**Peace to Win the Lost**

Mr 9:50 Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another. Psalm 119:1 Blessed are the undefiledin the way, **who walk in the law of the LORD**. **2** Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. 35 Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight. **176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep**; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.

Isa 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.1Pe 2:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are **now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls**.

Mt 18:12 How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? 13 And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray.Luke 15:4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? 7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Eze 34:6 My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them.

1. Being Arrogant, angry or annoyed losing our place in line, following afar off, becoming disinterested. 2. Being busy not able to keep close enough, becoming distracted. 3. Being chased to and fro by my enemies, and having no place to rest then become discouraged. 4. Being deceived, becoming divided. 5. Being diligent in following, loving Him and loving every Word of God and seeking those that go astray. We go where they are at, to bring them back without being ill affected.

Lu 15:6 And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

Lu 15:9 And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost.

Lu 15:24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

Lu 15:32 It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

The sheep was lost because of self. A sheep loses itself in one of five ways.

1.    The sheep is attracted by something out "in the wilderness," away from the flock of the Shepherd. What the sheep sees is more attractive and appealing. It tempts and seduces him, and he lusts after it ("the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes," [1 John 2:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Jn+2%3A16)).

2.    The sheep is aimless, not paying attention to what is going on. It aimlessly wanders off, and while it is *getting lost*, the sheep does not know it is losing its way. The

3.    The sheep refuses to heed the warnings of the shepherd and the example of the other sheep ("the pride of life," [1 John 2:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Jn+2%3A16)).

4.    The sheep is not attached enough to the shepherd or to the other sheep. There is not the bond or union there should be. Therefore, he stays off by himself, eating and resting and working alone until eventually he wanders off without anyone knowing it, including himself ([Hebrews 10:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+10%3A25)).

5.    The sheep does not trust the shepherd. It does not think the shepherd will take care and see that there is satisfying food. It goes astray in search of *greener pasture and more satisfying food*

As a bird that wandereth from her nest, so is a man that wandereth from his place (Proverbs 27:8).

If any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him (Hebrews 10:38).

2Pe 2:15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame: wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever (Jude 13).

The sheep was lost in the wilderness. The wilderness had an excitement about it. The unknown and the risk aroused the emotions, but once the sheep ventured out into the wilderness, he found its terrain rugged, full of narrow ridges and deep ravines and crevices. It was rough going, heavy with thick underbrush, pricking thorns, dangerous footing; and, if the way out was never found, it would sap the sheep's strength and age him ever so rapidly. Eventually the wilderness would take its life.

The wilderness and thrills of the world do attract the mind of a person. The world has so many distractions.

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him, for all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" ([1 John 2:15-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Jn+2%3A15-16)).

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" ([Galatians 5:19-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+5%3A19-21)).

My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their resting place" ([Jeremiah 50:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+50%3A6)).

My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them" ([Ezekiel 34:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eze+34%3A6)).

But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd" ([Matthew 9:36](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+9%3A36)).

 The sheep was sought until found.

1.    The lost sheep was sought ([Luke 15:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+15%3A4)). The shepherd left the ninety-nine to seek the one lost sheep. The ninety-nine were safe; they were already in the shepherd's fold. But the one sheep was lost.

It was the one that needed to be sought. It was this sheep that needed the attention of the shepherd and was to occupy the time, energy, and effort of the shepherd. As long as the sheep was lost, seeking it was the primary purpose and reason for the shepherd. (What a lesson for the church and ministers!)

2.    The search was urgent. The shepherd *went after* that which was lost ([Luke 15:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+15%3A4)). He was gripped with concern. He went after the one lost sheep as though it was the only one. Note the shepherd's dedication and commitment to seeking the lost.

3.    The shepherd sought until he found the sheep. He did not seek complacently or slowly, as though there was plenty of time. Nor did he give up, despite the difficulties that lay along the rough terrain and the weariness of the long hours and the tediousness of running into dead end after dead end. He sought and kept on seeking until he found the lost sheep. He never slackened, never backed off, never gave up.

4.    When the shepherd found the sheep, he embraced the sheep and threw it over his shoulders. He received it...

•    with arms wide open.

•    embracing it.

•    rejoicing in heart.

•    supporting and carrying it to his home ([Luke 15:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+15%3A6)).

