

“The Psalm of Psalms” Psalm 119

Introduction: We have made our way to this most beautiful passage; it was crafted and set to the subject of God’s Word. There are many aspects or topics within this psalm, but it is unmistakably centered around the relationship that the Christian has with the Word of God... His precepts, statutes, ordinances, and His laws. I will take this psalm and devotionally focus on the Christian’s relationship with the very Words God has given us to survive in this world of sin and trouble.

Even in this fallen world, the Word of God allows us access to success, joy, growth, spiritual life, comfort, direction, truth, wisdom, and at its core, salvation. The Word of God is a personal gift to the world from a loving God.

The Christian loves the Word of God. A person that does not have a love for God’s Word, a desire to read and study the Word, and a passion for the Word of God, raises questions about their salvation. I do not know a growing Christian that does not read, memorize, and obey the Word. A person cannot have the author of the Word of God, living in them, and not be asked by the Holy Spirit... *“have you read my book?”*

Context and resources for you:

The author is unknown but you know I am going to say it’s David. There seems to be no specific tragedy or situation that prompted the writing of this psalm other than the king’s relation with the Word through the trials, joys, and everyday circumstances of life. How is your relationship with the Law?

Information from studyandobey.com:

Psalm 119 Overview

Outline-

- I. Aleph- Walking in the Law of the Lord (vv 1-8)
- II. Beth- Purifying Our Way (vv 9-16)
- III. Gimel- Beholding Wonderful Things from His Word (vv 17-24)
- IV. Daleth- Strengthening by His Word (vv 25-32)
- V. He- Understanding Produces Obedience (vv 33-40)
- VI. Vav- Walking in Liberty (vv 41-48)
- VII. Zayin- Comforted by His Word (vv 49-56)
- VIII. Heth- The Lord is My Portion (vv 57-64)
- IX. Teth- Affliction Teaches God's Word (vv 65-72)
- X. Yodh- Unashamed in His Word (vv 73-80)
- XI. Kaph- Help in Persecution (vv 81-88)
- XII. Lamedh- His Word Stands Forever (vv 89-96)
- XIII. Mem- Meditating on the Word (vv 97-104)
- XIV. Nun- Guided by His Word (vv 105-112)
- XV. Samekh- Safety in His Word (vv 113-120)
- XVI. Ayin- His Word is Priceless (vv 121-128)
- XVII. Pe- His Word Shines on Us (vv 129-136)
- XVII. Tsadhe- Zeal for the Word (vv 137-144)
- XIX. Qoph- Crying out for God's Word (vv 145-152)
- XX. Resh- Rescued by His Word (vv 153-160)
- XXI. Shin- Loving His Word (vv 161-168)
- XXII. Tav- A Body in Complete Subject to His Word (vv 169-176)

Outline as found in Believer's Bible Commentary-

- I. Aleph- The Blessedness of Obeying the Word (vv 1-8)*
- II. Beth- Cleansing By the Word (vv 9-16)*
- III. Gimel- Discernment by the Word (vv 17-24)*
- IV. Daleth- Sense of Personal Insufficiency Through the Word (vv 25-32)*
- V. He- The Power of the Word (vv 33-40)*
- VI. Vav- Victory Through the Word (vv 41-48)*
- VII. Zayin- Rest and Comfort Through the Word (vv 49-56)*
- VIII. Heth- Perseverance in the Word (vv 57-64)*
- IX. Teth- The Pricelessness of the Word in Good and Evil Times (vv 65-72)*
- X. Yodh- Insights Through the Word (vv 73-80)*
- XI. Kaph- The Afflicted One Sustained By the Word (vv 81-88)*
- XII. Lamedh- Eternity of the Word (vv 89-96)*

- XIII. Mem- Wisdom Through the Word (vv 97-104)*
XIV. Nun- The Word a Lamp and Light For All Occasions (vv 105-112)
XV. Samekh- The Wicked and the Word (vv 113-120)
XVI. Ayin- Separation and Deliverance Through the Word (vv 121-128)
XVII. Pe- Joy and Communion Through the Word (vv 129-136)
XVIII. Tsadhe- Zeal for the Word (vv 137-144)
XIX. Qoph- Experience Through the Word (vv 145-152)
XX. Resh- Salvation Through the Word (vv 153-160)
XXI. Shin- Perfection of the Word (vv 161-168)
XXII. Tav- Prayer and Praise Through the Word (vv 169-176)

Outline as Found in Walvoord and Zuck OT Commentary-

- I. Aleph- Blessings of Obedience (vv 1-8)
 II. Beth- Cleansing by God's Word (vv 9-16)
 III. Gimel- Appreciation of God's Word (vv 17-24)
 IV. Daleth- Prayer for Understanding (vv 25-32)
 V. He- Loyalty to God's Word (vv 33-40)
 VI. Vav- Salvation through God's Word (vv 41-48)
 VII. Zayin- Hope from God's Word (vv 49-56)
 VIII. Heth- Obedience to God's Word (vv 57-64)
 IX. Teth- Trust in God's Word (vv 65-72)
 X. Yodh- Hope in God's Word (vv 73-80)
 XI. Kaph- God's Word is Faithful (vv 81-88)
 XII. Lamedh- God's Word is Sure (vv 89-96)
 XIII. Mem- God's Word is Sweet (vv 97-104)
 XIV. Nun- God's Word is a Light (vv 105-112)
 XV. Samekh- God's Word is Awe-Inspiring (vv 113-120)
 XVI. Ayin- Vindication from God (vv 121-128)
 XVII. Pe- God's Word is Wonderful (vv 129-136)
 XVIII. Tsadhe- God's Word is Righteous (vv 137-144)
 XIX. Qoph- God's Word is True (vv 145-152)
 XX. Resh- Love for God's Word (vv 153-160)
 XXI. Shin- Rejoicing in God's Word (vv 161-168)
 XXII. W* Tav- Deliverance by God's Word (vv 169-176)

Key Verse- 119:10&11

Other Key Verses- 119:1, 9, 18, 28, 34, 45, 47, 50, 57, 71, 87, 89, 99, 105, 127, 128, 130, 148, 160, 165, 175, 176

Author- Unclear, but possibly David, Daniel, or Ezra (although Asaph, Solomon, Heman, Ethan, Moses, and the sons of Korah also wrote in the Psalms)

History- In general, the Psalms are a collection of lyrical (to be sung, and often accompanied by musical instruments) poems. These poems directly expressed the emotions of the poets who wrote them, as they are stirred by the thought of God and directed to Him. Some of these addressed God directly (were prayed) in petition or praise. Many also made note of God's faithfulness and works in the past. Basically, they were the "hymnal" used in worship by God's people.

Psalm 119 is found in "Book Five" of the Psalms (107-150). It is known as a "wisdom" Psalm, meaning it gives instruction about God's will and righteous living. The author apparently wrote it while in some kind of serious trouble, and was looking to the Scripture throughout night and day for comfort, protection, wisdom, and joy.

Date: Unknown

Impressions-

- Although Bible chapters and verses are man-made, in the case of Psalm 119, the verses follow the organization on a scroll. There are 176 lines and there are 176 verses.
- The lines (verses) are grouped in eights. Each group of 8 is a stanza, and is organized under a Hebrew letter of the *alef-bet*, which are grouped in order, beginning with *alef*, and ending with *tav*. 22 letters = 22 stanzas of 8 lines each = 176 lines (verses).
- Each line (verse) begins with the stanza's Hebrew letter, and each line is tied thematically to the Hebrew letter pictographically. The psalm consistently employs Hebrew parallelism (e.g. Prov 3:13-26)
- Psalm 119 is not the only Scripture that uses *alef-bet* or parallelism (Antithetical, Synthetic, Synonymous). This structure is not meant merely as poetic device as many think. Scripture is not just 'pretty words' – it is always about revelation of a Person.
- Psalm 119 uses 10 key words that are found in each verse except verse 122. These 10 key words give insights into God's Word itself:
- **Torah** = instruction; **Edut** = testimonies, witnesses; **Derek** = way; **Pikudim** = precepts; **Chokim** = statutes; **Mitzvot** = commandments, ordinances; **Mishaptim** =

judgments, ordinances; **Davar** = word; **Imrah** = word; **Tzedek** = righteousness.

