



## From Our Vicar

Rev. Wayne Walters

### A Key to Success—Ask the Right Questions Psalm 119.9-16

At home we have recently been enjoying ABC iview episodes of Back Roads. These are endearing explorations of Australian country towns always introduced with a series of questions to engage the viewer and give the show focus.

It should be no surprise that the Bible is full of questions. Questions are basic to the art of communication, to learning and to building relationship, as is listening well to the responses.

David, author of our Psalm for Sunday, begins our passage with a question, as he does throughout the Psalms.

For example, Psalm 8, 'What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?'; or Psalm 22 - 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' and Psalm 24 - 'Who may ascend the hill of the Lord, who may stand in his holy place?' - to name but a few.

In Psalm 119:9 David asks, 'How can a young man keep his way pure?'

While among my readers young men may be in the minority, I believe the advice given applies more widely. The whole psalm, the longest in the Bible, consists of praise for the Word of God.

His prompt answer in this conversation which he directs to God is 'to live according to your word.'

Then he describes the strategies he has employed to achieve this. First is prayer: 'I seek you with all my heart. Do not let me stray from your commands.' Then memorising scripture: 'I have hidden your word in my heart that I may not sin against you.'

We might also call this immersion in and meditation on God's word. He speaks God's word aloud with his lips and meditates on God's ways, taking them to heart. He treasures God's word more than wealth, delighting in it, and vows that 'I will not neglect your word.' His bible will not gather dust on the shelf.

What strategies do you use to help you to live according to God's word? Which of the above might you decide to practise through the coming week? What obstacles stand in your way? How will you overcome them?

God bless you,

Wayne

PS. Check out the apps 'Bible in One Year' and 'Youversion'. These are great helps giving audio access to daily devotionals and the whole bible. BIOY includes daily commentary by Nicky Gumble. Popular print devotionals are 'Every Day with Jesus', 'Our Daily Bread', 'The Word for Today'.