

Teaching  
Psalms 119  
Verse by Verse

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## Ps. 119:1-8

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**Psalms 1:1** Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

**Psalms 1:2** But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

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

**Psalms 119:3** They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways.

- **Blessed life** is best life, happiest life, contented life, purposeful life... inner blessing

Walk in law of Lord / walk in His ways vs. 1&3

Word of God will keep you from sin

**Blessed are the undefiled...**

**John 15:3** Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

Jesus washed feet – defiled by living in this world. Word cleanses.

The holy life is a walk, a steady progress, a quiet advance, a lasting continuance. Enoch walked with God. Good men always long to be better, and hence they go forward. Good men are never idle, and hence they do not lie down or loiter, but they are still walking onward to their desired end.

- **Walk** – movement forward. Growth should be natural / progress comes by a walk

Walk – takes time – not a run, not a trot, but a walk... with God

A willing heart:

Blessed *are* they that keep his testimonies, *and that* seek him with the whole heart. Vs. 2

- **Seek Him** with whole heart

**Psalms 119:10** With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.

The heart is everything. Prov 4:23 It is how you respond to God. Seek for salvation / seek for Him, His presence, His character, His peace, His joy, His love,

To Seek - until you find. If you seek, must be honest in your seeking, diligent and persistent.

the happiness of saints militant is, that our sins are forgiven us; and that albeit sin remains in us, yet it reigns not over us; it is done in us, but not by our allowance: "I do the evil which I would not." "Not I, but sin that dwells in me," **Ro 7:17** SPURGEON

the *doing of iniquity*, these three things must concur; first, a purpose to do it; next, a delight in doing it; thirdly, a continuance in it

That is, they make not a trade and common practice thereof. Slip they do, through the infirmity of the flesh, and subtlety of Satan, and the allurements of the world; but they do not ordinarily and customably go forward in unlawful and sinful courses.

Compare this with Ps. 1:1 It is a choice.

- **Commanded us**

**Psalms 119:4** Thou hast commanded *us* to keep thy precepts diligently.

Keep His commandment and will fulfill vs. 1-3

**Ephesians 5:18** And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

**John 13:34** A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

**John 15:12** This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

**1 Thessalonians 4:9** But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

**1 John 4:9** In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

**Ephesians 4:32** And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

**Proverbs 4:23** Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

- **It is for ME**

They vs. 2-3 / Us vs. 4 / Me, I vs. 5-8

Bible is for ME, John 3:16 is for ME, Eph 5:18 is for ME, John 13:34 is for ME

God's standard is a standard of perfection – it is the standard to strive for. We may not attain, but we strive.

**Philippians 3:12** Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

O THAT MY WAYS – a prayer / a longing                      **Longing to obey.**

1. *It is a noble aspiration.* There is nothing grander than the desire to do this except the doing of it.

2. *It is a spiritual aspiration.* Not the offspring of our carnal nature. It is the heart of God in the new creature.

3. *It is a practicable aspiration.* We sometimes sigh for the impossible. But this may be attained by divine grace. Christ in us / H. Spirit dwells within us.

Attainable (for a time) – not sustainable (sinful nature is a with us until death)!

4. *It is an intense aspiration.* It is the "Oh!" of a burning wish.

#### **a) Self-Worth**

**Psalms 119:6** Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.

Give Confidence / Gives you self-worth / Puts you on even plain with all (rich & poor...)

#### **b) Selfless**

**Psalms 119:7** I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments.

Gets eyes off of self and your problems, your pity party – puts eyes on.... I will praise thee

Makes you feel great inside.

#### **c) Resolved / Determined**

**Psalms 119:8** I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly.

This is a choice:

**James 4:8** Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.

- **Challenge for this week:**

Want to feel great this week. Would you seek Him with your whole heart? Would you say, O, that my ways were directed to keep thy precepts diligently?

**Psalms 1:2** But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Memorize & Meditate upon Ps. 119:1-8

## Ps 119:9-16

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He is but a young man, full of hot passions, and poor in knowledge and experience; how shall he get right, and keep right? Never was there a more important question for any man; never was there a fitter time for asking it than at the commencement of life.

Proverbs starts out with a similar warning

**Proverbs 1:10-11** My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:

Listen to one crowd or listen to Word of God.

One path is path of righteousness; one path is path of destruction, ruin, misery, pain...

Choice to live for God must be made and kept active. To do nothing is to choose to sin. It is our nature. Hence, it is supernatural to overcome our sinful nature.

A question **Psalms 119:9** BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?

The answer: by taking heed *thereto* according to thy word.

- **Taking Heed**

The narrow way was never hit upon by chance. Little choices make a big difference:

**Genesis 13:12** Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched *his* tent toward Sodom.

**Song of Solomon 2:15** Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines *have* tender grapes.

Bible – your map to life

The Bible must be your chart, and you must exercise great watchfulness that your way may be according to its directions. You must take heed to your daily life as well as study your Bible, and you must study your Bible that you may take heed to your daily life. With the greatest care a man will go astray if his map misleads him; but with the most accurate map he will still lose his road if he does not take heed to it.

Sins of youth – typically lust of flesh. “If only I get older, all will be ok.” When older, lust of eyes, then older still pride of life. Address each in each phase.

**Proverbs 6:32-33** *But* whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he *that* doeth it destroyeth his own soul. A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.

**Proverbs 5:3-9** For the lips of a strange woman drop *as* an honeycomb, and her mouth *is* smoother than oil: But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell. Lest thou shouldst ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, *that* thou canst not know *them*. Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth. Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house: Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel:

Stubborn enemy of us – our will, our lusts, our flesh...

Taking heed – yielding to Word over what “I” want.

Don’t fool yourself to think you can dabble in sin and not reap from it.

**Galatians 6:8** For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Dabbling in sin will give you an appetite for it.

Keep in forefront: James 4:14, 2 Cor. 5:10

- **Whole Heart**

Bible intended to be read with the Heart

**Psalms 119:10** With my whole heart have I sought thee

Intended to find heart of God – to seek God / person of God / seek His heart

Taking heed / seeking God with whole heart IN personal time with Lord. Then life comes.

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

- **Bible Meditating**

This is for time outside in practical life. Focus on task at hand, when time is at a lull, use your mind to meditate upon Word / something concerning Word of God that is for you.

**Psalms 119:15** I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways.

ILL can meditate upon David vs. Goliath as you have a problem / can meditate upon one verse Phil. 4:6

That I might not sin against thee.

A problem for all. If Paul, the greatest had this problem, you will too.

**Matthew 11:11** Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**Ephesians 3:8** Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

Memorize, Meditate and Internalize Scripture. Rom 13:14

Rom 6:1-2 Personalize it / Rom 6,7 & 8

Memorize, Meditate and Internalize Rom. 8:1-2

This is the pathway to understanding, wisdom...

**Psalms 119:12** Blessed *art* thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.

You can be taught at church – and you should. But to be taught something from God and His Word, gives you a thrill... have H. Spirit as your Teacher is exciting.

He (H. Spirit) verifies the words of Pastor – He is a filter as you listen. But more than that – yes that – but more than that, you alone with Word of God and

**Psalms 119:12** Blessed *art* thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.

- **Practical Life**

Your joyful life will be worth more than money and wealth of this earth. It will cause your lips to speak of the wonderful Lord you serve.

Your lips – speak of what you love vs. 13

Rejoice – greater than all riches vs. 14

Your delight - I delight myself – a personal love with Creator vs. 16

## Ps 119:17-24

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**Word of God will transform you into a Christian – Christ-like.** One of the successes of GBC that is not noticed – the slow transformation power of the Word of God. It is amazing how the Word can change a person.

As you allow the Word of God to work in your life – you will notice – along with the author of Ps. 119:17-24 that you will develop two titles that you would have never imagined to have: **Servant & Stranger**.

### **Servant Ps. 119:17 & 23**

#### **Christ – Servant**

**Matthew 12:18** Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.

**Philippians 2:6-8** Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Servant's heart:

- Not think highly of self: thought it not robbery to be equal with God
- Made himself of no reputation
- King of heaven: took upon him the form of a servant
- He humbled himself
- Became obedient unto death -- even the death of the cross

"If you don't have something worth dying for, then you don't have something worth living for"

Be willing to be ridiculed, mocked, hated, despised...

Apostles – **1 Cor. 4:9-16**

#### **Servant is greatest**

**Matthew 20:27** And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

**Matthew 23:11** But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

**Mark 10:44-45** And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

**Romans 1:1** Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

**Hebrews 3:5** And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant,

**Jude 1:1** Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James

**2 Peter 1:1** Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ,

**Revelation 1:1** The **Revelation of Jesus Christ**, which God gave unto him, **to shew unto his servants** things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified *it* by his angel **unto his servant John**:  
**Revelation 22:3** And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and **his servants shall serve him**:

### **Need to understand authority**

**Matthew 8:9-13** For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this *man*, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth *it*. When Jesus heard *it*, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, **Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel**. And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, *so* be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

**A servant is one that yields his authority of him/her self to the Lord. (Bible definition of servant)**

No place for a rebel spirit for servants. No place for prideful spirits for servants. **A servant – slave!**

**Jesus is Lord, then your will is given into His will – hence a servant**

**Romans 10:13** For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

At moment of Salvation – a giving in of the will

If you reign in heart – you are your own lord. If Jesus reigns as Lord, you will be a servant.

A servant's heart comes from yielding your will to God.

Pride reigns, self reigns, willfulness reigns, sin reigns... if not the Lord **SEE Ps. 119:21**

### **Servant obeys**

**Luke 12:43-44** Blessed *is* that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.

**Luke 14:21-23** So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, that my house may be filled.

**Luke 16:13** No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Servant will do what Lord commands. In time -- servant becomes a Friend of God!

**John 15:14-15** Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

**Stranger Ps. 119:19 & 24**

Stranger – not welcome by many people. Associated with widow, fatherless, and the poor

People often avoid *strangers*. Remember story Jesus taught

**Matthew 25:35-37** For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

When saved – the Holy Ghost, the KJV and God-called preachers are *familiar* voices and others are now *strangers* - to the Christian.

**John 10:1-5** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

**John 10:27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

**Acts 12:13-14** And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda. And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in...

**Revelation 3:20** Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Strangers on earth – fellowcitizens in heaven

**Ephesians 2:19** Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

**Hebrews 11:13 & 16** These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth... But now they desire a better *country*, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

## Ps. 119:25-32

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DALETH This portion has 'D' for its alphabetical letter: it sings of Depression, in the spirit of Devotion, Determination, and Dependence.

**Psalms 119:25** DALETH. My soul cleaveth unto the dust: **quicken thou me** according to thy word.

Defined: 1) to live, have life, remain alive, be quickened, be alive, be restored to life or health

**Bible Definition: 1 Cor. 15:36** *Thou* fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die...

### **Christ quickened**

**Romans 8:11** But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

### **Salvation is to be quickened -- Our spirit is dead (separated from God)**

**Ephesians 2:1** And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

### **Method God uses to quicken a sinner – Word of God - Word of God is alive / quick**

**Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**1 Peter 1:23** Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. (New birth is Life imparted by God via His Word)

### **Method God uses to quicken us after salvation – Word of God**

**Psalms 119:25** DALETH. My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word.

**Psalms 119:50** This *is* my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.

**Psalms 119:93** I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me.

**Psalms 119:107** I am afflicted very much: quicken me, O LORD, according unto thy word.

**Psalms 119:154** Plead my cause, and deliver me: quicken me according to thy word.

### **Only 2 groups – quick & the dead**

**1 Peter 4:5** Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the **quick and the dead**.

**Acts 10:42** And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of **God to be the Judge of quick and dead**.

**2 Timothy 4:1** I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall **judge the quick and the dead** at his appearing and his kingdom...