“By using the alphabet in this acrostic form, Ridout feels that the writer may have been suggesting that ‘all the possibilities of human language are exhausted in setting forth the fullness and perfection of the Word of God.’ We have a similar suggestion in the NT. Our Lord speaks of Himself as the Alpha and Omega (Rev. 1:8). These are, of course, the first and last words of the Greek alphabet. The thought is that He is everything of goodness and perfection that can be expressed by every letter of the alphabet, arranged in every possible combination.” -BBC

Names for God’s Word-

Law- *Torah* occurs 25 times and shows direction or instruction. This word is also used to cover the entire OT.

Testimony- *Edut* occurs 23 times, and is a solemn witness and declaration of the will of God. It is a general rule for the laws by which God shows us our standard of conduct.

Way/Path- *Derek/Orah* occurs 16 times, and describes the pattern of life marked out by God’s Law.

Precept- *Pikudim* occurs 21 times, and is a poetical word for commands or restrictions.

Statute- *Chokim* occurs 21 times, and means “things inscribed.” It refers to laws that have been carried out.

Commandment- *Mitzvot* occurs 22 times and shows a definite, authoritative command.

Judgment- *Mishaptim* occurs 23 times, and represents a judicial decision that constitutes a precedence, a binding law.

Word- *Imrah; Davar* occurs 20 times, and is a general term for God’s revelation, though the Ten Commandments were also called the “Ten Words.”

Ordinance- *Mitzyot; Mishaptim*

Righteousness- *Tzedek*

In the NKJV, only four verses do not contain a name or description for God's Word in them- 84, 121, 122, and 132.

The first observation the psalmist has about God's Word is that we are blessed if we obey it. God's Word is full of this kind of cause and effect.

Many calls "to action" are issued, and we are blessed if we fulfill them. Among other "action" words in this Psalm that dictate how we should relate to God's Word are- walk, observe, seek, do, keep, look, give thanks, learn, treasure, tell, rejoice, meditate, regard, delight, do not forget, live, understand, and do not forsake.

"Heart" is mentioned 15 times in this Psalm. "All my heart" occurs 6 times. God sees the heart, so it makes sense that it should be the objective of His Word, and that it should be fully involved as we relate to His Word.

Humility is necessary when approaching God's Word. A teachable heart is a humble heart. The arrogant are mentioned 6 times as men who wander from His commandments, lie against His followers, and try to trap them, should be ashamed, and are rebuked by God.

At least 21 verses speak of turning to and trusting God's Word during times of distress. It should be our first refuge when we are going through trials.

"Meditate" or "Meditation" is mentioned 8 times through this Psalm. It is not enough to read occasionally or even daily, but we should carry what we have studied with us throughout the day and night, thinking on it, praying over it, giving thanks because of it, and figuring out how we can apply it to our lives.

There is no room for a half-hearted approach to the Word. Many times throughout this Psalm, words like –diligently, with all my heart, treasured, delight, cling, continually, and many others show an all-out approach to His Word. The psalmist even asks God to enlarge his heart.

God's Word is our most valued possession. We are to delight in it, to treasure it above all riches, to long after it and languish for it, to rise at midnight to give thanks for it, love it, rejoice over it as one who finds great spoil, praise him seven times a day because of it, and find it sweeter than honey (among other admonitions).

This is both the longest Psalm and the longest chapter in the Bible.

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Exegesis of Psalm 119:

“The Christian’s Relationship with The Word”

A Aleph 1-8

“The Blessedness of Obedience”

Verse 1: Notice with me the purity that comes from the effects of the Word. We are blessed when we obey the truth. Blessed (**'esher**), is a Hebrew word that means happy or blessed. Those who obey are also called undefiled. Blameless is an awesome word. No, we are not perfect in ourselves but in obedience we are blameless.

We walk according to the law of God. We will see this word **derek** many times in this psalm. It refers to a journey or way. This is not a stroll but a journey. The Christian walks on a continual and progressive journey with his Lord.

We will also see each verse use some form of law, statute, ordinance, etc., in each verse. It will be obvious what the subject matter is all about. Here the word is torah, (Decalogue, Pentateuch).

Verse 2: Keep the statutes. **Edut** occurs 23 times, and is a solemn witness and declaration of the will of God. It is a general rule for the laws by which God shows us our standard of conduct.

Blessings come with passion for the Word. Heart desire is worth millions and cannot be attained from any outside source. YOU must produce the passion. The responsibility rest with the individual to seek obedience and love for God's statutes.

Verse 3: We are not perfect but those who walk in the truth do no wrong (**'evel**). This refers to iniquity, perverseness, and unrighteousness. The idea is to walk in the ways of God. One may stumble and still walk in the same direction.

Verse 4: Precept- **Pikudim** occurs 21 times, and is a poetical word for commands or restrictions. God has not left us without directions and commands. We are told in the Word what is acceptable and what is not.

Obedience is not a suggestion. The word **me'od** means diligence. We are to keep the precepts diligently and with desire. The NIV says fully. We may also translate it as quickly or with might. Obey quickly. I like that.

Verse 5: The key word here is **koon** or **kuwn**. This means steadfast (NIV). The KJV says directed. Both are correct and I like the KJV best here. I want to be in control of my behavior in such a way as to direct my obedience in the Word. This is doing what we know to do. James says, *that to know to do good and do it not is sin.*

Verse 6: The Hebrew for shame here is **boosh**. This is to be delayed, disappointed, ashamed, or confounded. As Christians, we are always seeking God's wisdom and clarity. As we consider

God's commands, we are not delayed or embarrassed. We will not be confused, but we will be confident and filled with faith.

Verse 7: The Word of God teaches us about God, therefore, we are better equipped to praise a God we know. An upright heart is better suited to praise God. One who does not obey is not likely to come before God with a happy heart. When Adam sinned, he hid from God. Obedience draws us to God. Learn the laws, love thy God.

Verse 8: David expresses this thought in psalm 51. "*Lord do not take your Holy Spirit from me.*" The obedient Christian cannot bear the thought of separation. Our relationship and fellowship with God are precious to us and any failure to keep the decrees that causes a break in fellowship will be avoided at all cost.

b Beth 9-16 **"The Secret to Holiness"**

Verse 9: How can a young man continually walk in holiness? Memorize the Word! Living with the Word is a sure way to be aided in holy living. Living according to God's Word means that you are affected by it. The Word changes, controls and prepares us for life. We are to live according to the Word.

Verse 10: A great prayer and plan for life. Seek God with your entire being and pray for God not to let you wander away. "*God keep me close.*" (Heart, mind, soul, and strength).

Verse 11: The direct result of putting God's Word in the heart is that it keeps us from sin.

2 Tim 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

NIV

Verse 12: The teaching of the Word brings praise to the lips. To hear most folks talk about discipleship, you would think it was painful. We are to praise as the Lord teaches us.

Verse 13: What is in the heart will make its way to the lips. The Word from God's mouth that is hidden in our hearts will come to the surface and bring praise to God. O, the joy, and pride we feel when we quote the Words of God. This helps the young man cleans his way.

Verse 14: There will come a day when the laws of God will be a joy to you. You will learn what the benefits are from obedience. Others will have fallen and lost their lives, but you will rejoice because the Lord's Word has protected your life. We will boast in the statutes of God. The Word is not to be compared to the capricious riches of this world.

