

# Obey God's Word

## Psalm 119:1-16

### Live The Word. Ps. 119:1-8

#### Trust and Obey, the Song and the Story

Composer John H. Sammis Writes Trust and Obey

John H. Sammis (1846-1919), gave up his life as a businessman and part-time YMCA worker to study for the ministry. He was ordained a Presbyterian minister in 1880 and then served at several pastorates. In his later years, Sammis taught at the Bible Institute of Los Angeles.

Daniel B. Towner (1850-1919) was music director for several well-known churches and schools, including the Moody Bible Institute. He published several music books and wrote the music for many well-loved hymns, including *At Calvary* and *Only A Sinner Saved By Grace*.

In 1887, just following an evangelistic meeting held by Dwight L. Moody, a young man stood to share his story in an after-service testimony meeting. As he was speaking, it became clear to many that he knew little about the Bible or acceptable Christian doctrine. His closing lines, however, spoke volumes to seasoned and new believers alike: I'm not quite sure. But I'm going to trust, and I'm going to obey.

Daniel Towner was so struck by the power of those simple words that he quickly jotted them down, then delivered them to John Sammis, who developed the lyrics to *Trust and Obey*. Towner composed the music and the song quickly became a favorite. It remains popular with hymn singers today.

#### Refrain:

Trust and obey, for there's no other way

To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,

What a glory He sheds on our way!

While we do His good will, He abides with us still,

And with all who will trust and obey.

*"Lord Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in You."* (Psalm 84:11-12)

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#### Treasure The Word Ps. 11:99-11

One of the better known treasure hunts in modern times is the quest to find the rumored wealth known as the "Beale treasure." The hunt began when an eccentric man, who left the East for the gold and silver mines of the West, returned home, supposedly hid a vast amount of wealth, then disappeared forever. All he left behind were several messages written in a mysterious code. One of those messages when deciphered told of the treasure and its approximate location. The other documents, then, would narrow down the site. Since the Beale documents first came to light, thousands of man-hours and hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent attempting to break the codes and find the legendary treasure.

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It is sad people will travel around the world for riches and the riches of Christ are at their finger tips in His Word.

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#### Study the Word Ps. 119:12-16

How we learn:

1% through taste

1.5% through touch

3.5% through smell

11% through hearing

83% through sight

Source Unknown.

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## PSALM 119

This celebrated Psalm has several peculiarities. It is divided into twenty-two parts or stanzas, denoted by the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Each stanza contains eight verses, and the first letter of each verse is that which gives name to the stanza. Its contents are mainly praises of God's Word, exhortations to its perusal, and reverence for it, prayers for its proper influence, and complaints of the wicked for despising it. There are but two verses (Ps 119:122, 132) which do not contain some term or description of God's Word. These terms are of various derivations, but here used, for the most part, synonymously, though the use of a variety of terms seems designed, in order to express better the several aspects in which our relations to the revealed word of God are presented. The Psalm does not appear to have any relation to any special occasion or interest of the Jewish Church or nation, but was evidently "intended as a manual of pious thoughts, especially for instructing the young, and its peculiar artificial structure was probably adopted to aid the memory in retaining the language."

1. undefiled-literally, "complete," perfect, or sincere (compare Ps 37:37).

Walk or Act in-or, "of" the way-course of life. Walk or Act in the law-according to it (compare Lu 1:6).

law-from a word meaning "to teach," is a term of rather general purport, denoting the instruction of God's Word.

2. testimonies-The word of God is so called, because in it He testifies for truth and against sin.

seek him-that is, a knowledge of Him, with desire for conformity to His will.

3. his ways-the course He reveals as right.

4-6. precepts-are those directions which relate to special conduct, from a word meaning "to inspect."

statutes-or ordinances, positive laws of permanent nature. Both words originally denote rather positive than moral laws, such as derive force from the divine appointment, whether their nature or the reasons for them are apprehended by us or not.

commandments-or institutions. The term is comprehensive, but rather denotes fundamental directions for conduct, both enjoining and forbidding.

have respect unto-or regard carefully as to their whole purport.

7. judgments-rules of conduct formed by God's judicial decisions; hence the wide sense of the word in the Psalms, so that it includes decisions of approval as well as condemnation.

8. Recognizes the need of divine grace.

9. The whole verse may be read as a question; for,

by taking heed-is better, "for" taking heed, that is, so as to do it. The answer is implied, and inferable from Ps 119:5, 10, 18, &c., that is, by God's grace.

10-16. We must carefully treasure up the word of God, declare it to others, meditate on it, and heartily delight in it; and then by His grace we shall act according to it.