## I) We are of the Dust

By creation

**Genesis 2:7** And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

**John 3:31** He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.

**1 Corinthians 15:47** The first man *is* of the earth, earthy: the second man *is* the Lord from heaven.

Too often we find ourselves like Ps. 119:25a

When our soul cleaves to the dust – worldliness, sin, to know our own earthiness

Power of sinful nature, self-will, self indulgence

Jesus washed disciples feet – feet touch and defiled by dust of earth

Satan – form of serpent – snakes are earthly – on dust of earth

**Genesis 3:14** And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou *art* cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

Your flesh will not change – until death

**John 3:6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

## II) Need to be Honest with the Lord

**Psalms 119:26** I have declared my ways... Psalmist is honest with the Lord

God knows all Ps. 139:1-4 – ridiculous to not be honest with him.

When soul cleaveth to dust, be honest with the Lord and declare your ways...

I have sinned / I am earthly... Rom. 7:18, Prov. 28:13

## III) Solution is Divine

**Psalms 119:25** DALETH. My soul cleaveth unto the dust: **quicken thou me according to thy word.**

The solution is found in God quickening your spirit.

Salvation – God gives new birth / life. After salvation, when we are earthly, we need God to do a supernatural work of quickening our spirit – giving us spiritual life to overcome our earthiness.

This quickening is a work of God – and from the Word of God.

## IV) Put Away Lying

**Psalms 119:29** Remove from me the way of lying...

The Psalmist was saved, loved God, but needed a work of God to help him deal with his own earthiness. Now he asks God to remove lying from his life. I doubt he was a liar – to people. I believe he is referring to his own lying between his heart and God. Again -- the need to be honest with God.

## Ps. 119:33-40

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**With my whole heart vs. 34 / Incline my heart vs. 36**

God deals with heart of man. Man's relationship with God has everything to do with the heart.

**Psalms 119:36** Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.

A divided heart often has to do with covetousness / love of money / things. You have money and things, does money have you? Do things have you?

**Luke 12:15** And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Heart changes your path vs. 35; your eyes vs. 37; what you long for vs. 40; and

Your attitude:

**Teach Me** vs. 33 We need no instruction I the way of sin. Only a fool is a self-taught man. The outward revelation is of no avail without the inward teaching. We know nothing spiritually except we are taught of God. The more we are taught / more we learn, the more we feel our need of learning more.

**1 Corinthians 2:9-10** But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

**1 Corinthians 2:11** For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

**1 Corinthians 2:16** For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

**Give Me Understanding** vs. 34 Man cannot teach what he does not know; and of God and of his law, man knows nothing. Therefore the beginning of wisdom is a consciousness of ignorance, a distrust of our own understanding.

**Luke 24:44** And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.

**Luke 24:32** And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

**Luke 24:45** Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

## **The Human Being:**

**Ecclesiastes 7:29** Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

**Isaiah 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.

**Your heart can / should lead one to a godly life.**

**Psalms 119:35** Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; **for therein do I delight.**

Compare this to:

**Psalms 119:25** DALETH. **My soul cleaveth unto the dust:** quicken thou me according to thy word.

Within ten verses, there is quite a change of attitude – from earthiness vs. 25 to godliness vs. 35

How can this be? **We are a saved being inside an unsaved body.**

**Our New Nature**      Two natures / Flesh and Holy Spirit in same body

**Colossians 1:27** To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory:

**Galatians 2:20** I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but **Christ liveth in me**: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself...

**1 Cor. 3:16** Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the **Spirit of God dwelleth in you?**

**John 17:23** **I in them, and thou in me**, that they may be made perfect in one...

**2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, **he is a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

**Eph. 4:24** ...that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in **righteousness and true holiness.**

**1 Cor. 2:16** For who hath known the mind of the Lord...? But **we have the mind of Christ.**

**Col. 3:10** ...the new *man*, which is **renewed in knowledge** after the image of him that created him:

## Process of Growth

**Ephesians 4:22-24** That ye **put off** concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye **put on** the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

**2 Peter 1:3** According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

**2 Peter 1:4** Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

**2 Peter 1:5-7** And beside this, giving all diligence, **add** to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

## Ps. 119:41-48

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In these verses holy fear is apparent and prominent. The man of God trembles lest in any way or degree the Lord should remove his favour from him. The eight verses are one continued pleading for the abiding of grace in his soul, and it is supported by such holy arguments as would only suggest themselves to a spirit burning with love to God. SPURGEON

This whole section consists of petitions and promises. The petitions are two; **Ps 119:41,43**. The promises are six. This is a difference between godly men and others: all men seek good things from God, The **wicked** so seek that they give him nothing back again, nor yet will promise any sort of return.

Their prayers must be unprofitable, because they proceed from love of themselves, and not of the Lord. If so be they obtain that which is for their necessity, they care not to give to the Lord that which is for his glory:

The **godly**, as they seek good things, so they give praise to God when they have gotten them, and return the use of things received, to the glory of God who gave them.

They love not themselves for themselves, but for the Lord; what they seek from him they seek it for this end, that they may be the more able to serve him. Let us take heed unto this; because it is a clear token whereby such as are truly religious are distinguished from counterfeit dissemblers. *William Cowper*.

Thy salvation	vs 41	<b>Thy word</b>	vs 41
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**James 1:17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Notice THY – God’s Word / God’s salvation...

Words that describe the Word of God:

Thy judgments	vs 43	Thy law	vs 44
Thy precepts	vs 45	Thy testimonies	vs 46
Thy commandments	vs 47	Thy statutes	vs 48

Salvation & Word of God go hand in hand vs 41. It truly is His salvation. We cannot save ourselves. After salvation – trust in thy word vs 42. It is His Word. We could not come up with the Word of God.

Vs 43 tells us it is our only hope. “Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.”

Our response:

I will keep	vs 44	I will walk	vs 45
I will speak	vs 46	I will delight	vs 47
I will lift up my hands	vs 48 (praise)	I will meditate	vs 48

**What we know – ought to cause us to do**

**James 1:22** But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

**Luke 6:46** And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

**Luke 6:47-49** Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

To know and not do – no better than one who does not know. In fact, worse off as we will be held accountable for what we know.

**Luke 12:48** But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

**2 Peter 2:21** For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

To Know – cause us To Do

**I will keep** vs 44

Not just on earth, but forever. Invest your life in that which is eternal. Ps 119:89.

Faith – no need for faith in eternity. Use it while alive

Hope – no need for hope in eternity – hope of heaven, hope of brighter future

Money – no need for money then

Charity / Love – Never faileth... will still be there / souls will still be there / missions giving still going...

**Revelation 22:11** He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

**I will walk** vs 45

Liberty comes from Word. John 8:32, 17:17, 2 Cor. 3:17

Freedom from sin; freedom –

many on earth are jealous of America / yearn to be an American – we take it for granted.

**Galatians 5:1** Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Liberty – not liberty of sin – do what we please

Duty have to...

Liberty of godliness – do what we ought

Privilege – get to...

**There is a yoke for everyone – yoke of sin or Christ's yoke:**

**Matthew 11:28-30** Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For **my yoke is easy**, and my burden is light.

**Psalms 19:10** More to be desired *are they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

**I will speak** vs 46

Why? What is in our heart comes out of our mouth. Matt. 12:34

Vs 46 Speak and not be ashamed:

**Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

**I will delight** vs 47

**Psalms 119:35** Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for **therein do I delight**.

**Psalms 119:72** The law of thy mouth *is better unto me than* thousands of gold and silver.

**Psalms 119:92** Unless **thy law had been my delights**, I should then have perished in mine affliction.

Why our delight?

**Colossians 3:1-2** If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

**Psalms 1:2** But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. It gives us something in our spirit that is stirred; it feeds our soul. What else can satisfy the inner being but the Holy Spirit?

Only thing that gives a Christian contentment – inner pleasure – delighting in the Lord. Everything else is so vain.

**I will lift up** vs 48

Praise – Ps 145-150 reminds us to praise the Lord. Keeps life in its proper perspective. We see “bad” things occurring to us, and we forget God is Sovereign, worthy of praise... Often all we can see is our problems.

God is good when our life is “bad”

**Psalms 150:6** Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

Read thru Bible – one of reasons – to remind us Ps 145-150 Praise ought to be a part of our life.

**I will meditate** vs 48

Go to it like hungry man to his food, like miser to his treasure, like miner digging for gold

**James 1:25** But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Because it works

**1 Thessalonians 2:13** For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

It works if we let it work.

All based upon love for Bible.

## Ps. 119:49-56

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**Psalms 119:50** This *is* my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.

There is not one that has not occasion again and again to say, "in my affliction...

Sometimes, often indeed, it is due to the injustice, or the cruelty, or the inconsiderateness of men (vers. 51, 61, 69, 78). The very worst suffering is the consequence of the betrayal and the hostility of those we once trusted and loved.

**Psalms 119:54-55** Thy statutes have been **my songs** in the house of my pilgrimage. I have remembered thy name, O LORD, **in the night**, and have kept thy law.

**Psalms 119:49** ZAIN. Remember **the word** unto thy servant, upon which thou hast **caused me to hope**.

Source of comfort – Word of God

Caused him to hope – take away hope, despair is present.

Essence of counseling – give hope, then find root problem, then address with Bible solution to that root

The Believer & the Word of God. It can do what the Daily Bread cannot; what a friend cannot; what a small group cannot; what a counselor cannot. Only God, the H. Spirit can meet a need with the Word.

Reminder of Verdict of God in time past vs. 52

*God will judge them* who are now judging him. He can leave them to his tribunal, whence righteous judgment will go forth.

Vengeance belongeth to God

Like songs in the night

Songs / singing speak to the soul

When it is darkest, bleakest, - the night – comfort comes

The joy of the Lord comes not to the half-hearted and the compromiser and the unfaithful. But to him who keeps God's precepts they do come

**Psalms 119:50** This *is* my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.

The Word of God works.

**1 Thessalonians 2:13** For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

**Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**1 Peter 1:23** Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

Remember – what God did:

**Psalms 119:52** I remembered thy judgments of old, O LORD; and have comforted myself.

**Psalms 119:55** I have remembered thy name, O LORD, in the night, and have kept thy law.

What He did in O.T. God protected Noah / exalted Joseph / multiplied Israel / called Samuel / helped David defeat Goliath / give Daniel peace in lion's den / blessed Job / 2 Tim. 3:12

What He did in N.T.