1 John 5:2-4

2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. 3 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not **burdensome**, 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world.

NIV

Verse 15: This is the key to my preaching. Many have recognized that pastor has good insight into the Word. May I say that all credit belongs to God. The Lord has gifted me with this ability. I know from where it comes. Yet, just because the Lord has given me a discerning heart for the Word does not mean that I can coast

one bit. Meditation is the key. Hard work is the key. We put so much effort into so many unfruitful things, but not the Word. Shame on us for that.

I have made it a practice to prepare properly to teach and preach the Word. I honestly put every ounce of my being into preparation and meditation. That includes time reading, praying, exegesis, memorization, and buying proper resources.

The Hebrew word for meditate is **Siyach**. This refers to musing. The opposite of [a]musing. This is to speak, talk, and commune. This is active study. Give the Word the time it deserves, and you will consider His ways as you should. I want to know His ways. This means to rehearse or go over a matter in one's mind. This is to rehearse the works of God. If the experience is painful it is translated as "complaint."

We are to give ourselves to considering the ways of God. **Nabat** is to behold, consider, look, regard, or have respect for. I will **consider** the works of God. If the Atheist would do this, he would not be an Atheists.

Verse 16: Love for the Word stops neglect (**shakach** to mislay, forget, oblivious, and lose memory of) of the Word. If a person does not love the Word and enjoy the Word, He is not of God. You cannot think the Word is boring and be saved. Sorry. A person that does not enjoy the teaching, preaching, and memorizing of the Word, does not love God. (Note verse 47-48, 97, 113, 127, 140, 159).

1 John 2:5-6

5 But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

NIV

Col 3:16-17

16 **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly** as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

NIV

Delight in the Word... do not neglect it.

g Gimel 17-24

“The Truth is Revealed, Not Learned”

Verse 17: The psalmist understands there are benefits to serving God. Many take for granted those blessings and as soon as they get out of a pickle they revert back to living without God’s help. Here the psalmist says he will remember to obey the Word even after God has given life. Our lives are dependent totally upon God. If God is good, we can live. Obedience is the least we can do.

Verse 18: Truth is revealed, not learned. The process works like this. God gives His Word to the writers by way of inspiration or revelation. The Holy Spirit guides the writer without dictation. He uses his vocabulary and life experiences to write the text. This makes the Holy Spirit the author and the man the vessel.

2 Tim 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

NIV

2 Peter 1:19-21

19 And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your

hearts. 20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were **carried along** by the Holy Spirit.

NIV

Acts 27:13-16

13 When a gentle south wind began to blow, they thought they had obtained what they wanted; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. 14 Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the "northeaster," swept down from the island. 15 The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were **driven along**.

NIV

Inspiration is followed by illumination. This is the author revealing truth to the reader. If the author lives in you, He will reveal truth to you.

The Hebrew word here is **galah**, which means reveal, discover, open tell, or uncover. The lost man has no chance of seeing the Word in its truth. Even the believer needs the illumination of the Spirit for understanding.

The scripture is powerful and can change a person's life, but it will come by way of illumination. This is why the most educated infidel cannot understand the Word without help. In his discourse on wisdom, in 1 Corinthians 2, Paul speaks about this issue. The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God because they are foolishness to him. They are only spiritually discerned. In Romans 1:18ff, Paul says they actually suppress the truth. Paul again says this...

2 Cor 4:4-5

4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

NIV

Our prayer should be verse 18. Lord please open my eyes so that I may see all that your Word offers me.

Verse 19: What more telling an argument for revelation and the commands of God to be revealed to us? Lord we do not belong here. We are surrounded by the alien influences of evil. We do not belong here. Paul says our citizenship is in heaven. We are light in a dark world right now. We are Saints in the realm of unholiness. We are the righteous in the world of unrighteousness. We are the humble in the realm of the prideful. We are the givers in the realm of takers. We are the eternal in the sphere of the temporary. We do not live here. Oh Lord, we need your commands.

Verse 20: The entire psalm is dedicated to passion for the Word. Here we see the truth of verse 19 that this world creates a longing and desire for the Word. We crave it, desire it, and love it. The Word consumes us because it is truth in a world of lies. The Word satisfies us and brings clarity to this life.

The psalmist says his soul was crushed, dissolved, broken, or consumed with longing for the Word. Does that sound like the average Christian on Sunday morning before worship? Nope!

Verse 21: Those who think they know better than God will **not** keep His commands. What will they do? What do people do when they think they know better than God's commands? They stray.

The word here is **shagah**. This means to stray out of ignorance. To be deceived or to wander. Those who stray do so in ignorance. This is the uneducated and undisciplined Christian or lost man.

Verse 22: We see several words closely associated. Shame, rebuke, contempt, or reproach. We keep the statutes of God because we don't want to be shamed. Many folks today have no dread of shame.

We compare this with the lyrics of the hymn "*The Old Rugged Cross*." The reproach and shame are different. If we bear shame or reproach, let it be for the gospel sake, not disobedience.

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
 The emblem of suffering and shame;
 And I love that old cross where the dearest and best,
 For a world of lost sinners was slain.
 So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
 Till my trophies at last I lay down,
 I will cling to the old rugged cross,
 And exchange it someday for a crown.

Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
 Has a wondrous attraction for me;
 For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above,
 To bear it to dark Calvary.
 So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
 Till my trophies at last I lay down,
 I will cling to the old rugged cross,
 And exchange it someday for a crown.

In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine
 Such a wonderful beauty I see
 For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
 To pardon and sanctify me.
 So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
 Till my trophies at last I lay down,
 I will cling to the old rugged cross,
 And exchange it someday for a crown.

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,
It's shame and approach gladly bear;
 Then He'll call me someday to my home far away,
 Where His glory forever I'll share.
 So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
 Till my trophies at last I lay down,
 I will cling to the old rugged cross,
 And exchange it someday for a crown.

Verse 23: Great advice. When you bear reproach for the Word, go to the Word for healing. Meditate on the decrees.

Verse 24: Joy, delight, and counseling all come from the Word. If you know the Word, you will always have the greatest counselor near you.

d Daleth 25-32 **“A Scriptural Life is a Choice”**

Verse 25: The dust is a bad place to be. The dust will make a person seek God. To be brought low is to be disciplined. We often pray for God to “*get-ahold*” of our friends and family, and draw them to Christ. When we ask God to preserve their lives according to scripture we then need to not interfere with the work of God.

The Hebrew word for laid low here is **dabaq**. This refers to cleaving to something. This is to follow closely or abide fast to. This is something you are joined to. You get the idea. The psalmist was abiding in this awful situation.

The word for **preserve** is **quicken**. **Chayah** is the original. This means to make alive, nourish, preserve, recover, revive, or make whole. What a great thought. The Word of God does all these things to preserve our lives and lift us from the dust. Make me alive according to your Word Oh, God. Amen.

Verse 26: **Caphar** is an awesome word here. This is to tally, record, reckon, scribe, show forth, tell, or speak. The person has thought about their actions, ways, and choices, then, they tell God about what they have done.

Then the Lord teaches us so we don't make the same mistakes twice. On a positive note, our actions may be good and righteous, then we reckon those things to God in praise.

Verse 27: When we understand God more fully, we are awestruck and realize His greatness. This causes us to marvel at His greatness and we meditate on His greatness and goodness with greater intelligence when we understand.

I love to read about outer space and creation. I love to read the writings of Einstein and other Physicists. I love to read about quantum physics and the nuclear age. As we learn the Word of God and then read about the great discoveries of nature and our universe, it only brings to light the magnificence of our God. Lord, show us your wonders.

What we learn about God, and our beliefs about God, should be reconciled with the Word. The more you understand the Word, the more you know about God.

