

“PRAISING AND PLEADING”
PSALM 119:161-176 (STANZAS 21-22)

Because God’s Word is our great peace, let us praise Him by making it our great treasure

21. Sin and Shin: Praising the Word of God (vv. 161-168). In the twenty-first stanza, the psalmist helps us rejoice in the great treasure and great peace of God’s Word. First, the psalmist rejoices in the great treasure of God’s Word because it is God’s great gift to His people (vv. 161-164). The treasure of God’s Word causes the psalmist to not only love the Word but to constantly praise God for His Word. Second, the psalmist rejoices in the great peace of God’s Word because it is God’s great protection for His people (vv. 165-168). Interestingly, the term “peace” (v. 165) is used for the first and only time in Psalm 119 and is, therefore, a fitting reward and rich place to end this great psalm. As we live out this passage, let us treasure the Word as we walk in the peace of the Word.

22. Taw: Petitioning the God of the Word (vv. 169-176). In the twenty-second stanza, the psalmist teaches us that we serve a God who hears us and helps us. First, the psalmist cries to the LORD to hear his plea for understanding and deliverance while praising God for the goodness of His ways and Word (vv. 169-172). Second, the psalmist concludes this great psalm with a cry for the LORD’s help because he is a “lost sheep” (vv. 173-176). If we are honest, this is not how we expect the longest chapter in the Bible to end. However, the psalmist is showing us not his lostness but his neediness for the presence of God (cf. Lk 18:9-14). Like the psalmist, let us remember we serve a God who hears and helps his sheep and that we must turn to God in our own neediness and difficulties.

APPLYING THE WORD

The great treasure of God’s Word (vv. 161-164)

- As you read over this stanza and look back over your time studying Psalm 119, in what ways has this study deepened your understanding and delight in God’s Word as our “great treasure” (v. 162)?
- Like the psalmist, what does it look like to both tremble at (v. 161) and treasure (v. 162) God’s Word?

The great peace of God’s Word (vv. 165-168)

- Like the psalmist, how have you experienced the “great peace” of delighting in God’s Word (v. 165)?

The God who hears (vv. 169-172)

- How does the psalmist teach us the tension of praising and pleading in our prayer life (169-172)?

The God who helps (vv. 173-176)

- How does viewing ourselves as sheep and servants shape the way we approach God in prayer (v. 176)?

WALKING IN THE WORD THIS WEEK

21. Sin and Shin (vv. 161-168)

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| Prayer | Lord, thank you for the great peace and the great treasure of your Word. |
| Practice | Make it your daily prayer this week for God to help you treasure His Word more. |

22. Taw (vv. 169-176)

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| Prayer | Lord, I delight in your Word, but I need you to deliver me from my ways (Ezek 34) |
| Practice | In silence and solitude this week prayerfully focus on your need as God’s sheep. |