Jesus turned water into wine – salvation 2 Cor. 5:21

Fed 5,000 with 5 loaves and 2 fishes – God can bless your finances

Forgave Nicodemus – a religious person

Forgave woman at well – a wicked person

Saved Zacchaeus – fraud with money

Saved Saul on road to Damascus – religious person made great

Preserved John on isle of Patmos

What He promised

Salvation – John 6:37

Security – Heb 13:5

Tithing – Mal. 3:10

Provision – Matt. 6:25-34

Heaven - John 14:1-3

Angels Heb. 1:14

Tribulation Period I The. 5:9

Remembering & Hope go together (vs. 49 & 52,55)

Ps. 119:51-53

Sometimes affliction comes from others / from the wicked

Derision: mocked, laughed at in contempt, a laughing-stock...

If your heart is right with God, the derision of the proud, instead of forcing us to decline from the law of God, will strengthen our adherence to it.

Think of the day:

**Revelation 3:5** He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

**Romans 8:17** And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

Put all in perspective

**1 Peter 4:12** Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

**1 John 5:19** *And* we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

## Ps. 119:57-64

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In this section the Psalmist seems to take firm hold upon God himself. The troubles and trials afflicting him (vs. 50-53) have led him to a deepened relationship with God.

Note the first two words of vs. 57 are in italic – added but not original in translation. Hence, Spurgeon:

"My portion, O Lord!" The poet is lost in wonder while he sees that the great and glorious God is all his own! Well might he be so, for there is no possession like Jehovah himself. The form of the sentence expresses joyous recognition and appropriation, -- "My portion, O Jehovah!"

**Song of Solomon 2:16** My beloved *is* mine, and I *am* his: he feedeth among the lilies.

**Song of Solomon 6:3** I *am* my beloved's, and my beloved *is* mine: he feedeth among the lilies.

God is closer in troubles than at any other time. He becomes your all in all.

**Romans 8:26** Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

To find God as your all in all – found in Word & Communion

8 Marks of Regeneration / Born Again

1) **Thou art my portion.**

2) After believing in God, and choosing him for our portion, to resolve to bring forth the fruits of faith in new obedience, as David did: **I have said that I would keep thy words.**

**2 Pet. 2:2** Growth comes from Life \*\* New Birth = Life / Life = Growth

3) As it is usual for God's children, now and then because of sin falling out, to be exercised with a sense of God's displeasure, so it is a mark of a new creature not to lie stupid and senseless under this exercise, but to deal with God earnestly, for restoring the sense of reconciliation, and giving new experience of his mercy, as the Psalmist did; **I intreated thy favour with my whole heart;** and this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> evidence of a new creature.

**I John 1:9** Conviction comes from within

The penitent believer hath the word of grace and the covenant of God for his assurance to be heard when he seeketh mercy: **Be merciful unto me according to thy word.**

4) The searching in what condition we are in, and examination of our ways according to the word, and renewing of repentance, with an endeavour of amendment, is the 4<sup>th</sup> mark of a new creature: **I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.**

**Heb. 2:1, Heb. 4:16, Heb. 6:1 a, Heb. 10:38-39, Heb. 12:10-13 a**

When we do see our sin we are naturally slow to amend our doings; but the sooner we turn us to the way of God's obedience, we speed the better, and the more speedy the reforming of our life be, the more sound mark is it of a new creature: **I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments.**

5) Enduring of persecution and spoiling of our goods, for adhering to God's word, without forsaking of his cause, is the 5<sup>th</sup> mark of a new creature: **The bands of the wicked have robbed me: but I have not forgotten thy law.**

#### **Heb. 11:6, 11:13-16**

As it is the lot of God's children who resolve to be godly, to suffer persecution, and to be forced either to lose their temporal goods or else to lose a good cause and a good conscience; so it is the wisdom of the godly to remember what the Lord's word requireth of us and speaketh unto us, and this shall comfort our conscience more than the loss of things temporal can trouble our minds: **The bands of the wicked have robbed me: but I have not forgotten thy law.**

6) 6<sup>th</sup> mark of a new creature is, to be so far from fretting under hard exercise as to thank God in secret cheerfully for his gracious word, and for all the passages of his providence, where none seeth us, and where there is no hazard of ostentation: **At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments.**

#### **Ps. 145-150**

7) 7<sup>th</sup> mark of a renewed creature is, to associate ourselves and keep communion with such as are truly gracious, and do fear God indeed, as we are able to discern them: **I am a companion of all them that fear thee.**

#### **1 Cor. 12:13**

The fear of God is evidenced by believing and obeying the doctrine and direction of the Scripture, and no other ways: **I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.**

8) 8<sup>th</sup> mark of a new creature is, not to rest in any measure of renovation, but earnestly to deal with God for the increase of saving knowledge, and fruitful obedience of it; for, **Teach me thy statutes**, is the prayer of the man of God, in whom all the former marks are found.

#### **2 Pet. 3:18**

As the whole of the creatures are witnesses of God's bounty to man, and partakers of that bounty themselves, so are they pawns of God's pleasure to bestow upon his servants greater gifts than these, even the increase of sanctification, in further illumination of mind and reformation of life: for this the Psalmist useth for an argument to be more and more sanctified: **The earth, O Lord, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes.** *David Dickson.*

## Ps. 119:65-72

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### God's Been Good

Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O LORD, according unto thy word. (vs. 65)

This is the text of this octave. It gives a brief overview.

It flows from a heart of gratitude as one sums up their life in review.

'In providence and in grace, in giving prosperity and sending adversity, in everything Jehovah hath dealt well with us. It is dealing well on our part to tell the Lord that we feel that he hath dealt well with us; for praise of this kind is specially fitting and comely. This kindness of the Lord is, however, no chance matter: he promised to do so, and he has done it according to his word. It is very precious to see the word of the Lord fulfilled in our happy experience; it endears the Scripture to us, and makes us love the Lord of the Scripture." SPURGEON

God is good. God is a Father. God is gracious. In providence, problems and blessings... in all of life, God is good.

#### Verse 1

Lately I've been looking back, along this winding road  
To the old familiar markers of the mercies I have known  
I know it may sound simple but it's more than a cliché  
There's no better way to tell you, than to say

#### Chorus

God's been good in my life  
I feel blessed beyond my wildest dreams when I go to sleep each night  
And though I've had my share of hard times, I wouldn't change them if I could  
'Cause through it all, God's been good

#### Verse 2

Times replay and I can see that I've cried some bitter tears  
But I felt His arms around me, as I faced my greatest fears  
You see I've had more gains than losses and I've known more joy than hurt  
As His grace rolled down upon me undeserved

#### Bridge

For God has been my Father, my Savior and my Friend  
His love was my beginning, and His love will be my end  
I could spend forever trying to tell you everything He is  
But the best that I can say it is this

#### Chorus

God's been good in my life  
I feel blessed beyond my wildest dreams when I go to sleep each night  
And though I've had my share of hard times, I wouldn't change them if I could  
'Cause through it all, God's been good

When you get to heaven, you will find out that God is good, wise, gracious. We just love and trust Him now and we will find out that Vs. 65 – God hast dealt well with thy servant.

Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O LORD, **according unto thy word.**

Not according to man's ideas – man's ideas – new car, new house, lots of money, vacation, no need to work...

### **According to thy Word – what is best for us.**

Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word. Vs. 67

*It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.* Vs. 71

No one wants this – but with a spiritual reality – can be thankful for God's dealings with us... according to thy word.

Rom. 8:18, 8:28... Get proper perspective on life:

According to thy word Ps. 119:9, 25, 28, 41, 58, 65, 76, 107, 116, 154, 169, 170

### **Affliction**

**Vs. 67** Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.

medicine of affliction worked a change

"but"; an immediate change

"now"; a lasting change

"have I" an inward change

"have I kept"; a change towards God -- "thy word."

Vs. 71 *It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.*

**Like Job** Not a wicked departure / not maliciousness / not contempt – but a drifting...

through the weakness of the flesh, the prevalence of corruption, and the force of temptation, and very much through a careless, heedless, and negligent frame of spirit, he got out of the right way, and wandered from it before he was well aware --- erring through ignorance.

**Revelation 2:4** Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

Thomas Washborne "Man like a silly sheep doth often stray, Not knowing of his way, Blind deserts and the wilderness of sin He daily travels in; There's nothing will reduce him sooner than Afflictions to his pen. He wanders in the sunshine, but in rain And stormy weather hastens home again."

By affliction God separates the sin which he hates from the soul which he loves. --*John Mason.*

1. Before affliction: straying    2. In affliction: learning.    3. After affliction: knowing.

## Character of God

**Thou** *art* good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes. Vs. 68

## Character of Man

**Ecclesiastes 7:20** For *there is* not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

**Psalms 119:69** The proud have forged a lie against me...

## Character of Earth

**Genesis 3:17** And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed *is* the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of thy life;

## Character of God's word

**The law** of thy **mouth *is* better unto me** than thousands of gold and silver. Vs. 72

When you ponder the evils, the ills of our world... look for the root source. It is not the goodness of God that gives drunkenness, drugs, rape, robbery, murder.

It is the goodness of God:

**Romans 2:4** Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

**Romans 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

Ver. 71. -- **Affliction an instructor.**

1. Never welcomed: "Have been."
2. Often impatiently endured.
3. Always gratefully remembered: "It is good," etc.
4. Indispensable in the education of all. --*J.F.*

Ver. 71. -- **The school of affliction.**

1. The reluctant scholar sent to school.
2. The scholar's hard lesson.
3. The scholar's blessed learning.
4. The scholar's sweet reflection. --*C.A.D.*

## Ps. 119:73-80

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**Psalms 119:73** JOD. Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.

Subject would seem to be personal experience and its attractive influence upon others

### 1) You and the Creator

**Psalms 100:3** Know ye that the LORD he *is* God: *it is* he *that* hath made us, and not we ourselves; *we are* his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

**Psalms 139:14-16** I will praise thee; for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made: marvellous *are* thy works; and *that* my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, *and* curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all *my members* were written, *which* in continuance were fashioned, when as *yet there was* none of them.

You are created exactly as the Lord would have you to be.

**Romans 9:20-21** Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed *it*, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

Submit / accept yourself for who you are. It is ok for you to be you. Believe that you are just what God would have you to be. This is foundational – add to this understanding & wisdom.

### 2) Give Me Understanding (Understanding or Wisdom is found 108 times in Proverbs)

#### Understanding related to comprehension

**Ephesians 3:4** Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

**2 Timothy 2:7** Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

**Psalms 32:9** Be ye not as the horse, *or* as the mule, *which* have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.

#### Wisdom related to the mind – a spiritual life lived out in a practical life

**James 3:17** But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

**Proverbs 4:7** Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *therefore* get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

## To be Sought Out

**Proverbs 2:2-3** So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, *and* apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, *and* liftest up thy voice for understanding;

**Proverbs 2:6-7** For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: *he is* a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

**Proverbs 4:5** Get wisdom, get understanding: forget *it* not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

**Proverbs 4:7** Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *therefore* get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

## From God

**1 Kings 3:9-12** Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

**1 Kings 4:29-30** And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that *is* on the sea shore. And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt.

**Exodus 35:31** And he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship;

**Exodus 36:1-2** Then wrought Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whom the LORD put wisdom and understanding to know how to work all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, according to all that the LORD had commanded. And Moses called Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whose heart the LORD had put wisdom, *even* every one whose heart stirred him up to come unto the work to do it:

## Fear of the Lord is the Place to Start

**Proverbs 1:7** The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

**1 Corinthians 1:18** For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

### 3) That I may Learn thy Commandments

We get understanding / wisdom so we can learn – not just head knowledge, but obey, take heed to...