Verse 28: The strength we have from a scriptural life would not be attainable without the Word. There is no overcoming power without the Word. The Word is never wrong, always righteous, always powerful. That's how I want to be strengthened... according to your Word Oh Lord! A scriptural life is a powerful life. The Word removes sorrow!

Verse 29: The word **sheqer** refers to a sham, lie, or a deceitful life. This is lying without a cause. Do not be deceitful. The

scriptural life is never a trick. The proper life takes responsibility for its own failure and makes things right.

The law of God teaches us to admit our error and take responsibility. As a matter of fact, the law of God's Word seeks out hypocrisy and exposes it. A true scriptural Christian will never be able to be deceitful.

Verse 30: The life of a scriptural Christian is a chosen life. Once you are saved, you may put your bible on the shelf and not care for it, but you cannot get away from the Holy Spirit's constant approach to push you to read it.

The Hebrew word is **bachar**. This word refers to a selection, to try, to appoint, accept, or choose. To join, and require, are acceptable. A successful Christian has chosen or ordained in their lives *the way of truth*.

To set here is **shavah**. This is awesome. It refers to laying out the way of truth before one's self. This means to level, equalize, resemble, adjust, reckon, bring forth, or behave.

You are now ready to adjust your life in whatever way is necessary for you to set your heart on the Word. You are going to choose to do this for God's glory.

Verse 31: We have finally come to a day when this scripture applies. We are in danger of having our rights taken away. The Word is under attack and we must hold fast to the truth.

Without the truth, lives are filled with shame. This is the same word we just saw about one being stuck in the dust. Now the psalmists says he will, stick to, or hold fast, to God's statutes.

Verse 32: The Hebrew word for run is referring to the footman that speedily ran with messages. Most people think the Word cramps their style. Many think the laws and precepts of God are cumbersome. The psalmist says the Word has brought freedom and room to run. My heart is free, therefore, I will run.

The Word of God has done nothing less than open my mind, my heart, and my spirit to all of life's goodness. I am free in Christ.

h He 33-40 **“Wrest My Heart O God”**

Verse 33: The first word of verse 36 gives us the intimation of this section. The Hiphil imperative (**Causative Verb stem**) for **“turn,” natah...** means wrest, incline, overthrow, **cause** to yield, or turn aside.

The prayer in this section is for God to overthrow my selfish heart and **make me (Causative)** incline my heart to follow God's commands. Wrest my heart Lord; tackle it and wrestle it away from my own will.

Verse 33: Teach my heart O, God. **The Hiphil works as a causative.** Lord, cause me to keep the decrees and statutes of thy Word. Lord help me, and **cause** me, to obey unto the end. I desire to finish well, my Lord.

Verse 34: Father God, give me understanding, and I will keep the Word. I will engage all my being, and with every fiber of my will, I will obey the Word.

Verse 35: I know Lord that there is delight in keeping your Word, and the path of righteousness is best. Obedience brings joy. Another Hiphil imperative is used. **“Cause me”** to be in the right path. Direct me God for I am seeking your commands.

Verse 36 Turn my heart from my selfish will.

Verse 37: The word here for turn is '**abar**'. This is to conduct and deliver. Lord deliver my eyes from things that cause me to disobey your Word. The eyes are the key to holiness. Through the eyes we are tempted.

Matt 6:22-23

22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

NIV

Turn our eyes from the worthless (**shav'**). These are things that are lying to you. These are things that are deceptive, vain, idolatrous, and desolate.

Verse 38: When the promises of God are fulfilled in our lives the lost see it and learn to fear the Lord. Be assured that God does not let His promises go unkept. This is a figure of speech that we use simply to ask God to fulfill His promise sooner than later.

Verse 39: If the laws are good, then the Lord is good. His goal is not to shame us or cause us to be ridiculed when we are seeking to obey. There are times of discipline when shame and reproach are a good teacher, but here the psalmist admits his dread of disgrace. I likewise fear disgrace, for I wish not to bring reproach upon the name above every name.

Verse 40: Lord capture my heart that I may be preserved in you; my desire is always passionate in keeping the law. I seek to be eternally righteous in Christ's righteousness. Cause me to be righteous.

w Waw 41-48
“Timely Scriptural Responses”

Verse 41: The unfailing love of God is dsj, **cheched**. This is grace, mercy, and pity. This is unconditional love that is never ending. The psalmist prays for the salvation of God. This word always refers to deliverance. It is the same with us today. We long for the return of Jesus to rescue us. This is not a prayer for salvation at this point but a prayer for deliverance from this world. The promise of God is mentioned.

God is not slack in keeping His promise. This is not promises but promise. What is the promise? The obvious is the return of Christ.

Verse 42: The deliverance of God in our lives puts to shame the taunts of the wicked. There will be a day when all the mouths will be shut. The rapture and the second coming will answer a lot of questions and shut a lot of mouths.

From where does such confidence come? It comes from the Word. We trust in the Word.

Verse 43: Lord, please do not let the truth be snatched from my mouth or thoughts. Let me have the answers when the time comes for me to speak.

Matt 10:18-20

18 On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. 19 But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, 20 for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

NIV

This reminds me of the seed that fell on the hard path and the Devil came and snatched it away (Matt 13:3ff). Let the seed of the Word dwell in you deeply (In good soil) so that it can be retrieved at the proper time.

Our hope rests in the Words of the law. We pray for clarity of thought and remembrance of the truth. I pray this every day that I preach. God please let my mind be sharp and my preparation be sacred. To God be the glory... He does it too. Blessed be the name of MY God.

Verse 44: The decision to continue in the Lord's Word is a good one. Obedience is not temporary. We take this obedience on as a lifestyle.

Verse 45: The freedom that comes with obedience brings liberty and a life of stress free existence. I walk about in the safety of obedience no matter what comes. Estes says we do not do what we want, but what God wants. This is like a train on the tracks of obedience. Once the train leaves the tracks of obedience it cannot run free. We are the same. This is like freedom vs. bondage. Freedom brings bondage, and bondage to Christ, and His law, brings freedom. Seek out the precepts. Stay on the tracks.

Verse 46: Here again the psalmist speaks of God's blessings as he speaks before kings. We all want to speak the words of truth and especially in key moments of our lives.

Paul the apostle was called-to, just this kind of life. As he went on his journeys and even just prior to his death, he was sharing the words of truth. He shared with many influential people.

Acts 9:15-16

15 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. 16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

NIV

When we stand before those whom we think are bigger than life, we must remember that God is the biggest entity in the universe. Fear not, I am with you. Moses went before Pharaoh and so did Joseph. Elijah and Elisha stood before the kings of Israel and spoke the truth. Don't ever forget you are a servant of the most high God. He made your mouth and He knows how to fill it.

Verse 47: The commands of God should be loved like our parents. They disciplined us for our good. The correction and truth they give creates a love and desire that becomes symbiotic.

Verse 48: To lift the hands is an act of acceptance. The visual raising of the hands reveals a heart that is full of love and a heart that seeks after and desires to reach for the Word of God. If we love the Word, we will meditate on the Word.

The Hebrew word for meditate (**Siyach**) means commune, pray, speak, talk, muse, or to converse with oneself. The study and learning of the Words should be active and real. With today's resources, a Christian has no excuse for being ignorant of the Word. If you will meditate on the Word, and build a reservoir of truth in your heart, God will bring to mind the truth at timely moments of opportunity. If God brings the opportunity, will He not remind you of the right things to say?

z Zayin 49-56 “Comfort from The Word”

Verse 49: The psalmist uses the word remember three times. He uses the word comfort twice and tops these words off with the word practice. We cannot get comfort in our suffering if we do not remember the Word.

