

Sermon: Why It's Worthwhile Following God's Law; Date: March 19, 2017

Delivered by: Ajith Fernando, teaching director, Youth for Christ in Sri Lanka

Bible text reviewed and applied: Psalm 119:137-144

v. 137 *Righteous are you, O LORD,
and right are your rules.*

In view of the current furor over “fake news,” how does the “rightness” of God, as characterized by his morality and justice, contrast with the deceptions of the wicked?

v. 138 *You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness
and in all faithfulness.*

Dr. Fernando said that new believers in Sri Lanka tend to see abandoning efforts to get even for a wrong done as a failure to uphold family honor. Why can we be sure that adhering to God's counter-cultural instructions is not foolish? (See *Matt. 5:38-45; Proverbs 14:12.*)

v. 139 *My zeal consumes me,
because my foes forget your words.*

Is anger the normal reaction of a biblical Christian to the wrong-headedness of our worldly foes?

How does anger differ from bitterness?

To whom *should* we confide our anger?

What do we need to *remember* that our foes have forgotten?

v. 140 *Your promise is well tried,
and your servant loves it.*

How have God's promises been tested over time?
(See *Heb.* [chapter 11 and] *12:1; John 16:33.*)

How can we learn to treasure them?

v. 141 *I am small and despised,
yet I do not forget your precepts.*

Is feeling insignificant and being considered backward by our contemporaries harder to deal with than overt persecution?

What is the antidote for feeling small?

v. 142 *Your righteousness is righteous forever,
and your law is true.*

Why will clinging to eternal values ultimately triumph over the currently dominant ones? (See *Matt.16:26; John 17:17; 1 John 2:17.*)

v. 143 *Trouble and anguish have found me out,
but your commandments are my delight.*

When you are under pressure or feeling stressed out, do you tend to avoid reading the Bible or turn to it to refresh and energize your faith?

Have you memorized sections of Scripture to draw on during a down time?

v. 144 *Your testimonies are righteous forever;
give me understanding that I may live.*

Is there a cost to unreservedly following the way God tells us to live?

This passage ends with a prayer for understanding how to do that. What reward will having that prayer answered yield? (See *John 10:10.*)