... Than I may learn thy commandments...

**Hebrews 5:7-8** Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a **Son, yet learned he obedience** by the things which he suffered;

**Philippians 4:11** Not that I speak in respect of want: **for I have learned**, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content.

How learn? Submitting and yielding to Creator...

Wisdom recognizes the Creator in your life and then submits to Him and yields the life to Him.

Result:

- I have hoped in thy word. Vs 74
- *that* thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me. Vs 75 by a yielding to Sovereignty of God
- thy merciful kindness be for my comfort. Vs 76

The words "merciful kindness," are a happy combination, and express exactly what we need in affliction: mercy to forgive the sin, and kindness to sustain under the sorrow.

Instead of resisting God in affliction, Psalmist begs for merciful kindness...

- for thy law *is* my delight. Vs 77
- for they dealt perversely with me without a cause: *but* I will meditate in thy precepts. Vs 78

Not a "get back" attitude – but a yielding to Sovereignty of God

- Let those that fear thee turn unto me, vs 79

Those who are dear to God, and are instructed in his word, should be very precious in our eyes, and we should do our utmost to be upon good terms with them.

- Let my heart be sound in thy statutes vs 80

Stability in life / Maturity comes from wisdom.

## Ps. 119:81-88

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My soul fainteth for thy salvation

Mine eyes fail for thy word

I am become like a bottle in the smoke

How many *are* the days of thy servant?

Vs 81 fainteth" is the same that in [Ps 73:26](#) is translated "faileth": "My flesh and my heart faileth." The idea is, that his strength gave way.

It is not a fainting of the body – but the soul. Nothing left – fainteth. Can be blown over spiritually with a slight wind. Note Ps. 119:87a.

Vs 82 Mine eyes fail for thy word - The same word in Hebrew as in the previous verse and in Ps 73:26. The idea here is that of looking out for a thing - of "straining the eyes" - so that their power becomes exhausted. The language expresses a longing desire - a waiting - an intense wish - for a thing, as when we look for a ship long expected, or for a friend long absent, or for help when in danger. Such a desire the psalmist had for the word of God, for divine truth.

Saying, When wilt thou comfort me? - How long shall I be compelled to wait for comfort? How often in the Psalms do the expressions occur, "When," and "How long!" How often in the life of the believer now are similar expressions appropriate! God often seems greatly to try the faith and patience of his people by mere delay.

Vs 83 For I am become like a bottle in the smoke - Bottles in the East were commonly made of skins. Such "bottles," hanging in tents where the smoke had little opportunity to escape, would, of course, become dark and dingy, and would thus be emblems of distress, discomfort, and sorrow. The meaning here is, that, by affliction and sorrow, the psalmist had been reduced to a state which would be well represented by such a bottle.

Vs 84 How many are the days of thy servant? - I cannot hope to live long. I am sinking under my burdens. If I am, therefore, to see the accomplishment of my desires - my deliverance from my enemies and my troubles - it must be soon.

Vs. 88 Quicken me - Cause me to live; revive me.

**Psalmist is holding out his hand to God for help – and that speedily.**

Enemies have brought him to the lowest condition of anguish and depression

**Proverbs 24:10** *If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.*

**1 Kings 19:4-5** But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I *am* not better than my fathers. And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise *and* eat.

**Jonah 4:3-4** Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for *it is* better for me to die than to live. Then said the LORD, Doest thou well to be angry?

**2 Timothy 2:3** Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

**1 Corinthians 10:13** There hath no temptation taken you but such as is **common to man**: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

Christians will suffer all emotions of life. Our life is compounded by enemy of world, devil and flesh along with working of God to purge, purify and test our heart. Unsaved do not “swim against the tide” and God does not chasten them nor deal with them as children.

**Matthew 11:28-30** Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

### **World as Enemy**

**2Co 11:24-25** Of the Jews five times received I forty *stripes* save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

### **Tests from God / Attacks from Devil**

**2Co 11:26-27** *In* journeyings often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils by *mine own* countrymen, *in* perils by the heathen, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

### **Spiritual Work**

**2Co 11:28** Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

### **Goodness of God**

**2Co 11:29-31** Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not? If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not.

**Ver. 81. -- For thy salvation.** Understood in a higher sense, the holy man longs for the coming of the Saviour in the flesh. --*Cornelius Jansen*.

**Rom.8:23** And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the **redemption of our body**.

**1 Thessalonians 5:9** For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but **to obtain salvation** by our Lord Jesus Christ, (This salvation is the ‘redemption of our body’ as we have already been saved in our soul)

Vs. 88 Quicken me - Cause me to live; revive me. When all else fails – last verse – Oh, Lord, I pray you would do something. We look to His Word, but we must also look to the Author of the Word.

Answer to “Fainteth” vs. 81-82: the LIFE of God in the SOUL of man

## Ps. 119:89-96

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**Psalms 119:89** LAMED. For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

**Matt. 5:18** ...Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law...

**Matthew 24:35** Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

**Isaiah 40:8** The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

**1 Peter 1:25** But the word of the Lord endureth for ever...

**The Word of God is Inspired / God-Breathed** (Life given by the Holy Spirit)

**Genesis 2:7** And the **LORD God** formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and **breathed into** his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

**2 Timothy 3:16** All scripture *is* given by **inspiration** of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof...

**2 Peter 1:21** For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

Holy men of God (Human)...by the Holy Ghost (Divine)

Moved – literally ‘borne along’ like a ship borne along by the wind.

**The Word of God is Preserved**

**Psalms 12:6-7** The words of the LORD *are* pure words: *as* silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

God oversaw the writings and compilation of the canon of Scripture and the translation of Scripture that today we hold in our hands, the preserved Word of God in the KJV.

“There exists no reason for supposing that the Divine Agent, who in the first instance thus gave to mankind the Scriptures of Truth, immediately abdicated His office and took no further care of His work; that He abandoned those precious Writings.”<sup>1</sup>

“If God could providentially guard the canon of Scriptures, so that only those Books which He inspired were chosen, and if He determined beforehand how many hairs would be on your head, why is it thought incredible to you that God has guided His devoted children to constantly watch over His God-breathed Words? The Scriptures say that Satan blinds the minds of his servants (II Cor. 4:4), and causes them to do his will. Yet you say that God cannot be thought to have been able to enlighten the minds of His servants so as to cause them to do His will in sorting out the corrupt manuscripts, and duplication the authentic ones. Is there not a crisis of belief apparent in such a contradictory stand?”

How do you explain the fact that the Received Text found its way into every corner of Christendom, was copied there and authenticated by persons and authorities who had no contact with any others – while your so-called ‘Neutral Text’ is found virtually nowhere but Egypt and Caesarea?”<sup>2</sup>

“Is it indeed credible that Almighty Wisdom – which is observed to have made such abundant provision for the safety of the humblest forms of animal life, for the preservation of common seeds, often seeds

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<sup>1</sup> Unholy Hands On The Bible p. 7

<sup>2</sup> Ibid p. xxvi-xxvii

of noxious plants – should yet have omitted to make provision for the life-giving seed of His own Everlasting Word.

But what say our Textual Critics in the present day? They say that thousands of words have been buried from 1,000 to 1,800 years in Egyptian sands, in a convent wastebasket and in the Pope’s library... They claim that... thousands of false words have been inserted into our New Testaments, and that the faithful have been deceived by these uninspired additions... They are saying that God did not care for His Words during these many centuries, and in fact took no action to ensure His Word being preserved so as not to be lost through corrupted manuscripts.

In our view these offending Critics are guilty of: (1) Unbelief; (2) Idolatry; (3) Deceit; and (4) Unfaithfulness in Doctrine and in Translation.”<sup>3</sup>

Those who do not believe we have a preserved Bible will often say the following:

- That’s what the Bible says, but in the original Greek it really means...
- A better translation would be...
- This verse is not found in the most ancient manuscripts...

Preservation of the O.T. was mainly done by the scribes. Rules of the scribes are given in the handout provided.

The O.T. text we use today is referred to as the Masoretic Text. In later years, the Masoretes would be used to preserve O.T. Scripture by adding the vowels needed in words for one to understand the writings.

The Masoretes lived in Tiberias around the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> century. The study of the Bible was a national occupation. It was the main feature of a child’s education. They developed this system of putting vowels and ‘help-letters’ into the Hebrew text. This preservation of the pronunciation was necessary as the Jewish people were dispersed over the globe and was no longer vernacular for most Jews.

Preservation of the N.T. was done by the early church hand copying the Word of God. There are few older manuscripts as Bibles were banned, burnt and banished.

- 302 A.D Roman emperor Diocletian issued an edict that all Bibles be burned
- In the Dark Ages (500-1500 A.D.) the Church of Rome forbade the use of Bibles.
- 1415 A.D. 31 years after the death of John Wycliffe, his remains were dug up, judged, burnt and then scattered in the River Swift for the crime of translating the Bible into English. William Tyndale was strangled and then burnt at stake in 1536 A.D. for the same crime.
- During the reign of “Bloody Mary” in England (1553-1558 A.D.), Bibles were used as fuel to burn Christians at the stake.
- Martyrdom and Bible-burning was typical for Baptists and translators of the Textus Receptus but not for those translators of the Westcott/Hort text.

God has miraculously preserved His Word to us today. There are 5,262 extant Greek manuscripts of the N.T.. The next oldest Greek book is Homer’s Iliad. It has 643 copies and only dates back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

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<sup>3</sup> Unholy Hands On The Bible p. xiv-xv

The New Testament was written in Koine Greek, a 'street language.' It was the universal language of the common people. By the fourth century, Latin became the dominant language and continued through the Dark Ages. The Latin Bible was translated in 150 A.D. and a corrupt Latin version was later produced by Jerome in 405 A.D..

### **The Renaissance**

*Renaissance* means 'new birth' and refers to the 'revival of learning' in Europe. 3 major influences which brought about this:

- The Crusades – popes fighting Islamic armies in war
- The Fall of Constantinople – when Turks conquered, many Eastern scholars who brought vast amounts of ancient writings with them, became teachers in the universities of the West.
- Global Expansion – new horizons with Columbus (1492 A.D.) and Magellan (1521 A.D.). Men began searching for old documents and books which resulted in an abundance of dictionaries, commentaries and versions of the Bible. The Scriptures could now be studied in its original Greek language.<sup>4</sup>

### **The Invention of the Printing Press**

In 1452 A.D. the first Bible was printing with the invention of movable type. A new era for mass producing the Bible had arrived.

### **Erasmus' Greek N.T.**

Erasmus was **the** giant intellect of the Reformation-eve. His greatest work was his Greek N.T., first published in 1516 A.D.. This was the basis for what later came to be called 'The Textus Receptus.'<sup>5</sup> He later published the Greek N.T. in 1519, 1522, 1527 and 1535 A.D..

