“I know, O LORD, that your judgments are right, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.”

1. They appreciate the righteousness of God.

2. They appreciate the faithfulness of God.

III. THE MATURE CENTER LIFE IN THE WORD OF GOD.

1. They base their expectations on the Word.

“I have hoped in Your word.”

“According to Your word to your servant.”

2. They delight in the Word.

“For your word is my delight.”

3. They meditate on the Word.

“I will meditate on your precepts.”

IV. THE MATURE INFLUENCE OTHERS FOR GOOD.

1. They encourage the godly.

“Those who fear You will be glad when they see me.”

2. They expose the ungodly.

“Let the proud be ashamed.”