sermon notes

November 15, 2026 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church
"Sola Scriptura (Part 1)" | **Psalm 119 1:1–40**

א) God's Word is a _____ to the _____
(119:1–8)

ב) God's Word is a _____ to the _____
(119:9–16)

ג) God's Word is an _____ to the _____
(119:17–24)

ד) God's Word is a _____ to the _____
(119:25–32)

ה) God's Word is _____ to the _____
(119:33–40)

Questions for Further Application of God's Word:

GO DEEPER

Psalm 119 is an acrostic poem utilizing the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet from *aleph* (א) to *tav* (ת). And the entire chapter (176 verses!) testifies to the goodness and the power of God's Word! Why might the psalmist have chosen an acrostic structure, particularly for a poem celebrating God's Word? What terms does he use to refer to God's Word (for example, "law" and "testimonies"), and what does each reveal about it?

Summarize each of the first five sections, *aleph* (א) to *heh* (ה), in your own words. What is the author trying to convey in each particular section?

The *heh* (ה) section (119:33–40) has several commands or imperative statements (e.g., "teach me," "give me understanding"). To whom is the psalmist speaking? What is the psalmist asking for? Why is the psalmist so passionate with his requests? What do these repeated requests reveal about the psalmist's desires and his dependence on God?

GET PERSONAL

What is the significance of the first-person singular pronouns ("I") used extensively in this psalm (e.g., "I will praise you," "I will keep your statutes," and "I have stored up your word in my heart")? How would the meaning of the text change if those pronouns were plural ("we")? How does this personal language invite you to make the psalm's commitments and prayers your own? How might you use these words as a testimony or prayer before the Lord?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

What does it mean to "store up God's Word in your heart" (119:11)? Read through all of Psalm 119 and choose an 8-verse section (strophe) to memorize. Recite that strophe prayerfully every day before you begin your daily devotions.

ADVANCED QUESTION

What's the difference between honoring and upholding Scripture as God's Word and bibliolatry (i.e., the worship of the Bible)? How do we distinguish between God's written Word (Scripture) and the eternal WORD (Jesus Christ)? See John 1:1–18; John 5:39–40; and Luke 24:25–27, 44–47. In what ways does the Word of God testify to the WORD of God? How did Jesus use the Word of God to direct people towards himself?