The psalmist starts this section with a call to His God and asked Him not to forget, but to remember. God will never forget. God will never forget His promises, nor will He forget His Word. The Lord’s Word is a solid and unfailing gift to the universe. The OT speaks of God’s unfailing love.

Hope comes from the promises of God. If that is the case, then to learn and remember those promises is imperative.

Verse 50: The promises of God are pretty handy in suffering. This is why theology and knowledge of the Word is so important. We have a greater tendency to doubt God when we suffer.

The psalmist knew that God is life and the preserver of life. That knowledge is the preservation of your life.

Jesus speaks of life in the NT. He claimed to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6). The word Jesus used was **Zoe**. Jesus used this word as well in John 1:4.

John 1:4

4 In him was **life**, and that **life** was the light of men.

NIV

The uniqueness of this word is in its true meaning. The word Zoe refers to **source** of *life*. **Bios** refers to a certain time of *life*. You and I have life but it has a dash in the middle, e.g. 1961-2021. Your

life and my life is limited. Jesus is the source of life. He is the self-existing one. He is the creator and sustainer of life.

The word for **promise** in the NIV here is **imrah**. This is command, speech, or word. In other words, the promise of God gives comfort in suffering... it is the words and commands of God. Now, that's real and substantial comfort.

Verse 51: Peer pressure has caused many a Christian in their suffering to doubt the Word of God. Do not turn from the Word of God even in the unrestrained and relenting mocking of the unbelievers. The Word is your comfort.

Verse 52: The laws of God are ancient, **'owlam**, which is, time tested, eternal, perpetual, at any time, lasting. They were here when you got here, and will be here when you are gone. Do you think it wise to abandon the truth that is eternal and seek out a temporary fix?

Verse 53: We have all felt this indignation. We look at the lives of the wicked and feel betrayed by God at times. How can the wicked disobey the laws of God and get away with it? The wicked forsake the law and live at peace. Do they really? I think not.

Sudden destruction is coming and does so in every age. The psalmist says in **psalm 73** that these thoughts about the wicked almost caused him to fall. Then he went into the sanctuary and found His God. Trust the scriptures... the wicked will pay.

We must remember that many of these wicked people will find grace in a day we know not. They seek the things of the earth today but may find grace tomorrow. God is not willing that any should perish and many of those that are nearest hell are our very own family members. Grace is necessary.

Verse 54: The Word of God travels. No matter the culture or the circumstances we are in, the Word of God is relevant. Many of the young preachers today talk about relevant worship and relevant sermons. Let me tell you guys something... the Word of God was relevant long before you showed up.

No matter where we lie down, the Word of God and the theme of our song, reflects the Word of God. And by the way, the theme of your songs should reflect the Word.

Verse 55: How many times have you sought the comfort of the Word in the middle of the night? I remember the Word and the promises of God when I am troubled. God will often awaken us to pray in the night so as to have our attention undivided. The psalmist uses the word *remember* again.

Verse 56: The Hebrew word here means to keep or to maintain something. The NIV uses the word practice. My routine is to remember and keep the Lord's Word. To practice the precepts will produce a life of consistency and character.

j Heth (Cheth) 57-64 **“My God, My Portion”**

Verse 57: The word **portion** is **inheritance**. The allotment of the Christian is Yahweh. What greater promise can the Word make than to promise us God Himself. God is not a means to an end. He is the goal of my searching. I seek not joy, comfort, or prosperity, for they are useless without Him. Seek Him, then all the benefits of your relationship with Him are given. If you seek joy then you will only get joy, even if you succeed.

Verse 58: The Hebrew **chalah** means to rub or to wear out. This refers to the continual praying or intreating of God for an answer. The word for **face** is **paniym** and is translated in various ways.

Here it is translated as face. It refers to favor, countenance, and presence.

To have the face of God is to have the heart of God. When a soul will not look at you, you have angered them. The face of family, friends, and loved ones should bring joy and gladness. When the face is turned away it is always bad. To have the face is to have acceptance. To be accepted is to be saved. Seek the grace of God according to the promise. If you seek His face, you will have His salvation. He will be your portion according to the promise.

John 6:37

37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

KJV

Matt 7:7-8

7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

NIV

Isa 55:6

6 Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.

NIV

Verse 59: In the story of the prodigal son, it says, *he came to himself*. When the lost and wandering boy considered his position, and reckoned on the circumstances, he decided to go back to the father.

I would implore you to think about your ways and turn your steps towards God's Word. If you take one step towards the Father, He will run towards you.

This is about eternity for the lost man. This is about a dedicated life for the Christian. It is worth considering. Do you want God as your portion.

Verse 60: The verbs for *hasten* and *delay* are perfect tense verbs. The action is complete. The psalmist speaks of the past. I did not delay and I hastened to the Lord's commands. Quick obedience is always best. Don't waste time making Jesus your Lord. Today is the day of salvation.

Verse 61: Even if I am captured and tied up says the psalmist, I will not forget the Word of God.

Many Christians throughout the years have been persecuted. Some, literally, were bound and pressured to recant their faith and the promise of the Word. Many died for their faith and the Word of God. Just Awesome!

When Jesus is your portion you can make these choices concerning the Word.

Verse 62: How often we rise at the Holy Spirits prompting to praise our God. Did you know that God has created beings to praise Him throughout all eternity. There is praise in the heavens 24-7.

Rev 4:8

8 Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they **never stop** saying:

"Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God Almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come."

NIV

Verse 63: There is a difference among Christians. Some know the Word and obey it, and others do not know the Word, and don't obey it. Some Christians know the Word and don't obey it. There is a fellowship among the committed that is unknown to the casual Christian. Those who have drunk from the deep waters of the Word have much to say about what they have learned. To speak these words to the uncommitted is just not as enjoyable as sharing thoughts with one who knows the book on an intimate level. Another that fears the Word is an ally and a friend. All Christians are my friends, but not all friends are intimates. We all have intimate friends. God loves us all but we are not all intimates.

Verse 64: The enjoyment of creation, and to enjoy this place that God has given us to live, is to enjoy the love of God. What is greater than His love? If the earth is filled with God's love, then we need to love it as well. The laws of God are seen in the universe. Poor lost man... can't see the truth right in front of him. The design of creation declares the glory of God. Even the creation tells us to obey God.

f Teth 65-72 **“My Affliction, My Good”**

Verse 65: Oh, if we could always be treated as the Word is commanded. What if man treated us as God's Word requires. Our prayers for God to treat us as the Word demands is a great prayer. Anything according to the Word is good. What if we treated others as the Word demands.

“To do good to” is the word **'asah**. The broad meaning is to make or to do. Specifically it means to accomplish, appoint, to bring forth, to bruise, to be busy, to fashion, to govern, to journey, to keep, maintain, observe, to trim, work, or yield. Wow! That's a great word.

Read the verse this way... God has fashioned, bruised, governed, or journeyed with me according to His Word. That's good exegesis.

Verse 66: This could have been copied right out of the wisdom literature. If you are looking for a definition for wisdom, here it is. An old friend and deacon once told me his definition of wisdom. Dr, Bobby Brooks told me, *wisdom is the proper use of knowledge*. This verse backs him up.

I think the king is saying, "Lord, give me knowledge from your Word and the proper judgment to use that knowledge well."

Verse 67: The key word here is **affliction**. The original is '**anah**. This speaks of old fashion discipline. This is self-abasement or humility given from God Himself. This is to be chastened or to be dealt hard with. This is to be submitted or forced. We all know what this is.

Affliction does the job when we go astray. We come home by way of the woodshed. Disobedience brings affliction; affliction brings obedience to the Word.

Verse 68: This is the usual word for **"good"** in the OT. Different from verse 65. I don't really like the translation of "good" in verse 65. The main point here is that God is good, therefore, His works are good. He is good to us. Out of your goodness, teach me your decrees, Lord. From where are *you* being taught? Is it from the Word?

