

The Counterpoint Mind
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From Psalm 119. We are indebted to Dr. L. C. Scott for the basis of THE COUNTERPOINT MIND, PART 1

Here is my attempted explanation.

#1. There is an alternating rhythm in this psalm.

- Circumstance: A circumstantial set of dynamics is mentioned involving material conditions. "My soul cleaves to the dust," (the situation is existential, bad, dangerous, imposing) -- v. 25.
- Then a reference to the word of God: "Revive me according to Your word" (v. 25.)

#2. This alternating structure amounts to a shift from concretes --> to--> abstractions (ideas). Or from temporal descriptions --> to--> Revelation.

#3. But this is not a logical movement from circumstance to deduction, as in Sherlock Holmes.

#4. This alternation is perhaps best understood as POINT --> to --> COUNTERPOINT.

#5. Point and counterpoint stand in a mutual state of contradiction.

#6. The counterpoint mind disallows circumstance and concretes from serving as the foundation for reasoning and behavior. Additionally, it just as surely insists that the Word of God is the only foundation for thought and action.

#7. The counterpoint Mind stands in material reality and circumstance. There in that situation, it utters a prayer: "Teach me good discernment and knowledge, for I believe in Your commandments" (v. 66.)

This is the counterpoint mind agenda: The essence of counterpoint is unrivaled faith and trust in revelation.

From Psalm 119. Dr. Scott's THE COUNTERPOINT MIND, PART 2.

#1. As circumstances begin to develop, then one "begins counterpointing" (Dr. Scott's wording).

- Temptation presents itself. One immediately begins counterpointing (v. 9.)
- Uncertainty unfolds. One begins counterpointing (v. 5.)

- As experience takes hold, one begins counterpointing (v. 18.)
- When discouragements set in, one begins counterpointing (v. 82).

#2. This practice is POINT • COUNTERPOINT. And it is performed in spite of circumstantial realities.

#3. Counterpoint Truth overrules unaided human reason. Example: The theory of “the conservation of information” dictates that each circumstance and situation (this is called a “field”) contains enough information to determine what will happen next.

The psalmist did not believe that. The gravity of this is not lost on one seriously ill; with a less than favorable diagnosis.

- POINT: Grave conditions. COUNTERPOINT: "I am exceedingly afflicted; Revive me, O Lord, according to Your word" (v. 107.)
- POINT: Approaching danger. COUNTERPOINT: "Sustain me according to Your word, that I may live; And do not let me be ashamed of my hope" (v. 118.)

#4. The Counterpoint Mind is resolved and hopeful: "I shall keep Your statutes; Do not forsake me utterly" (v. 8.)

From Psalm 119. THE COUNTERPOINT MIND, PART 3.

#1. OUR LIFE CIRCUMSTANCE, AS A RULE, BEGS FOR THE COUNTERPOINT. Hardships, trials, troubles, failures and the shadow of death lend to wishful thinking. We often ponder better circumstances and better times. In other words, we hunger for the counterpoint: "My soul weeps because of grief; Strengthen me according to Your word" (v. 28.)

#2. Wishful thinking is nothing more than a hope for something else .

#3. Some examples of Counterpoints:

- Earth•Heaven; Point•Counterpoint.
- Human Wisdom•The Word of God; Point•Counterpoint.
- Right•Wrong; Point•Counterpoint.
- The False•The True; Point•Counterpoint.

"Incline my heart to your testimonies and not to dishonest gain" (v. 36.) "Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity, and revive me in Your ways" (v.37.)

#4. Each of us must cast the die. "This has become mine, that I observe Your precepts" (v. 56.) There is no middle ground: "I hate those who are doubleminded, but I love Your law" (v. 113.)

#5. None are perfect: "I have gone astray like a sheep, seek your servant" (v. 176). Still, the counterpoint mind is resolute: "For I do not forget Your commandments" (v. 176.) This one serves the King regardless of circumstance. And defends His Kingdom.

The Counterpoint Mind confirms to itself, "We will stand and guard though the angels sleep" (*Mansions of The Lord*).