The influence of Erasmus' Greek Text helped produce the following translations:

Luther's German Bible in 1522 A.D.	Tyndale's English Bible in 1525 A.D.
Zurich's Swiss Bible in 1529 A.D.	LeFevre's French Bible in 1534 A.D.
Olivetanus' French Bible in 1535 A.D.	Laurentius' Swedish Bible in 1541 A.D.
Christian III Danish Bible in 1550 A.D.	Biestken's Dutch Bible in 1558 A.D.
deReyna's Spanish Bible in 1569 A.D.	Czech Version in 1602 A.D.
Diodati's Italian Bible in 1607 A.D. <sup>6</sup>	

### **William Tyndale**

In a debate with a Catholic priest, William Tyndale stated, "If God spares my life, ere many years I will cause a boy that driveth the plough shall know more of the Scripture than thou doest."

Tyndale was skilled in 7 languages and completed his translation of the English N.T. in 1525 A.D. with a revised edition in 1534. The KJV is said to be 85% word for word the work of Tyndale.

In spite of persecution, hunger, and hardship, he persevered with this mission until he was betrayed, arrested, convicted as a heretic and burned at the stake. His last words were, "Lord, open the eyes of the King of England.

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<sup>4</sup> Landmarks of English Bible: Manuscript Evidence p.157

<sup>5</sup> Ibid p.160

<sup>6</sup> Ibid p. 169

## Bibles in English

Tyndale's Bible was followed by *The Coverdale Bible*, *The Matthew's Bible*, *The Taverner's Bible*, *The Great Bible*, *The Geneva Bible* and *The Bishop's Bible*. In 1582, the Church of Rome published *The Douai/Rheims Bible* using the *Latin Vulgate* as its main source.

The *Great Bible* was small and inexpensive. It was the first English Bible with chapter and verse divisions. It used italics to display words not in the original Greek. It was the Bible brought to America.

## King James

King James was taught to know the Bible thoroughly, and it was his custom to have a chapter of the Scriptures read and discussed at every meal. Here is a brief synopsis of how the King James Bible came to be translated.

King James was confronted with two religious factions – Episcopalians and Puritans. The conflict between these two groups led to the KJV. *The Bishop's Bible* and *The Great Bible* were preferred by the clergy and *The Geneva Bible* was preferred by the masses as well as the Puritan leaders.

The Hampton Court Conference was held where outstanding church issues could be discussed. King James was Solomon-like as much banter took place. In the midst of much arguing, the Lord, in His divine providence had Dr. John Reynolds suggested that "one lonely translation of the Bible to be authentic and read in the church." Another jotted-down account of this scene was, "May your Majesty be pleased that the Bible be new translated?" This cause for a new translation was to take effect.

On July 22, 1604, King James announced he had selected 54 men to translate the new Bible. Each must be a proven Bible scholar and had 'taken pains in their private study in the Scriptures.'

The KJV was completed in 1611 A.D. and has several revisions with the last being in 1769 A.D.. A revision is a change of simple things such as spelling, punctuation, word order and some minor word changes.

## Things That Are Different Are Not The Same

**KJV Matthew 5:22** But I say unto you, That whosoever is **angry** with his brother **without a cause** shall be in danger of the judgment...

**ASV Matthew 5:22** but I say unto you, that every one who is **angry with his brother** shall be in danger of the judgment...

Jesus was angry – but with a righteous cause.

**26 A.D. John 2:14-15** And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

**29 A.D. Matt. 21:12** And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves,  
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**KJV Psalms 12:6-7** The **words of the LORD are pure words: as silver** tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. **Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them** from this generation **for ever**.

**NIV Psalm 12:6-7** And the words of the LORD are flawless, like silver refined in a furnace of clay, purified seven times. O LORD, **you will keep us safe and protect us** from such people forever.

**(Titus in 70 A.D. and Hitler in 1940's)**

**Psalms 119:89-96 LAMED.**

- For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. VS 89

It is a done deal – we just need to find it. For us – it is in the KJV. The preserved Word of God to English speaking people.

To stand upon the Word of God – is to stand upon a Rock. Greater than rock of Gibraltar.  
Unchangableness of God & His Word / Eternalness of it / Settled forever

- Thy faithfulness *is* unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth. VS 90  
God is faithful.

**Earth**

**Ps. 78:69** And he built his sanctuary like high *palaces*, like the earth which he hath established for ever.

**Ps. 104:5** *Who* laid the foundations of the earth, *that* it should not be removed for ever.

**Israel**

**Jeremiah 31:35-36** Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, *and* the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts *is* his name: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, *then* the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.

**Bible**

**Matthew 24:35** Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

God's faithfulness transcends time and ages. Faithful to every generation!

**Job 26:7** He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, *and* hangeth the earth upon nothing.

The earth – though hung on nothing / thought spinning constantly / gravity is kept and its orbital space is constant. God is faithful

- They continue this day according to thine ordinances: for all *are* thy servants. VS 91  
Day & Night / 4 seasons / 12 constellations / proper orbit of planets / no atom escapes His rule  
**Colossians 1:16-17** For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

BARNES “*And by him all things consist.* Or are sustained. The meaning is, that they are kept in the present state; their existence, order, and arrangement are continued by his power. If unsupported by him, they would fall into disorder, or sink back to nothing.”

“Not only are called into being from nothing, but *are maintained in their present state.* The Son of God is the *Conserver*, as well as the *Creator* of all things.” [PEARSON]

My life / Your life – each breath, each minute, hour, day... He is the sustainer...

- Unless thy law *had been* my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction. VS 92  
Where would we be without the Bible?

Spurgeon: That word which has preserved the heavens and the earth also preserves the people of God in their time of trial

The Bible – source of all comfort. Delight for the soul. Alive and alive as any person is alive.  
I can say – it has done my soul more good than 10,000 words of encouragement.  
More joy than 10,000 of dollars / it will be my last request as my body lays dying.

- I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me. VS 93

I owe my salvation to the Word of God

**1 Peter 1:23** Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

I love the Word of God – read / preached / lived out gives that which is priceless – purpose, contentment, inner peace. To be right with the Creator of heaven and earth is beyond description.

- I *am* thine, save me; for I have sought thy precepts. VS 94

I am thine – to yield my all – I owe Him all! Thanksgiving is a time ought to be dear to the Christian. Thank God for “so great salvation” / for deliverance from power of sin / for assurance of home in heaven. Love for God yields to Him. I am thine – because I love you. We love Him because He first loved us.

- The wicked have waited for me to destroy me: *but* I will consider thy testimonies. VS 95

Our three great enemies are the devil, the world and the flesh. The greatest is the flesh.

**The devil is conquered by blood of Jesus Christ**

**Revelation 12:11** And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

**The world is conquered by faith**

**1 John 5:4** For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

**The flesh is conquered by death to self**

**Romans 6:6** Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

**1 Corinthians 9:27** But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Never underestimate the power of the flesh.

Notice the response – not to “get back” at the wicked – but to consider testimonies for victory!

- I have seen an end of all perfection: *but* thy commandment *is* exceeding broad. VS 96

Is it not the beginning of perfection to lament your imperfection? There is no such thing as perfection in anything which is the work of man. SPURGEON

Others explain it thus, "I have seen an end of all perfection," that is, of all the things of this world which men value and esteem at so high a rate; of all worldly wisdom and knowledge, of wealth, and honour, and greatness, which do all perish and pass away; "but thy law is eternal, and still abideth the same"; or, as the Scripture elsewhere expresses it, "The word of the Lord endureth for ever."

## Ps. 119:97-104

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**Psalms 119:97** MEM. O how love I thy law! it *is* my meditation all the day.

O, how I love \_\_\_\_\_ - an expression of gratitude.

He must express his love, and in making the attempt he perceives that it is inexpressible -- and therefore cries, "O how I love!"

**1 Corinthians 8:3** But if any man love God, the same is known of him.

**1 John 4:19** We love him, because he first loved us.

Because he loved us in spite of our sin / in spite of our selfishness / in spite of our rebellion toward Him in spite of our pride / in spite of our willfulness

We love Bible because it works / it comforts / it encourages / it satisfies spirit of man / it is real – as real as a person speaking to us / it changes us for good / it changes us in ways that make us contented

Meditation of Bible:

**Psalms 119:97** MEM. O how love I thy law! it *is* my **meditation all the day**.

**Psalms 1:2** But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he **meditate day and night**. /

**Joshua 1:8** This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt **meditate therein day and night...**

You think about that which you love. What does your mind think about when not busy with work? That is what you love.

You can fake Christianity; act righteous; act holy; act loving... but you cannot fake love for Word of God.

**Proverbs 23:7** For as he thinketh in his heart, so *is* he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart *is* not with thee.

Sow thought reap action / sow action reap a deed / sow a deed reap a life / sow a life reap a destiny

You are becoming what you think about. James 4:14 A vapor – made up of thoughts!

It is said of some men that the more you know them the less you admire them; but the reverse is true of God's word. Familiarity with the word of God breeds affection, and affection seeks yet greater familiarity.

Love for Word of God snowballs – greater and greater love / or less and less...

**Psalms 119:127** Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.

**Psalms 119:162** I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.

**Psalms 119:103** How sweet are thy words unto my taste! *yea, sweeter* than honey to my mouth!

As you love Christ, you get the heart of Christ. Love Bible, love Jesus Christ.

One of greatest compliments I have had when I was in China. There was the first meeting of the start of a new church. Mark F. spoke, Mr. Morris spoke, then I spoke – one said to me through translation – you are an “egg”-- White on outside, yellow on inside. It is the heart of God for Chinese that would cause a person to love them. Burden from Lord – for the Lord to lead the church into the missions’ program we have.

God will give you ‘his heart’ as you allow the Bible to work in your life. Your life will reflect the heart of God toward this world. You will love people with His heart rather than in your own effort. Your thinking and your wallet will reflect the heart of God.

What’s in it for me? Not that there need be – to love Christ is enough. We are not owed anything. However, the character of God gives us great benefits from following His plan. We get wisdom and understanding.

**Psalms 119:98-100** Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they *are* ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies *are* my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.

Wiser than Enemies / Teachers / Ancients

Wisdom – suppose today is your last day on earth. Now look are your life – were you wise?

Facebook – “I have enough money to live extremely comfortably the rest of my life... if I die on Thursday.”

Plan for long life, live as if this is last year.

Wisdom – loves Bible / loves souls / trusts God for supplying your needs / spreads gospel / invests in missions / unites with divine institution, the church, to get involved in a cause that is greater than the church itself.

(a) Wiser than his enemies, whose wisdom was "not from above, but earthly, sensual, devilish."

(b) Wiser than his teachers, whose wisdom was "of this world."

(c) Wiser than the ancients, whose wisdom was that of unsanctified age and experience. --*W.H.J. Page*

Wiser than my teachers:

By meditation we preach to ourselves, and so we come to understand more than our teachers, for we come to understand our hearts, which they cannot. --*Matthew Henry*.

Wiser than ancients

"The old is better" says one: but the oldest of all is the best of all, and what is that but the word of the Ancient of days

**Psalms 119:101** I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word.

To set boundaries up in life to protect yourself from sin.

ILL My dog and dead raccoon – kept going back to it... sin as an addiction

Sin and loving the Bible – like oil and water.

**Psalms 119:104** Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

Truth or False Righteous or Sin Cannot love both. Matt. 6:24

**John 8:44** Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. **He was a murderer** from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is **no truth in him**. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for **he is a liar, and the father of it**.

