

Summary – Sunday Morning Worship (Nov 23)

Theme: *Affliction's Blessing—Finding God's Goodness in Trials*

Primary Text: Psalm 119:65–72

Supporting Reading: 2 Timothy 3:10–17

Service Flow Overview

The service opened with announcements, including:

- A thank-you card from the Chapman family.
- A reminder of the Thanksgiving fellowship meal immediately following the service.
- No Wednesday night service this week.
- Covenant membership teaching beginning the following Wednesday.
- Pastor and family Open House on December 6.

The congregation prayed together, then sang *Come Thou Fount, Grace Greater Than Our Sin, Amazing Grace*, and later *Jesus Is Alive*. Scripture reading came from **2 Timothy 3:10–17**, emphasizing perseverance, suffering, and the sufficiency of Scripture. After a time of greeting, the sermon began.

Sermon Summary

Main Idea:

Psalm 119:65–72 reveals the psalmist's conviction that *God is good, does good, and uses affliction for our good*. The passage calls believers to trust in God's character, submit to His Word, and gain wisdom through trials.

1. God Has “Dealt Well” With His People (v. 65)

Though the psalmist has suffered, he confesses that God has *only ever acted with goodness toward him*.

- God's promises have proven trustworthy.

- Looking back on God's past faithfulness strengthens faith for present trials.
- Job is given as an example: he did not understand his suffering, yet he trusted God's character—"Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him."

The pastor addressed the hard question: **Why does a good God allow suffering?** He reminded the congregation that:

- We live in a fallen world where no one is righteous—not one.
- Suffering is universal; Scripture never promises a life free from trouble.
- God's purposes are higher and often hidden from us.

2. Affliction Teaches Wisdom and Dependence (vv. 66–67)

The psalmist asks God to teach him *good judgment and knowledge*—wisdom that only comes from Scripture.

- Instead of retaliating when wronged, believers must trust God to bring justice (Romans 12:17–19).
- Many reject God's Word today, rewriting morality to suit culture, but Scripture remains the only reliable guide.
- National healing comes through repentance, not legislation (2 Chronicles 7:13–15).

Affliction is also **corrective**:

- Before suffering, the psalmist "went astray."
- Discipline proves God's love (Hebrews 12:6).
- Affliction brings wandering hearts back to obedience and creates a deeper love for God's commands.

3. God Is Good and Does Good (v. 68)

God's goodness is His very nature.

- Everything He does—creation, redemption, sustaining His people—is good.

- Even His discipline flows from love.
- Believers should pray, like the psalmist, to be taught God's statutes and treasure His Word.

4. Responding to Slander With Steadfast Obedience (vv. 69–70)

The psalmist faces lies and slander from the proud.

- Instead of defending himself in the flesh, he clings wholeheartedly to God's commandments.
- Evil people, described as having "fat hearts," lack spiritual sensitivity.
- But God's people can endure persecution because "He who is for us is greater than he who is against us."

The pastor compared this to Jesus, who endured false accusations without retaliation.

5. Affliction Is "Good" When It Leads Us to God (v. 71)

Affliction becomes a classroom for the believer.

- It drives us to Scripture, prayer, and deeper trust in God.
- God often uses trials to humble, refine, and mature His people.
- The pastor shared the story of John Wesley, who said even his difficult wife kept him on his knees—and that drove him to victory.

6. God's Word Is More Valuable Than Gold (v. 72)

The psalmist values Scripture above wealth.

- God's Word carries divine authority and eternal worth.
- Earthly riches cannot compare to the treasure of knowing God.
- Even heaven's gold will pale in the presence of Christ, who redeemed us by His blood.

Closing Exhortation

Believers should view suffering not first with the question “*Why?*” but with “*For what purpose?*”

- What might God be teaching?
- How might He be shaping us?
- How might His Word become sweeter through trials?

Jonathan Edwards was quoted:

“The glory of God seemed to overcome me, and every conceivable suffering seemed to shrink to nothing before it.”

The service closed with prayer, an invitation to respond at the altar, and a final song of celebration in *Jesus Is Alive*. Then the pastor dismissed the congregation to the fellowship meal.