

Today's Message: **MORAL PURITY**
Psalm 119:9-32
Pastor Gary L. Stump

How can we live a life of impact? How can we live a life of moral excellence?

Psalm 119:9a (NLT) How can a young person stay pure?

Moral excellence—the quality of doing what is right and avoiding what is wrong. It would include Virtue; Courage; Generosity; Integrity; Honesty; Compassion.

Wesley's Three Basic Precepts:

1. Shun evil and avoid partaking in wicked deeds at all costs
2. Perform kind acts as much as possible
3. Abide by the edicts of God the Almighty Father

A life of moral excellence comes by forming the habit of doing the right next thing.

How can God's word help us live a life of moral excellence?

☞ Beth

Psalm 119:9–32 (NLT) How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word. ¹⁰ I have tried hard to find you—don't let me wander from your commands. ¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. ¹² I praise you, O LORD; teach me your decrees. ¹³ I have recited aloud all the regulations you have given us. ¹⁴ I have rejoiced in your laws as much as in riches. ¹⁵ I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways. ¹⁶ I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word.

Do you have a desire to stay pure? Do you desire moral excellence?

2 Peter 1:5–8 (NLT) In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. ⁸ The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Have you tried hard to find the Lord?

Hebrews 11:6 (NLT) And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

Jeremiah 29:13 (ESV) You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Acts 17:27 (NLT) "His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us."

Have you hidden God's word in your heart?

Joshua 1:8 (NLT) Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.

ג Gimel

vv. 17-24 Be good to your servant, that I may live and obey your word. ¹⁸ Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions. ¹⁹ I am only a foreigner in the land. Don't hide your commands from me! ²⁰ I am always overwhelmed with a desire for your regulations. ²¹ You rebuke the arrogant; those who wander from your commands are cursed. ²² Don't let them scorn and insult me, for I have obeyed your laws. ²³ Even princes sit and speak against me, but I will meditate on your decrees. ²⁴ Your laws please me; they give me wise advice.

Are you asking God to open your eyes to His truth?

John 16:13a (NLT) "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth."

Are you turning to the Lord when you are insulted or discredited?

1 Peter 5:6 (NIV84) Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Are you living like a foreigner in this land?

1 Peter 2:11 (NLT) Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.

ד Daleth

vv. 25-32 I lie in the dust; revive me by your word. ²⁶ I told you my plans, and you answered. Now teach me your decrees. ²⁷ Help me understand the meaning of your commandments, and I will meditate on your wonderful deeds. ²⁸ I weep with sorrow; encourage me by your word. ²⁹ Keep me from lying to myself; give me the privilege of knowing your instructions. ³⁰ I have chosen to be faithful; I have determined to live by your regulations. ³¹ I cling to your laws. LORD, don't let me be put to shame! ³² I will pursue your commands, for you expand my understanding.

Are you asking God to help you apply His word to your life?

James 1:22–25 (NLT) But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. ²³ For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. ²⁴ You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. ²⁵ But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

Are you going to God's word for encouragement?

Deuteronomy 31:8 (NLT) Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you."

Are you growing in your love and knowledge of the Lord?

Philippians 1:9 (NLT) I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding.

SO WHAT?

Proverbs 16:2 (NLT) People may be pure in their own eyes, but the LORD examines their motives.

Romans 13:14 (NLT) Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.

2 Timothy 2:21 (NLT) If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.

Different Terms Used for God's Word in Psalm 119*

"Law" (*tôrâh*), occurring 25 times in the psalm, denotes direction or instruction. More often the word refers to a body of teaching, probably Deuteronomy and Leviticus, if not the whole Pentateuch. In fact in John 10:34 the corresponding Greek word for "Law" seems to include the entire Old Testament.

"Word" (*dābār*) occurs 20 times in the psalm. It is a general term for God's revelation, but the "Ten Commandments" are called "Ten Words" (literal Heb., Deut. 4:13).

"Saying" (*'imrâh*, often trans. "promise" in the NIV) occurs 19 times. It is often a poetical synonym for *dābār*.