**John 14:6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth...

**John 8:32** And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Truth is of God. Truth liberates. Truth never changes. Truth is gleaned from Bible with help of H. Spirit.  
Error is of Satan. Lying is of Satan. Liars change. Satan twists the Bible.

Our teacher:

**Psalms 119:102** I have not departed from thy judgments: **for thou hast taught me**.

**John 17:17** Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth**.

**John 16:13** Howbeit when he, the **Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth**: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

## Ps. 119:105-112

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God's Word has counsel for every difficulty, comfort in every trouble, guidance in all perplexity. Men go wrong, not from want of knowledge of the right, but from unwillingness to follow the right.

God's Word is not just a general light for the guidance of our route; it is something to hold close, for the direction of each step in life that we take.

**Proverbs 6:23** For the commandment *is* a lamp; and the law *is* light; and reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life:

We, the saved are walking in this dark world. We need to use the word of God personally, practically, and habitually, that we may see our way and see what lies in it.

One of the most practical benefits of Holy Writ is guidance in the acts of daily life: it is not sent to astound us with its brilliance, but to guide us by its instruction. It is true the head needs illumination, but even more the feet need direction, else head and feet may both fall into a ditch.

### **Light & Darkness are a natural division**

**Genesis 1:4** And God saw the light, that *it was* good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

**2 Corinthians 6:14** Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

### **Jesus has come to earth**

**1 John 1:5** This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

**Matthew 4:16** The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

**Luke 2:32** A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

**Matthew 17:2** And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

### **All in darkness will be exposed to the Light**

**John 1:9** *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Men condemn themselves by rejecting that light.

**John 3:19** And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

**2 Corinthians 4:4** In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

### **Salvation is to find this True Light**

**John 8:12** Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

**Acts 26:18** To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

**Luke 1:79** To give light to them that sit in darkness and *in* the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

### **Saved are to be a light to this world – put your light on a candlestick / church**

**Matthew 5:14-15** Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

**Romans 13:12** The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

**1 Thessalonians 5:5** Ye are all the **children of light**, and the **children of the day**: we are **not of the night, nor of darkness**.

### **Darkness is a Place**

**Matthew 4:16** The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

### **Men love darkness**

**John 3:19** And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

### **Unsaved walk in darkness**

**1 John 1:6** If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

### **Sin done in the darkness will be exposed**

**Luke 12:3** Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.

**1 Corinthians 4:5** Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

### **Satan rules the darkness**

**Ephesians 6:12** For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the **rulers of the darkness of this world**, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

### **Darkness has power**

**Colossians 1:13** Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

### **Word of God is Light to give deliverance**

**2 Peter 1:19** We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

### **Calls you out of darkness**

**1 Peter 2:9** But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath **called you out of darkness into his marvellous light**:

### **Frees you from darkness**

**John 12:46** I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

### **If stay in darkness, will go to eternal darkness**

**Matthew 8:12** But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**Matthew 22:13** Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

### **If delivered from Darkness, you will be in the Light forever – light from the True Light**

**Revelation 21:23-24** And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb *is* the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

**Revelation 22:5** And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

## Ps. 119:113-120

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- **Psalms 119:113** SAMECH. I hate *vain* thoughts: but thy law do I love.

The fall of man has misplaced his affections. We originally loved God and His law. Now man loves what he ought to hate and hates what he ought to love.

Loving the Word of God is the only way to not have vain thoughts. One must replace a bad habit with a good habit. In this instance, we replace vain thoughts with meditation on the Word which allows our thoughts to follow:

**Philippians 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

Few think of the responsibility of thoughts or the power of our thoughts. They will control our future, hence we must control them. Some think it is no big deal.

**Song of Solomon 2:15** Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines...

**Psalms 66:18** If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear *me*...

**2 Corinthians 10:5** Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

You will decide your thoughts. You will not decide which thoughts come into your mind, but which thoughts you will entertain. The conflict between flesh and spirit is found in our thought life.

Our sinful nature comes out in our thoughts:

**Romans 7:20** Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

And the conflict occurs as the Christian has the Holy Spirit indwelling him/her.

**Romans 7:21-23** I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

**Romans 7:25** I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

This conflict never leaves – however we can overcome it by the Spirit of God. Rom 8:2 tells us of this power to overcome the law of sin.

**Psalms 119:113** SAMECH. I hate *vain* thoughts: but thy law do I love.

Thy law – do I love. It is the law that exposes our sin.

**Romans 7:7** What shall we say then? *Is* the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

To love the law of God is to change (Eph. 4:22-24).

**Proverbs 6:23** For the commandment *is* a lamp; and the law *is* light; and reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life:

**Proverbs 10:17** He *is in* the way of life that keepeth instruction: but he that refuseth reproof erreth.

We submit to the Holy Word of God as unholy sinners that need the law to guide us.

**Psalms 51:5** Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**Psalms 119:114** Thou *art* my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.

The Christian needs a hiding place. Our hiding place is found in a person. Ps. 119:114 and Ps. 91:2.

It is a place of safety – Jesus, our Rock – we hid in the cleft of the Rock and allow Him to take the brunt of the storms of life. We find Him as a place of peace.

**John 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.

Our hiding place is a secret place – known only to the believer and His Lord.

**Psalms 91:1-2** He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

**Psalms 31:20** Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

**Matthew 6:6** But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

He understands your heart / He understands your tears.

**Psalms 56:8** Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: *are they* not in thy book?

- **Psalms 119:120** My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy judgments.

Proper thinking has the fear of the Lord. The One we fear is the One Who is our Hiding Place!

We need proper thinking to put all these thoughts together in harmony:

Love thy law – which corrects us  
Fear God – Who made heaven and earth

Hate vain thoughts – which come from our very nature  
Hiding Place – Person Who comforts us

## Ps. 119:121-128

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**Vs. 121. I have done judgment and justice.** This was a great thing for an Eastern ruler to say at any time, for these despots mostly cared more for gain than justice. Some of them altogether neglected their duty, and would not even do judgment at all, preferring their pleasures to their duties; and many more of them sold their judgments to the highest bidders by taking bribes, or regarding the persons of men. Some rulers gave neither judgment nor justice, others gave judgment without justice, but David gave judgment and justice, and saw that his sentences were carried out. He could claim before the Lord that he had dealt out even handed justice, and was doing so still. SPURGEON

**Proverbs 11:1** A false balance *is* abomination to the LORD: but a just weight *is* his delight.

**Proverbs 11:3** The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.

**Psalms 119:121** AIN. I have done judgment and justice: leave me not to mine oppressors.

If I will not oppress others, I may hopefully pray that others may not oppress me. A course of upright conduct is one which gives us boldness in appealing to the Great Judge for deliverance from the injustice of others.

- This passage of the Psalm is a submission to a Sovereign God and pleading for Him to work.

Vs. 121 Psalmist has a clear conscience toward God ... and man

**1 John 3:21** Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, *then* have we confidence toward God.

**Acts 24:16** And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and *toward* men.

A submitted person – has confessed all sin toward God and forgiven all offenses of man. He then pleads with the Lord to help on his own behalf.

Notice the contrast of Psalmist and others. Vs. 126-128

**Psalms 119:122** Be **surety for thy servant** for good: let not the proud oppress me.

**Hebrews 7:22** By so much was **Jesus made a surety of a better testament.**

The surety of course became liable for his client's debts in case of his failure.

It properly means, a bondsman; one who pledges his name, property, or influence, that a certain thing shall be done. When a contract is made, a debt contracted, or a note given, a friend often becomes the *security* in the case, and is himself responsible if the terms of the contract are not complied with. In the case of the new covenant between God and man, Jesus is the "security," or the bondsman.

But of what, and to whom, is he the surety?

It cannot be that he is a bondsman *for God* that he will maintain the covenant, and be true to the promise which he makes, for we need no such "security" of the Divine faithfulness and veracity. It cannot be that he becomes responsible for the Divine conduct in any way--- for no such responsibility is needed or possible. (God doesn't need a bondsman)

But it must mean, that he is the security or bondsman on the part of man.

He is the pledge that we shall be saved. He becomes responsible, so to speak, to law and justice, that no injury shall be done by our salvation, though we are sinners. He is not a security that we shall be saved, *at any rate*, without holiness, repentance, faith, or true religions for he never could enter into a suretyship of that kind; but his suretyship extends to this point, that the law shall be honoured; that all its demands shall be met; that we may be saved though we have violated it, and that its terrific penalty shall not fall upon us.

The case is this:-- A sinner becomes a true penitent, and enters heaven. It might be said that he does this over a broken law; that God treats the good and bad alike, and that no respect has been paid to the law or the penalty in his salvation.

Here the great Surety comes in, and says that it is not so. *He* has become responsible for this; he the surety, the pledge, that all proper honour shall be paid to justice, and that the same good effects shall ensue as if the penalty of the law had been fully borne. He himself has died to honour the law, and to open a way by which its penalty may be fully remitted consistently with justice, and he becomes *the everlasting pledge or security* to law, to justice, to the universe, that no injury shall result from the pardon and salvation of the sinner. (BARNES)

**1 John 2:1** My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

**1 John 2:2** And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

He is our Surety / He is our Propitiation

Why is He a Surety of a better testament? (Heb 7:22)

**Hebrews 7:24** But this *man*, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

**Hebrews 7:25** Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. (What He does)

**Hebrews 7:26** For such an high priest became us, *who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;* (Who He Is)

**Hebrews 7:27** Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up **sacrifice**, first **for his own sins**, and then for the people's: for **this he did once, when he offered up himself**. (What He Did)

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**Psalms 119:123** Mine eyes fail for thy salvation, and for the word of thy righteousness.

The Lord will vindicate his own. Are any in great difficulty; and are they waiting for the Lord to interpose, to whom they have committed their concerns? ... Wait on; he will not disappoint a gracious hope. --*John Stephen*.

**Psalms 119:124-125** Deal with thy servant according unto thy mercy, and teach me thy statutes. I *am* thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know thy testimonies. (Servant used in vs. 122 also)

Our heart has more rest in the cry, "God be merciful to me," than in appealing to justice. It is well to be able to say, "I have done judgment and justice," and then to add in all lowliness, yet "deal with thy servant according unto thy mercy."

Highest of God's men are servants. Highest of men of the earth are Kings, Princes, Presidents, CEO's...

**Romans 1:1** Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

**Philippians 2:6-7** Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and **took upon him the form of a servant**, and was made in the likeness of men:

As a servant, humble submission / we are in need of the Lord, the Author of Holy Writ, to open to us the Scriptures. "**Give me understanding**" ought to be our prayer as we open the Scriptures.

**Luke 24:31-32** And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

**Luke 24:45** Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

**Luke 11:9-10** And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Many that are knowledgeable in the Scriptures will go to hell. Why? Pride. Why else? Usually pride.

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**Psalms 119:126** *It is* time for *thee*, LORD, to work: *for* they have made void thy law.

It is time for the Lord to work... when selling aborted baby parts is well known but ignored by society; when gay marriage is the law of a country; when pornography is in the hands of our youth via

smartphones, which most of them possess; when TV shows immorality and fornication and drugs are common place.

**Revelation 9:21** Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries (Pharmakia – drug use), nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts. (Sins of the Tribulation Period)

It is time for thee to work.