Verse 69: If you are going to serve God, you have to get comfortable with being slandered. The truth, and solid doctrine, make people mad... especially the infidels. Even our so-called-

brothers in the Lord will compromise the truth for personal gain and acceptance. Don't do it.

Verse 70: The heart that is without the Word gets calloused. We have a nation of women and men who will kill children in the womb and think nothing of it. People rob stores and kill clerks for a small amount of change. People steal from churches and swindle natural disaster victims out of all they have. People can be as cruel as a wicked heart can be and never feel guilt over it. They have no respect for life or anything holy.

You are going to love these Hebrew words.

- The literal translation is this... “Their hearts are as thick or fat as grease.”
- **taphash**- to be thick or stupid.
- **cheleb**- this word refers to the fat or best portion of the meat. The marrow of the bone. This is the grease and marrow.

The point is clear. The arrogant have thick calloused hearts. This was a metaphor or idiom for a calloused heart in that day. The fat heart is a thick and hardened heart that will not allow the truth to get through. This makes a person unfeeling. At times the Rabbi's would translate this as midriff because it was the stomach and the seat of emotions. Look at these passages and you will see the nuance.

Ps 17:10

10 They are inclosed in their own fat: with their mouth they speak proudly.

KJV

Ps 17:9

10 They have closed their unfeeling heart,
With their mouth they speak proudly.

NASU

Ps 17:10

10 They close their hearts to pity;
with their mouths they speak arrogantly.

ESV

Ps 17:10

10 They close up their callous hearts,
and their mouths speak with arrogance.

NIV

Job 15:23

27 "Though his face is covered with fat
and his waist bulges with flesh,

NIV

The king delighted in the law. A calloused heart is hard to reach.
The fat will harden and the grease will suffocate it to death.

Verse 71: Only the Christian will speak these words. "It was good for me to be afflicted." Wow! God puts purpose in the pain. The affliction always has a purpose. If for no other reason than to teach you the decrees of God.

Job 40:1-5

The Lord said to Job:

2 "Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him?

Let him who accuses God answer him!"

3 Then Job answered the Lord:

4 "I am unworthy — how can I reply to you?

I put my hand over my mouth.

5 I spoke once, but I have no answer —
twice, but I will say no more."

NIV

Job 42:1-6

Then Job replied to the Lord:

2 "I know that you can do all things;
no plan of yours can be thwarted.

3 [You asked,] 'Who is this that obscures my counsel without
knowledge?'

Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me to know.

4 ["You said,] 'Listen now, and I will speak;
I will question you,
and you shall answer me.'

5 My ears had heard of you
but now my eyes have seen you.

6 Therefore I despise myself
and repent in dust and ashes."

NIV

Verse 72: The words of God that flow from His mouth are so precious. They are incomparable. Nothing, absolutely nothing, stands equal with the book. Period!

In times of affliction go to the words of God. Affliction comes to soften the heart.

y Yodh 73-80

“Your Word, My Witness”

Verse 73: Psalm 139:13-16 reveals exactly what happens in the womb. God is our creator and He alone knows the in-depth process of creation. He is the creator and forming force of our being. The author of life grants life and knits us together.

If the God of the universe can create you, surely He can reveal His truth to you from His word. As a matter of fact, He created you to understand His precepts. Yes, you were born a sinner and separated from God. You will need the Holy Spirit as your guide to understand. What I mean, is that God created man with the special ability to reason and think. No other creature has the ability to be saved. God knit you together in such a way that when He calls you, you can respond. As you study the Word, He can reveal to you the truth. Understanding is a gift from God. This is called illumination.

Two words are worth our time here, The word for “made me and “fashioned me.” **'asah** is to *bring forth*. **kuwn** means *fashioned*. The Lord has created you and then fashioned or perfected you. The Lord has confirmed and established you. Now that should do a good bit of repair to your self-esteem. You were made a unique individual and there is no one else like you in all the world. Awesome!

He made you for the purpose of understanding His commands.

Verse 74: This is the key verse in this section. The understanding of the Word that we display will be a great witness to others. Is it not a fact that you recognize a person of the Word. When a person has the understanding of scripture, you know they have dedicated their life to Christ.

The greatest witness you can have is to know the Word and obey the Word. When people see you, do they rejoice in what God has done in your life through the Word? Am I a man that people look at and say, “There goes a man of the Word; that man understands the scripture and will help us in understanding as well.”

Now, that's a witness. Put your hope in the Word.

Verse 75: If you trust the Word in affliction, you will trust it at all times. We must remember that our understanding has been flawed by sin and the fall. The Word is the trusted standard, don't doubt it, even in affliction.

Verse 76: This is our favored word *isj*, pronounced *cheded*. This is the loving kindness of God. Similar to the NT *agape*. God has promised the Jews an unfailing love for comfort and restoration.

Verse 77: Here again, as the psalmist has said numerous times, the Word is tied to compassion and mercy. The promise of God and the message of His commands bring benefits of compassion and forgiveness. We all seek grace over judgment.

The word used for *compassion* is **racham**. Estes says this is a rich term that shows warm compassion. This is a second mile compassion that gives grace and mercy instead of judgment.

Verse 78: We have all been wronged, accused, or blamed for things we didn't do. God understands because He is constantly blamed every day for things He does not do.

For men, the accusation of wrong doing when we are not guilty, is hard to swallow. Just watch any ball game and experience a bad call that causes your team to lose. What is the response of all the people? Utter disgust and sadness, anger, and cries of, "That's not fair," will fill the air.

If you are in a place of leadership you will just have to learn with the psalmist that it's part of the job. Just make verse 78 your prayer. Pray that God will reveal the truth by His precepts. Those who have been arrogant will be put to shame.

We may translate this verse like this... “Let God be true and every man a liar.” When you have been treated wrongly, meditate on the precepts of the Word.

Verse 79: In our times of affliction, accusations, and trials, it is great to have others turn towards you. The word is **shub**, the word for repentance or turning. Many times in our trials, people turn away from us. Thank God for the family of God that fears the Lord and comes to help. These folks turn towards you when you are in trouble.

Likewise, we are a better witnesses of the Word when people turn to us in their need and we receive them. May we all learn to help others with the sustenance of the Word, and let us be willing to let others minister to us with the Word in our trials and afflictions. As we fear the Word, let us help our brothers.

Verse 80: To be blameless towards the Word will keep us from a life that brings shame. The Word is clearly the key to a great witness in life.

k Kaph 81-88 **“Waiting on The Word”**

Verse 81: We are immediately introduced to the inner thoughts of the king. The psalmist has grown weary of waiting. This is a common malady for the Christian. I have often said that God never works on my timetable. I am a foolish human that does everything fast. People are guilty of getting ahead of God because we are impatient.

The psalmist feels this impatience rising up, but He doesn't give way to it. He prays for the Lord to deliver Him through trust in the Word. His soul has fainted within. His longing has grown to great heights. He, like you and I, are desiring God to show up and

deliver. We wait in the daily trials of life for deliverance, and we wait for the ultimate deliverance in our salvation. We long for the return of Jesus and to see His face.

The verb **kalah** refers to *wasting away*. The word means to be at the end, to be finished, to cease or be consumed. The psalmist had fainted away or felt consumed by the waiting. Have we not all been here? Waiting really reveals our trust level in the Word.

What are we to do? We are to trust the Word of God. His timing and ways are perfect.

Isa 26:8

8 Yes, Lord, walking in the way of your laws,
we wait for you;
your name and renown
are the desire of our hearts.

NIV

Isa 40:28-31

28 Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.
29 He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.
30 Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
31 but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

NIV

Ps 130:5-6

5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I put my hope.