 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" ([Isaiah 53:4-6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+53%3A4-6)).

Ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls" ([1 Peter 2:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+2%3A25)).

I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments" ([Psalm 119:176](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+119%3A176)).

Romans 1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

Changed, (was just like everyone else)

Acts 9:1 ¶ And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

**Peace in every trial**

Ps 119:165 Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them. Isa 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Php 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Peace. Not the absence of external conflict, many troubles and problems facing the psalmist, - just to remind ourselves of some of the difficulties he was going through:

23 "princes also did sit and speak against me"

51 "the proud have had me greatly in derision"

61 "the bands of the wicked have robbed me"

69 "the proud have forged a lie against me"

78 "they [the proud] dealt perversely with me without a cause"

87 "they had almost consumed me upon earth"

110 "the wicked have laid a snare for me"

143 "Trouble and anguish have taken hold of me" 157 "many are my persecutors and mine enemies" 161 "princes have persecuted me without a cause"

Ps 119:176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.

Joh 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

His life was full of external troubles, God did not keep him from them - but he was at peace. As someone who loved God's law he was at peace. He had peace with God and peace within himself.

Ps 119:1 ALEPH. Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. 2 Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. 176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.

1. WE all have been as sheep gone astray in light of the Psalmist.
   1. seek thy servant Rom.3:23;
   2. Blessed…seek him with the whole heart.

167 My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly. 168 I have kept thy precepts and thy testimonies: for all my ways are before thee.

1. Some are as sheep going astray.
   1. From seeking Him with the whole heart.

The whole psalm is designed to illustrate a sincere and conscientious attachment to the principles of the word of God in the various circumstances of life.

“Blessed” “undefiled in the way” “Who walk in the law of the Lord” --- Who habitually obey his law.

This constitutes sincerity, uprightness, perfection in a man's life, for the law of the Lord is the only just rule of human conduct.

*God’s written revelation, His word.* Instructions for living and teachings on the importance of the "law of the LORD" are priceless and hold the keys for living a blessed life.

1. *Many have gone astray for a long time.*

*Ps 119:126 It is time for thee, LORD, to work: for they have made void thy law. Ro 3:31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.*

*Da 2:20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: 21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:*

*Da 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.*

*2Th 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*

*1Jo 2:22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.*

*Da 11:36 And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. 37 Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.*

Times and laws; which have respect to religion. He shall usurp God's authority in respect to religion.

*126 It is time for thee, LORD, to work: for they have made void thy law.*

*113 SAMECH. I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love.*

*19 I am a stranger in the earth: hide not thy commandments from me.*

*37 Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.*

*53 Horror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake thy law.*  *150 They draw nigh that follow after mischief: they are far from thy law*

89 ¶ LAMED. For ever, O LORD, **thy word** is settled in heaven.

Ps 119:160 ¶ **Thy word** is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.

Ps 119:133 ¶ Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

Ps 119:143 ¶ Trouble and anguish have taken hold on me: yet thy commandments are my delights.

Ps 119:1 ¶ ALEPH. Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.

Ps 119:2 Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.

Ps 119:12 ¶ Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.

Blessing and suffering Promise and experience

This Psalm is far more than just a celebration of the law of the Lord.

The setting is a situation of deep personal distress at the hands of enemies who are never far away. Celebration is mingled with cries of anguish and longing for deliverance.

Ps 119:11 ¶ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Present external Christianity gives place to a universal apostasy.

Ps 119:**2 Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.** 35 ¶ Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.

There is a **doctrinal keeping** of the word when we are ready to die for its defence, and a **practical keeping** of it when we actually live under its power. **Revealed truth** is precious as diamonds, and should be **doctrinal** kept or treasured up in the memory and in the heart as the law was kept in the ark; this however is not enough, for it is meant for **practical use**, and therefore it must be kept or followed, as men keep to a path, or to a line of business.

* If we keep God's testimonies
  + God's testimonies will keep us;
    - They will keep us right in opinion,
    - comfortable in spirit,
    - holy in conversation,
    - hopeful in expectation.

Ps 119:43 ¶ And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments. 74 They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; because I have hoped in thy word. 81 My soul fainteth for thy salvation: but I hope in thy word. 114 Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word. 116 Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope. 147 I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy word.