

PSALM 119:17-24

UNDERSTANDING YOUR BIBLE

Introduction:

Owning a Bible is a wonderful privilege! It is so easy to own a Bible in our day that most of us have lost the wonder of ownership. I remember Dr. W. O. Vaught describing the response of a Russian Baptist pastor during the days of the Cold War when he had delivered some Russian Bibles to him. He has been able to slip them into the country secretly because they were forbidden. The good pastor fell on his knees, put his hands on the Bibles, and exclaimed, “Better than gold! Better than gold!”

But here is something better than owning a copy of the scriptures—understanding the Holy Scriptures. It is easier to own a Bible than to understand it. The Psalmist knew that prayer has a place in understanding the law so this stanza of the Great Psalm focuses on gaining an understanding of the law.

Things have not changed! We live in a different world from the psalmist, but his search for understanding is the same type of search that all of us make.

I. UNDERSTANDING YOUR BIBLE REQUIRES A PRAYERFUL HEART.

1. A prayer for God’s bounty—His grace (v. 17)

2. A prayer for understanding (v. 18)

3. A prayer for forgiveness (v. 21-22)

II. UNDERSTANDING YOUR BIBLE PRODUCES A PEACEFUL HEART.

1. The peace of inner satisfaction. (v. 24)

2. The peace of inner guidance (v. 24)

3. The peace of a quiet conscience (v. 23)