6 My soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

NIV

Lam 3:24

24 I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him."

NIV

Lam 3:26

26 it is good to wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

NIV

Verse 82: Many times the relief is far away. These are tough times for us. Usually we are being tested by the Lord to trust in His timing and believe in the Word. I must admit that this is the hardest lesson for me to live. I would say that it is a sinful desire to make God act as I want Him to. Oh, we are so impatient. Waiting reveals to us who we are.

Our desires are not always bad or sinful. Many times we just long for the coming of the Lord. I seek to see the promises of the Word fulfilled. To seek the comfort of the Lord is not sinful. Many times we are tested to see if we will try and replace His comfort with some other means of satisfaction. Many turn to all the wrong places.

Verse 83: Jesus also used this imagery to teach us about the teachings of the Word. The disciples needed to be renewed so that they may be readied to receive new truth. To put new wine

into an old, dried out bottle, would burst the bottle when the gasses rose within.

Matt 9:17

17 Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

The image that I get from this picture is a bottle that has been hanging in the kitchen of an old Jewish home for some time and it has been dried out due to the smoke of the kitchen and dry climate of the desert.

Even though the man is dry, the Word is not. The Word can be trusted while we wait for God to answer. There are times when we are dry and arid in our walks with God. You may add to that trials and temptations the ridicule from the arrogant. This makes trusting the Word difficult. We must trust and wait upon the World.

Verse 84: A great question is proposed. I have asked this question thousands of times in my walk with God. I do not know when this punishment will happen to the persecutors, but I trust it will. God will judge in His time and in His day.

Prov 16:4

4 The Lord works out everything for his own ends — even the wicked for a day of disaster.

NIV

2 Peter 2:9-12

9 if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. 10 This is especially true of those

who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority.

Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings; 11 yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord. 12 But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand.

They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish.

NIV

Verse 84: The Lord knows what is going on in His universe. What are we to do in these days of arrogance and persecution?

Prov 24:15-16

15 Do not lie in wait like an outlaw against a righteous man's house,
do not raid his dwelling place;
16 for though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again,
but the wicked are brought down by calamity.

NIV

Prov 20:22

22 Do not say, "I'll pay you back for this wrong!"
Wait for the Lord, and he will deliver you.

NIV

Mic 7:7

7 But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord,
I wait for God my Savior;
my God will hear me.

NIV

Verse 85: The arrogant go after the meek. Fret not my brothers... God is watching. Let them dig holes for us to fall into. God is seeing it all.

Ps 37:27-29

27 Turn from evil and do good;
then you will dwell in the land forever.

28 For the Lord loves the just
and will not forsake his faithful ones.

They will be protected forever,
but the offspring of the wicked will be cut off;

29 the righteous will inherit the land
and dwell in it forever.

NIV

Ps 37:37-38

37 Consider the blameless, observe the upright;
there is a future for the man of peace.

38 But all sinners will be destroyed;
the future of the wicked will be cut off.

NIV

Mal 4:3

3 Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes
under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things,"
says the Lord Almighty.

NIV

God is not willing that any should perish, therefore, we wait upon the Word of God to do its work. Does Peter sound like he's worried God is going to forget?

2 Peter 3:9-13

9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

NIV

Verse 86: You might get cheated on earth and persecuted without cause, but you will never be persecuted without cause in heaven. All our difficulties are for discipline and sanctification. Trust the timing of the Word.

Verse 87: We are to die with our trust in the precepts of God. I had rather be wiped from the face of the earth than forsake the truths of the Word. We have seen this word before. **Kalah** is the word for *consume* or get *riddance of*. The king was almost killed many times by Saul. Yet, David trusted in the Word. To lose one's life for the cause of Christ is a worthy death. The Word is that important.

Verse 88: The love of God and the statutes of God will preserve life. They are both trust worthy. To *preserve* (**Chayah**), is to make alive. Oh, I long to be made alive by the Word. Wait upon the Word.

1 Lamedh 89-96

“The Immutable, Eternal Word”

Verse 89: At the first we are confronted with the infinite and the finite. God’s Word does not change. The immutable nature of the Word makes it the standard for all ages. The foundation of truth would have to be eternal or it is not truth. The Word is God! In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. This is a direct declaration that Jesus is the Word. John teaches us about the Eternal Word in John 1. The Greeks understood the Word to be from thoughts and ideas that could not have come from man. God is the creator of all things, including language. It is not surprising that the written Word of God is so specific and accurate. God created it. The Word comes from God to us as a gift. The Word is the only unchanging thing in our world.

All that man knows is changing. The moth and rust do their work, but the Word of the Lord stands forever. As long as the heavens remain, the Word remains. As long as God remains, the heavens remain. You have no more chance of changing the Word than you would breaking into heaven and confronting God. The Word has to be eternal because the Word sustains all things. No Word, no existence.

Verse 90: The attributes of God are eternal. The faithfulness of God is attributed to His eternal nature. He changes not, therefore, His Word and faithfulness change not.

Each generation that comes along finds the exact God *we* have. The God that man experienced in AD. 50 is the same God we experience in 2021. The earth has been established by His command and will continue to do so. It is established and it endures.

There is no need for a new green deal and no need for a mother earth revival. Mother nature is not our Lord... that goes to Father God. The earth has been established and it endures. To worry about the polar icecaps is as silly as worrying whether the sun will rise tomorrow. I am not dismissing personal responsibility but God gave us the earth to sustain us until His return. Fossil fuels were put here for our use and sustenance.

Verse 91: This verse presents the translators with a few problems due to the difficulty of the Hebrew. There are actually five textual variants in this verse. There is a lot of debate as to the actual text in the LXX and the Latin Vulgate, says Estes. Estes says, and I agree, that the sense of the text is that *“everything in the Lord’s domain is upheld by His authoritative Word. In the Lord’s ordered world, everything serves His purposes, even though the intentions of the actors (such as the wicked who have afflicted the psalmist) may be evil”* (cf. Gen. 50:20).

Gen 50:19-21

19 But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. 21 So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

NIV

This is a pretty big statement and you can see the importance of it. Many people will actually end up in hell because they do not believe God to be in control or don't like the way God runs His universe. We may not like it, but all things serve the Lord. All events and circumstances work for a proposed end.

This is a great statement of faith on the part of the king. A trusting and believing Saint will just accept this. I know it's hard during the famine, but we are not allowed to change the Word; our job is

to trust the Word... note vv.1-8. The point of psalm 119 is to teach us to trust the Word.

If only I could serve the Lord as His Word serves Him. That's a great thought. May we all serve His ordinances (**mishpat**) as He intended for us to do.

Verse 92: This is a very simple verse with great spiritual truth. *If I had not had a great relationship with the Word, I would have perished.* Have you had a verse of scripture carry you through the trials and afflictions of life? Millions of Saints can attest to the power of the Word and the sustaining grace they felt when they were in dire straights. I think it would be great to hear stories from our fellow believers that were sustained in trials by the Word. I believe that we would hear some awesome testimonies about God's Word.

The Hebrew word here for *perish* is '**abad**. This word means to break, destroy, lose, fail, not escape, to be undone, perish, to have no way to flee, and to be void. The psalmist says that if God's Word had not been His delight, He would have literally died or not been able to flee or escape the situation. Without the Word we fail and are left void.

In my own personal life Psalm 4:3 has literally saved my life. At my lowest low, I found grace to continue my ministry.

Ps 4:1

3 Know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself;
the Lord will hear when I call to him.

NIV

Another great passage when I surrendered my heart to a full time ministry call.

Isa 6:8

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send?
 And who will go for us?"
 And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

NIV

In a day of terrible regret for my past life I found this passage that let me know the king had experienced the same feelings as I. What a great comfort this was to me. I will never forget it.

Ps 25:7

7 Remember not the sins of my youth
 and my rebellious ways;
 according to your love remember me,
 for you are good, O Lord.