"Commandment" (*mišwâh*) occurs (in the Heb.) 21 times in the plural (usually trans. "commands" in the NIV) and once in the singular collectively. It signifies a definite, authoritative command. It is frequently joined with the next two words.

"Statutes" (*hūqqîm*) occurs 21 times. In the Psalms it is always in the plural. Literally it means "things inscribed." So it refers to enacted Laws (and is trans. "decrees" in the NIV).

"Judgment" (*mišpōṭ*) occurs 19 times in the plural (often trans. "laws" in NIV), and 4 times in the singular. It represents a judicial decision that constitutes a precedence, a binding law. In the Pentateuch it referred to the laws after the Ten Commandments. The word can also mean God's judgmental acts on the wicked.

"Precepts" (*piqqûdîm*) occurs 21 times. It is a poetical word for injunctions, found only in the Psalter (always in the pl.).

"Testimony" (*'ēdâh*) occurs 22 times in the plural and once in the singular. It is a solemn attestation, a declaration of the will of God. It is a general word for ordinances that became God's standard of conduct. It is usually rendered "statutes" in the NIV.

"Way" (*derek*), used five times in the plural and six times in the singular, is a metaphorical term describing the pattern of life marked out by God's Law.

"Path" (*'ōrah*), used five times in Psalms, is parallel to "way."

* Ross, A. P. (1985). [Psalms](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, pp. 879–880). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

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[ONWARD CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2022](#)

1. LADIES BIBLE STUDY—WEDNESDAYS—Beginning this Wednesday at 9:30am at Kathy Stump's house (12928 Whitehaven Lane, Fishers; 131st & Cumberland). Studying the book of Hebrews. Hebrews study guide \$10. See Laurie Abell (317-432-6851) or Kathy Stump (317-292-7632) for more details.

2. LIVESTREAM ON FACEBOOK LIVE—We will continue to livestream our service on Pastor Gary's Facebook Live and it will be available on our website (www.onwardchurch.org) and our YouTube channel (see below for link)

Gary's FACEBOOK LIVE link: <https://www.facebook.com/gary.stump.3>

Onward Church YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSHetYKQbsv3tYGbNtwgnQg>

3. YOUTH GROUP TONIGHT—6-8pm at Jon & Shannon Harris' (16369 Drayton Way, Fortville).

4. FEBRUARY 26-27 2022 ONWARD MARRIAGE RETREAT at Brown County Inn, 51 State Rd. 46, Nashville, IN. Call **812-988-2291** to reserve your room This is the only cost to you (Double Queen - \$100.00 plus tax; King - \$110.00 plus tax) – reserve under **ONWARD MARRIAGE RETREAT PROMO CODE 0270**

[2022 Onward Marriage Retreat Schedule](#)

Speaker: Matthew A. Vander Wiele, Ed. D.

Theme: Experiencing Sabbath Rest within your Marriage

Saturday February 26th

ROOM CHECK IN: 4:00 pm (you may be able to check in earlier)

SESSION 1: 2:00pm – 3:30ish

FREE TIME/DINNER 4:00pm – 7:30pm

SESSION 2: 7:30pm – 9:00ish

Free Time

Sunday February 27th

ROOM CHECKOUT: Before Session

SESSION 3: 9:30am – 11:00ish

AFTERNOON FREE TIME!

- Light refreshments and snacks will be served at all sessions!
- Booklets provided!
- Bring – Bible, Journal, Pen and SPOUSE!!
- Have Fun!

5. CULTURE, RACE AND THE CHURCH is an online, self-paced course by **Dr. Charles Ware** through Grace Relations and the College of Biblical Studies. Here is a link for more information or to register:

<https://gracerelations.cbshouston.edu/>

6. 2022 ONWARD TO JERUSALEM BIBLE STUDY TOUR—OCTOBER 18-29, 2022. Cost of the tour will be approximately \$3,800 per person (double occupancy). A deposit of \$500 will hold your spot. For more information, please write Pastor Gary at gary@garystump.org.

7. "BIBLE ANSWER MAN"—Beginning next week we will have a segment in the service where we answer your Bible questions. If you have a particular Bible question, write it on the back of your Prayer Card and we will try to answer them beginning next Sunday.