**Revelation 6:1** And I saw **when the Lamb opened one of the seals**, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

**Psalms 119:127-128** Therefore

Our response to end times:

**Genesis 5:22** And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:

**Genesis 6:9** These *are* the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man *and* perfect in his generations, *and* Noah walked with God.

Only two men in Bible are said to have walked with God. Many have, but only these two are recorded to have done so. Both lived in a wicked, vile era. The times of Noah:

**Genesis 6:5** And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

We too can walk with God. How?

**I love** thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold. Therefore

**I esteem** all *thy* precepts *concerning* all *things to be* right; *and*

**I hate** every false way.

## Ps. 119:129-136

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**Thy Commands are Wonderful.** Vs, 129

Full of wonderful revelations, wonderful commands and wonderful promises.

Wonderful in their nature, incorruptible, inexhaustible, its purity of all error...

Wonderful in their effects as instructing, elevating, strengthening, sustaining in troubles and comforting the soul.

Those who know them best wonder at them most. It is wonderful that God should have borne testimony at all to sinful men, and more wonderful still that his testimony should be of such a character, so clear, so full, so gracious, so mighty. SPURGEON

**Things that are Wonderful**

**Isaiah 9:6** For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

**Psalms 40:5** Many, O LORD my God, *are* thy wonderful works *which* thou hast done...

**Psalms 78:4** We will not hide *them* from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. (Ps. 107:8,15,21,31, 111:4)

**Those who think they have done wonderful things – are not so wonderful.**

**Matthew 7:21-22** Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

These “wonderful” works were done in the flesh; of self; with the Holy Spirit not involved.

**Psalms 119:129** PE. Thy testimonies *are* wonderful: **therefore doth my soul keep them.**

David was always practical, and the more he wondered the more he obeyed. Note that his religion was soul work; not with head and hand alone did he keep the testimonies; but his soul, his truest and most real self, held fast to them. SPURGEON

It feeds the soul and leads one to hunger for it.

**Psalms 119:131** I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for thy commandments.

**Psalms 119:130** The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

Sought out by the soul of man – light springs up in the soul. What can feed the soul like the Word of God? What can enlighten a man like the Word of God. It gives light and it gives understanding.

If one thinks he is wise, he will not receive the Word of God. If one thinks he is simple, the Bible will give understanding.

**1 Corinthians 1:25** Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

**1 Corinthians 1:27** But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

For: the Soul Vs.129 / the Simple Vs.130 / the Sinful Vs.132 / the Steps Vs.133 / the Shine Vs 135

The process of maturity:

Feeds the soul / realize how needy you are / flesh is ever present / used to direct my ways / give me joy

This maturity culminates as one's mind is renewed to think like God thinks; to view this world the way God views this world; to view others the way God views them.

**Rom. 12:2** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...

**Ephesians 4:23** And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

**1 Corinthians 2:16** For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

**Philippians 2:5** Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

The primary attribute that will come as a result of this is – the Love of God.

**1 Cor. 13:13** And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.  
1 John 4:7-21 is a long discourse on love.

**Psalms 119:136** Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law.

Why? View the heartaches of this world as God views them. Compassion on others as Christ did.

**Luke 10:33-34** But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion *on him*, And went to *him*, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

**Luke 10:36-37** Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

God will give compassion for others as we deem (Ps. 119:129) the Scriptures to be wonderful and allow our soul to keep them.

## Ps. 119:137-144

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- **Psalms 119:137** TZADDI. Righteous *art* thou, O LORD, and upright *are* thy judgments.

He praises God by ascribing to him perfect righteousness. God is always right, and he is always actively light, that is, righteous. This quality is bound up in our very idea of God. We cannot imagine an unrighteous God. SPURGEON

**And upright are thy judgments.** Here he extols God's word, or recorded judgments, as being right, even as their Author is righteous. That which comes from the Righteous God is itself righteous. Jehovah both saith and doth that which is right, and that alone. This is a great stay to the soul in time of trouble. When we are most sorely afflicted, and cannot see the reason for the dispensation, we may fall back upon this most sure and certain fact, that God is righteous, and his dealings with us are righteous too.

As they get ready to pour out the last 7 of the 21 plagues:

**Revelation 15:1** And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

**Revelation 15:3** And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous *are* thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true *are* thy ways, thou King of saints.

As God gives people what they deserve:

**Revelation 16:6** For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

**Revelation 16:7** And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous *are* thy judgments.

As God judges the false church:

**Revelation 19:2** For true and righteous *are* his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

- **Psalms 119:138** Thy testimonies *that* thou hast commanded *are* righteous and very faithful.

When we find ourselves tempted to distrust by looking to the prosperity of the wicked, let us look up to God, and consider his nature, his word, his works, and we shall find comfort. SPURGEON

All that which God hath testified in his word is right and truthful. It is righteous, and may be relied upon for the present; it is faithful, and may be trusted in for the future.

God's word is righteous and cannot be impeached; it is faithful and cannot be questioned it is true from the beginning, and it will be true unto the end.

**Malachi 3:6** For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Can we trust God? Here is an example of trusting Him:

When the deposed and captive Emperor Maurice was led out for execution by the usurper Phocas, his five sons were previously murdered one by one in his presence; and at each fatal blow he patiently exclaimed, "Righteous art thou, O Lord, and upright are thy judgments." --*Neale and Littledale*.

**Revelation 3:14** And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

**Revelation 19:11** And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

**Revelation 21:5** And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

**Revelation 22:6** And he said unto me, These sayings *are* faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

- **Psalms 119:140** Thy word *is* very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.

Very pure:

**Ps 12:6** The words of the LORD *are* pure words: *as* silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

**Prov. 30:5** Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

Not only is it pure, it purifies us.

**John 15:3** Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

If we don't get it; if we don't understand it; if we don't know what it means... the problem is not with the pure Word of God; but rather with the tainted sinful creature discerning it.

Not one error, not one speck of untruth, not one jot or tittle out of place... the very words of God.

- **Psalms 119:141** I *am* small and despised: *yet* do not I forget thy precepts.

The source of man's littleness is in himself. The source of his greatness is in the Divine word

- **Psalms 119:142** Thy righteousness *is* an everlasting righteousness, and thy law *is* the truth.

Truth, righteousness, faithful, pure and everlasting -- put all these together -- WOW

These are character qualities only God can produce -- and He has through His Word!

Truth is absolute and absolute truth is everlasting truth.

**John 18:38** Pilate saith unto him, **What is truth?** And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault *at all*.

**John 1:14** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

**John 1:17** For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

**John 14:6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

**John 14:17** *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

**John 15:26** But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

**John 16:13** Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

**John 17:17** Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

**John 8:32** And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

- **Psalms 119:144** The righteousness of thy testimonies *is* everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live.

**Psalms 119:142** Thy righteousness *is* an everlasting righteousness, and thy law *is* the truth...

**Psalms 119:144** The righteousness of thy testimonies *is* everlasting...

God Himself is referred to in vs. 142, here His Word is included in all this. One cannot separate the character of God from His Word. God & His Word go hand in hand.

**Psalms 138:2** I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

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Truth, righteousness, faithful, pure and everlasting -- put all these together

to describe Jehovah                      In your heart

to describe His Word                      In your hand

## Ps. 119:145-152

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**Psalms 119:145** KOPH. I cried with *my* whole heart; hear me, O LORD: I will keep thy statutes.

The cry with the “Whole heart.”

### Command of Jesus

**Matthew 22:37** Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

### Search for Salvation

**Jeremiah 29:13** And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

- Salvation is an issue of the heart

**Acts 8:37** And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

**Romans 10:9-10** That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

- All your heart makes Jesus Lord

**Romans 10:13** For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

### Serve Him with all our heart

**Deuteronomy 11:13** And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,

- Your heart – what you think about / spend time with / spend money on / your affections

Psalmist is noted for this phrase. The whole heart and the Word of God should go together:

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

**Psalms 119:10** With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.

**Psalms 119:34** Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with *my* whole heart.

**Psalms 119:58** I intreated thy favour with *my* whole heart: be merciful unto me according to thy word.

**Psalms 119:69** The proud have forged a lie against me: *but* I will keep thy precepts with *my* whole heart.

**Psalms 119:145** KOPH. I cried with *my* whole heart; hear me, O LORD: I will keep thy statutes.

**Why heart to heart?** Personality. God has a personality and desires to have you get to know Him. How? Heart to heart!

**Proverbs 27:19** As in water face *answereth* to face, so the heart of man to man.

### God wants your heart

**Psalms 119:145** KOPH. I cried with *my* whole heart; hear me, O LORD: **I will keep thy statutes.**

- The heart of the Psalmist loves and obeys the Word of God; thus he desires God to hear his cry.

**Proverbs 23:26** My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

**Proverbs 4:23** Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

- Who can you trust with your heart?

**Psalms 62:8** Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God *is* a refuge for us. Selah.

To love is to risk being hurt / to give is risk being rejected / to share your heart has risk involved

But – there is One that you never have to worry about – you can trust Jehovah completely.

Trust – The Lord and the Word of God because they are unchanging.

**Psalms 119:152** Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever.

### The whole heart – relationship

It is all consuming. From before the rising of the sun unto the night watches...

**Psalms 119:147-149** I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy word. Mine eyes prevent the *night* watches, that I might meditate in thy word. Hear my voice according unto thy lovingkindness: O LORD, quicken me according to thy judgment.

**Psalms 119:62** At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments.

**Psalms 55:17** Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

Marriage is not 50/50 but 100/100

So our relationship with God is also 100/100. However, the first 100 starts with us.

**James 4:8** Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you...

**Jeremiah 29:13** And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

## Ps 119:153-160

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The psalmist has drawn near to God as He asks God to consider (1) his affliction and (2) his love for the Word.

**Psalms 119:153** RESH. **Consider** mine affliction, and deliver me: for I do not forget thy law.

**Psalms 119:159** **Consider** how I love thy precepts: quicken me, O LORD, according to thy lovingkindness.

How can one ask God for this? Obedience and love for the Word makes one a friend of God.

**John 15:14** Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

**James 2:23** And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

The relationship has increased from one of child of God / family of God to child of God / friend of God. It is closer – as the psalmists asks God to consider his affliction.

### The lamentation of sorrow

**Lamentations 1:12** *Is it* nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the LORD hath afflicted *me* in the day of his fierce anger.

Notice the two *considers*. The affliction did not drive him away from the Word but toward it. It did not make him bitter, but better.

When our estate is in a helpless state, God alone can solve it. When our estate brings us to an end of ourselves, God is there for us.

**Psalms 107:26-28** They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end. Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses.

The cry for God to *consider* is necessary on our part – but not on His – He already knows.

**Life is a test.** Final report cards are at Judgment Seat of Christ.

**Exodus 14:9-12** But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses *and* chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth, before Baalzephon. And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD. And they said unto Moses, Because *there were* no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? *Is not* this the

word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For *it had been* better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.

Did the “nowhere to go” at the Red Sea surprise God? No, He wanted to **show His power**.

Did the lack of food surprise God? No, He provided manna for them to **show His provision**.

Did the lack of water surprise God? No, He wanted to show that He could **give water from a Rock!**

Did the bitter waters of Marah surprise God? No, He wanted to show that He could **make them sweet**.

**Deuteronomy 8:16** Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;

Why God allows trials? Humble thee, prove thee, and do thee good when it is done. It is a test!