NIV

During a time of intense waiting on the Lord to move I was literally carried by this passage.

Prov 13:12

12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
 but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.

NIV

Verse 93: What are some of your verses that have blessed you? Write these things down because you will be comforted by them for years to come. Remembering the tough times and how God rescued you is cleansing to the soul. Yes, you may cry and feel some pain but the joy of victory is sweet. Delight in the Word of God. Never forget how the Word has preserved your life.

Verse 94: Faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word. We are saved by hearing the Word so why not trust the eternal Word for

deliverance in trials. Remember verse 30? I have chosen to be a person of the Word. We are to seek out the Word.

The Hebrew word for *sought out* or *seek* is **darash**. This is a word that involves worship. To ask, to seek, to desire, to search, to pursue, and even question, are all meaningful translations. The searching of the scriptures has been a life long journey that has brought great joy and hours of enjoyment. I can truly say that the study of the Word has been my rescue and salvation. How about you?

Most people that call themselves Christians say the study of the Word is boring. I find that interesting. You will never come close to seeing any such foolishness in psalm 119. If there is no desire for the Word, there is no Holy Spirit in you. The Word delights the Christian's soul.

Verse 95: Many people never ponder the Word until the wicked show up. Then it's game on. The psalmist chose to be a man of the Word before the trouble came.

To *ponder* is **biyn**. This word reflects a cunning, direct, diligent, perceived, intelligent, informed, instructed, and skillful understanding of the Word. Casual study of the scripture and learning from just what one hears is not that to which the psalmist is referring. Study your bible; it's your salvation, deliverance, and comfort.

Verse 96: This verse sounds like a Solomonic proverb. What a great verse. What a great way to describe the perfect Word of God. To all the liberals that criticize and try to find any little infinitesimal spore of untruth in the Word, I say this... The Word of God has no limit to perfection. We believe in the verbal plenary truth of God's Word. That means "every word" of it is true. There

is no limit to this perfection. All else have a limit to its purity. The veracity of the Word of God is pure and Holy.

The commands of God are unending and boundless. The Hebrew says... *exceedingly broad is the **perfection** of the Word.*

m Mem 97-104 **“Insight through Meditation”**

Verse 97: Psalm 1 tells of the godly man that meditates on the laws of God. Throughout the psalms the psalmist says he loves God’s house, His law, His Word, His unfailing love, and His Holy Spirit.

Ps 1:2

2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law he meditates day and night.

NIV

If we desire to be a psalms 1 person, then we need to learn the art of meditation. I have said before that we have let the world steal the art of meditation from us. We are afraid to meditate because we associate it with worldly divination. This could be nothing further from the truth.

The scriptures are from where we gain insight and wisdom. Spiritual food lies in the pages of the Word. To spend time thinking and reckoning on the Word is healthy and commanded. When we think upon the Word we are thinking upon God Himself.

If you love the law, then think on it. Meditate is **siychah**. This means devotion and reflection. This word is also translated as prayer. Pray over the Word and think upon it. The benefits are

worth it. Love the law and meditate on it... all day long. I can't do that Bro Jerry. Yes you can.

Verse 98: The psalmist had enemies, and so do you, even if you don't know it. In the ministry, I have found it shocking how many people have called themselves my enemy. Opposition to the pastor and staff is always there. I have tried over the years to never hold grudges or have enemies. I always speak to people in public even if they don't like me or have left our church. I can honestly say I have a conscience void of offence towards all men.

I am aware that there are others who have been disciplined by God and me, and resent that discipline. I do not know what had happened with the psalmist that caused him to have enemies, but Jesus also had enemies, therefore, we must learn to deal with enemies as difficult as it can be.

The king gives us the key to overcoming enemies. Make yourself wise in the Word and then you will be wiser than they. The Word will guide you through conflict. Obey the Word and let the chips fall where they may. We are led to believe that the Christian life is lived without personal conflicts but that just isn't so.

I have had to discipline people with the help of the deacons and even terminate a person who wanted to have a live-in boyfriend while working at the church. They hated me for it. Nonetheless, the Word was honored.

The psalmist gives us a dose of reality. Enemies will always be there because Satan is always there. Look at what Paul says.

2 Tim 4:14-18

14 Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. 15 You too should be on

your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message.

16 At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. 17 But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. 18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

NIV

How do we deal with these people? The commands make you wise. Meditate for insight.

People that act like that are not wise in the Word. Great insight into the Word has literally protected me through the attacks of false-Christians and their attacks. I have literally had people come to my rescue as a pastor because of the fact that I preach the unadulterated Word of God.

Have you ever notices that people that have enemies never lead people to Christ? None of the leaders I have had battles with over the years have ever brought a lost soul to the altar. Is there a connection? Yes!

Verse 99: This is our key verse in his section. I can't tell you how many conferences I have been to where I just didn't come back to the late session. Why? Because they didn't know anything about the Word I didn't already know. I won't name names.

The psalmist says, *I know more than my teachers*. How could that be true? Because the king was a man of the word. The Hebrew word is **sakal**. This means to act circumspectly. This refers to an overall intellectual knowledge. Hence, intelligence. Do you want to be intelligent? Then meditate on the statutes of

God. The word **sakal** refers to being an expert instructor, to have skill, to guide wittingly, to have success in understanding and teaching. This is a great goal for life and it can be accomplished by being a student of the Word. Now do it!

Illustration: I was once asked to be a part of proofing a child rearing book that was being published. My job was to check for biblical accuracy based upon Psychological and Sociological references in the book. You can imagine how that went. Do you know how hard it is to try and make secular techniques line up with biblical truth? It's impossible.

Verse 100: The psalmist is not bragging, he is just stating the truth. I have met these Elders before. Most of my ministry has been involved with godly men of the Word, however, it is a shame when an Elder comes along that is not a man of the Word.

Jesus had this issue in the gospels. The king had the same issue as Jesus. He dealt with unspiritual priest and Levites. There is nothing more frustrating than dealing with Elders that are not men of the Word. They do not make decisions based on the Word and the man of God knows they going to fail.

Many, many, many Baptist churches ended in splits due to unspiritual men making unscriptural decisions. The men who lead are supposed to be men of the Word. Period!

Verse 101: Obedience to the Word brings obedience in your walk. The absolute best way to form a disciplined life is to obey the Word. Study and dedication to meditation is essential.

Verse 102: When you have been taught by the Lord Himself, the Holy Spirit, and the Word, then you are more likely to not depart. The greatest sin of the new millennium is lack of tithing and

people departing the church. The lack of fellowship among believers in worship and bible study is among our greatest sins.

There is nothing better than meditation on the Word. The Lord Himself will teach you. To **depart** is the word **cuwr** or **suwr**. This is a falling away or a grievous plucking away. This is to fall back, eschew, to remove oneself, to be sour or withdraw. May I say apostate.

Verse 103: Now this is love for the word. What a precious passage. Oh, the love affair I have had with the Word over the years. We really do taste it, and it is good. The imagery here is outstanding. Honey has no greater taste than the Word of God. The Word makes us say, “boy, that was good.”

Prov 24:13-14

13 Eat honey, my son, for it is good;
honey from the comb is sweet to your taste.
14 Know also that wisdom is sweet to your soul;
if you find it, there is a future hope for you,
and your hope will not be cut off.

NIV

Ps 19:9-11

The ordinances of the Lord are sure
and altogether righteous.
10 They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the comb.
11 By them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

NIV

Rev 10:9-11

9 So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey." 10 I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. 11 Then I was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings."

NIV

Verse 104: The Word of God not only directs our paths towards the right, but it also teaches us to hate the wrong. The precepts create a love for righteousness and a distain for the paths of the wicked. Now that's protection. The Word is our understanding.