**James 5:13** Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

Our cry: **Psalms 119:153** RESH. **Consider** mine affliction, **and deliver me**: for I do not forget thy law.

This is a legitimate prayer from a broken vessel.

### **The need for an Advocate**

**Psalms 119:154** Plead my cause, and deliver me: quicken me according to thy word.

**Romans 8:34** Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also **maketh intercession for us**.

**Romans 8:26** Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself **maketh intercession for us** with groanings which cannot be uttered.

We today plead with the Holy Ghost and the Lord Jesus Christ – plead my cause...

**Quicken me – vs. 154, 156, 159:** “As the soul is the centre of everything, so to be quickened is the central blessing. It means more love, more grace, more faith more courage, more strength, and if we get these we can hold up our heads before our adversaries.” SPURGEON

Quicken thou me - Cause me to live; give me vigor and strength to break away from this which binds me fast, and to rise above these low propensities. BARNES

### **How to deal with adversaries**

**Psalms 119:157** Many *are* my persecutors and mine enemies; *yet* do I not decline from thy testimonies.

Concentrate on your relationship with the Lord. Paul barely mentions Alexander the coppersmith. Jesus deals with Judas as a side issue as he teaches His disciples just days (John ch 12-17) before His death. Our focus needs to be on the solution rather than the problem.

**Ephesians 6:12** For **we wrestle not against flesh and blood**, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

Find comfort and help in the Word; in communion with the Lord; in fellowship of like-minded believers as your difficulties mount.

### **Attitude toward the godless**

**Psalms 119:158** I beheld the transgressors, and was grieved; because they kept not thy word.

Sorrow for their lost estate.

**Deuteronomy 9:18-19** And I fell down before the LORD, as at the first, forty days and forty nights: I did neither eat bread, nor drink water, because of all your sins which ye sinned, in doing wickedly in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure...

**1 Samuel 15:11** It repenteth me that I have set up Saul *to be* king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.

**Jeremiah 9:1** Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

**Luke 19:41** And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it...

**Psalms 119:159** Consider how I love thy precepts: quicken me, O LORD, according to thy lovingkindness.

As he said before, "Consider mine affliction," so now he says, "Consider mine affection." SPURGEON

As one loves Scripture, his/her heart will become like the heart of God toward people!

He saith not, consider how I perform thy precepts; but how I love them. The comfort of a Christian militant, in this body of sin, is rather in the sincerity and fervency of his affections than in the absolute perfection of his actions. He fails many times in his obedience to God's precepts, in regard of his action; but love in his affection still remains; so that both before the temptation to sin, and after it, there is a grief in his soul, that he should find in himself any corrupt will or desire, contrary to the holy will of the Lord his God; and this proves an invincible love in him to the precepts of God. --*William Cowper*.

The love wherewith he loved God came from that love wherewith God first loved him. For by seeing the great love wherewith God loved him, he was moved and refereed to love God again. So that his meaning is thus much: Thou seest, Lord, that I am an enemy to sin in myself, for I forget not thy law; thou seest that I am an enemy to sin in others, for I am grieved to see them transgress thy law; wherefore, O Lord, "quicken me," and let thy loving mercy whereby thou hast created me and redeemed me in Christ, whereby thou hast delivered me from so many troubles, and enriched me with so many and continual benefits, renew, revive, quicken, and restore me. --*Richard Greenham*.

**Psalms 119:160** Thy word *is true from the beginning*... AMEN

## Ps 119:161-168

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**What the word is to the believer.** The object of (ver. 161), joy (ver. 162), love (ver. 163), praise (ver. 164), the producer peace (ver. 165), and hope (ver. 166); therefore exceedingly loved (ver. 167), faithfully kept (ver. 168). SPURGEON

**The character of the Psalmist comes out in these verses.**

**Psalms 119:161** Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word.

### Meekness

**Matthew 5:11-12** Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

**Matthew 5:37-41** But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil. Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have *thy* cloke also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.

**Without a cause.** I settle it as an established point with me, that the more diligently and faithfully I serve Christ, the greater reproach and the more injury I must expect. I have drank deep of the cup of slander and reproach of late, but I am in no wise discouraged; no, nor by, what is much harder to bear, the unsuccessfulness of my endeavours to mend this bad world. --*Philip Doddridge*.

**John 15:18** If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated* you.

**My heart standeth in awe of thy word.** There is an awe of the word, not that maketh us shy of it, but tender of violating it, or doing anything contrary to it. This is not the fruit of slavish fear, but of holy love; it is not afraid of the word, but delighteth in it, as it discovereth the mind of God to us; as in the next verse it is written, "I rejoice at thy word." This awe is called by a proper name, reverence, or godly fear; when we consider whose word it is, namely, the word of the Lord, who is our God, and hath a right to command what he pleaseth; to whose will and word we have already yielded obedience... --*Thomas Manton*.

### Big Picture Focus

The Psalmist does not focus on being persecuted or on the persecutor. Rather he keeps his mind focused on the Judge of all the earth and his sovereignty in the workings of his life. Notice the following verses occupy thoughts of the goodness of the Lord.

**Psalms 119:162** I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.

## Seeker of Hid Treasure

The truths of the Bible are as hid treasure. A great spoil to be found.

**Colossians 2:3** In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

**Proverbs 2:4-5** If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

They are hid treasures / great spoils to be found and rejoiced over. Let our life find strength in the inner man due to this finding of great spoils.

**Ephesians 3:16** That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

## Honesty

**Psalms 119:163** I hate and abhor lying: *but* thy law do I love.

You are who you choose to be. Honesty and integrity are choices that are made in the character of a man. Put away lying.

**Ephesians 4:25** Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

His double emphasis language: Hate & abhor lying / thy law do I love & I love them exceedingly (vs. 167)

**John 8:44** Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Lying is devil-like. Truth is Christ-like, who is the way, the truth and the life. Thy Word is truth.

## Praiseful

**Psalms 119:164** Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments.

Some soon cease to praise thee, but, "seven times," etc. Not seven times only, but "unto seventy times seven." Even without ceasing, will I praise thee.

In this "selfie" world, praise is comely for the upright. The Lord is worthy of praise.

## Peaceful

**Psalms 119:165** Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

**Romans 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

He is at peace with himself, with His creator, with others, and even with his enemies. He truly believes that all things work together for good. Hence, he rests in this goodness.

### **Lover of the Word**

**Psalms 119:167** My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly.

**My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly.** Should he not have said, first, I have loved thy commandments, and so have kept them? Doubtless he did so; but he ran here in a holy and most heavenly circle, I have kept them and loved them, and loved them and kept them. --*Thomas Shepard*, in "*The Sound Believer*", 1671.

**Psalms 119:168** I have kept thy precepts and thy testimonies: for all my ways *are* before thee.

God sees all. He is ever with you. (Ps. 139). This is either comforting or convicting. You cannot fool God. A life of keeping and loving the Word of God is a life that is comfortable with the thought that all our ways are before Him.

**Psalms 44:21** Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart.

**Proverbs 4:23** Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

## Ps 119:169-176

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The very essence of prayer is to get the ear of God.

**Psalms 119:169-170** TAU. Let my cry come near before thee, O LORD: give me understanding according to thy word. Let my supplication come before thee: deliver me according to thy word.

He desires spiritual light and understanding as it is promised in God's word, as it proceeds from God's word, and as it produces obedience to God's word. He pleads as though he had no understanding whatever of his own, and asks to have one given to him. "Give me understanding." Many a man who is accounted wise after the manner of this world is a fool according to the word of the Lord. May we be among those happy children who shall all be taught of the Lord. SPURGEON

Why does he ask for understanding – had he not asked for this before? Ps. 119:34, 73, 125, 144

**Matthew 7:7-8** Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

What one desires – one asks, seeks and knocks for. It is a constant striving to have God's ear; to have His understanding and for God to intervene in one's life.

Bible truths are given but as we focus on who we are, we realize we are beggars from the King of kings.

**Hebrews 4:16** Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

**Hebrews 10:19** Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

**Ver. 170-174.** -- The pleader: Ps 119:170. The singer: Ps 119:171. The preacher: Ps 119:172. The worker: Ps 119:173. The waiter: Ps 119:174.

Praise to God

**Psalms 119:171** My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes.

Praise to God rises above our problems and trusts a Sovereign God. Praise prepares us for heaven.

**Revelation 5:9** And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

**Revelation 14:1-3** And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty *and* four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the

four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred *and forty and four* thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

Speak for God to men

**Psalms 119:172** My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments *are* righteousness.

**John 7:38** He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

**Matthew 12:34** O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

**Jeremiah 20:9** Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But *his word* was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not *stay*.

Your love of God will cause you to tell others. What you love, you talk about. It will be a part of your casual, normal conversation.

Rather than hearing 'that is a good message' / better to hear, 'he has a good Savior!'

**Psalms 119:174** I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law *is* my delight.

His desire – overcome sin and full and final salvation of body – all due to his delight – the Word.

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

The psalmist has poured out his heart / revealed his heart of love to God; yet it is still a heart that is prone to wander – even as a lost sheep goes astray. Sheep are too dumb to return on their own.

**Psalms 119:67** Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.

He thought that his affliction had settled his wandering. But how soon one reverts to this worldliness.

**Seek thy servant.** He was not like a dog, that somehow or other can find its way back; but he was like a lost sheep, which goes further and further away from home; yet still he was a sheep, and the Lord's sheep, his property, and precious in his sight, and therefore he hoped to be sought in order to be restored. However far he might have wandered he was still not only a sheep, but God's "servant," and therefore he desired to be in his Master's house again, and once more honoured with commissions for his Lord. Had he been only a lost sheep he would not have prayed to be sought; but being also a "servant" he had the power to pray. He cries, "See thy servant," and he hopes to be not only sought, but forgiven, accepted, and taken into work again by his gracious Master.... The sheep bleats, and David prays, "Seek thy servant." SPURGEON

**I have gone astray like a lost sheep.** Though a sheep go astray, yet it is soon called back by the voice of the shepherd: "My sheep hear my voice." Thus David when he went against Nabal was called back by the Lord's voice in a woman; and when he had slain Uriah he was brought again by Nathan. And therefore if we will be sheep, then though we sometimes go astray, yet we must be easily reclaimed. -- *Richard Greenhorn.*

All this is descriptive of the remaining corruption that is in the believer. He is not unmindful of the Lord; he has the root of the matter in him, the seed of divine life; yet he does go astray; whence the necessity of the prayer: "Seek thy servant." Isaiah's description of men, although conveyed in the same terms, is evidently more sweeping, as the context words show: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." This would seem to apply to the race of man. Rather is the experience of the Psalmist similar to that described by the apostle Paul: "I find a law, that when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God, after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members." And the Psalmist had the same remedy at the early period, as had the apostle in the later times; for God's salvation is one. The Psalmist's remedy was, "Seek thy servant;" and the apostle's; "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord." --*John Stephen.*

Let us hear the conclusion of the matter:

- The highest flights of human devotion must end in confession of sin: "I have gone astray."
- The sincerest professions of human fidelity must give place to the acknowledgment of helplessness: "seek thy servant."
- The loftiest human declarations of love to God's law must come down to the mournful acknowledgment that we have only not forgotten it.

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