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## Psalm 119

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Bible  
at Home

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Psalm 119.

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### Topics.

- Let your salvation O LORD, come to me according to your promise.
- In faithfulness you have afflicted me that I might learn your statutes.
- If your law was not my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.
- I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word.
- The wicked laid a snare for me, but I did not stray from your precepts.
- Turn to me, as is your way with those who love your name.
- I have gone astray like a lost sheep.

**FOR INFORMATION:** concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

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### INTRODUCTION

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Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

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### OVERVIEW OF THIS PSALM

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Verse nine says, "How can a young man keep his way pure?" Clearly showing that this Psalm is about God's word in the life of a young man and how it affects him. Verse sixty-seven shows that this young Israelite man had turned from the ways of the LORD and got himself into some form of trouble and has realised his foolishness, and now tells God he will make His law the desire of his heart and do all he can to keep it and asks the LORD to redeem and save him, meanwhile he has enemies who are still persecuting him.

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### BOOK FIVE (PSALM 107-150)

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### ALEPH

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### PSALM 119:1-8

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- **Psalm 119:1-8:** Blessed are those whose way is blameless (undefiled in KJV), who walk in the law of the LORD! <sup>2</sup>Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, <sup>3</sup>who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways! <sup>4</sup>You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. <sup>5</sup>Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! <sup>6</sup>Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. <sup>7</sup>I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules. <sup>8</sup>I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me!

**Blameless:** in this context does not mean without sin if it was possible for any of us to achieve the glorious state of a sin-free life while in this mortal and fallen body then Christ died for no purpose rather the word, blameless carries the following two ideas: -

1. To live a lifestyle that honours God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ which means forsaking those things that are against God's will and behaviour that could bring hurt and harm to another human physically, financially, sexually, emotionally, mentally or spiritually and instead of being led by self, ego, pride, lust and greed be filled with the fruits of the Spirit (i.e., love, compassion, kindness, forgiveness, patience, grace, mercy and such like things).
2. By faith we solely trust in Christ's righteousness to be saved and not our own self-righteousness and in God's grace, contrasted to trusting in self-effort or adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions. It means crowning our biblical knowledge in the royal robes of love contrasted to being harsh, dogmatic and legalistic. It is doing as much as is in our power to maintain the unity of the faith in contrast to causing divisions, arguments, contentions and strife. Being blameless means confessing our sin before the Lord, repenting when we have offended God or hurt another person especially a brother or sister in the Lord and putting things right where possible when a wrong has been done.

Paul told his disciples to do all things without grumbling and questioning so that:

- They may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom they shine as lights in the world (Philippians 2:14-15).

This is not talking about being without sin we know this because the Lord Jesus Christ is the only man who has ever been without sin. The focus is not being without sin, but being blameless in the world's eyes or by the world's standards. Paul says those who are humble, obedient and do, not grumble, murmur, complain or cause divisions and who without question do what is lawful and right will be counted innocent and blameless in the world. The author of this Psalm clearly understands that those who walk in the law of God and keep His testimonies, seek God with their whole heart and do no wrong are blessed not only in this world, but at the judgment seat of God. The fact he says, "When I learn your righteous rules," implies he is a young man seeking to live a lifestyle that honours God for the following three reasons:

1. So that when he is praising and worshiping God he is praising from an honest heart.
2. So that he will not be put to shame in this world or when he stands before God.
3. So that God will not utterly forsake him.

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**BETH**

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### **PSALM 119:9-16**

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- **Psalm 119:9-16:** How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. <sup>10</sup>With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! <sup>11</sup>I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. <sup>12</sup>Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes! <sup>13</sup>With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. <sup>14</sup>In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. <sup>15</sup>I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. <sup>16</sup>I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

Some feel that greatest way to please God is to teach, preach, build a church, sing in a choir, teach Sunday school, attend every meeting of the church and such like things though these are all good things they are not the number one thing that pleases and delights the heart of God. The thing that brings the greatest joy to the heart of God is to seek after all the things the young man writing this Psalm is seeking after. No one needs any special talent or skill to attain to the call of this Psalm it should be the deepest desire of every faithful brother and sisters' heart. The Psalmist question, "How can a young man keep his way pure?" shines a spotlight on the fact that this Psalm is not about doctrine, but about God's teachings concerning right behaviour and helps us to keep the heart and mind pure and prevent us bringing shame to God and to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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GIMEL

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### PSALM 119:17-24

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- **Psalm 119:17-24:** Deal bountifully with your servant, that I may live and keep your word. <sup>18</sup>Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. <sup>19</sup>I am a sojourner on the earth; hide not your commandments from me! <sup>20</sup>My soul is consumed with longing for your rules at all times. <sup>21</sup>You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones, who wander from your commandments. <sup>22</sup>Take away from me scorn and contempt, for I have kept your testimonies. <sup>23</sup>Even though princes sit plotting against me, your servant will meditate on your statutes. <sup>24</sup>Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors.

Some think the greatest sign of great faith is performing miracles, but before God the following words of this young man, "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law" (v18) is a far greater manifestation of faith. For those who think this is not a true statement imagine for a moment what a great witness and testimony to the world the church and the Christian faith would be if every Christian priest, minister pastor and all who attend churches and all who confess to believe in Christ had the same passionate heartfelt desire as this young man now had.

**I am a sojourner on the earth:** (v19) most likely refers to him being separated from his people, but everyone who has the faith of Abraham, the father of faith who went by faith to live in a foreign land of promise looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God (Heb. 11:9-10) is a heir of the righteousness that comes by faith and as such are all sojourners on earth and not citizens of this world since their citizenship is a heavenly citizenship and not a worldly one. The apostle Paul wrote:

- But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (Philip. 3:20).
- So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God (Ephes. 2:19).

Here again is a manifestation of great faith, it mattered not to this young man that men with great power were plotting against him he would continue to meditate upon God's laws (v23) and use them as his counsellors (v24). The laws and testimonies of God in focus here are not just the Ten Commandments, but embrace all the words of wisdom that Solomon wrote in the book of proverbs, all the Old Testament teachings concerning right behaviour, and for us today it would embrace all the words that Jesus and the apostles and Paul wrote concerning human behaviour. The lesson to learn from this Psalm is that it is not enough just to read these laws, rules and statutes and then put them aside, but to take the time to ponder and meditate upon them so that they become engraved upon the heart or mind and as such become an anchor and guide for one's life.

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**PSALM 119:25-32**


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- **Psalm 119:25-32:** My soul clings to the dust; give me life according to your word! <sup>26</sup>When I told of my ways, you answered me; teach me your statutes! <sup>27</sup>Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous works. <sup>28</sup>My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to your word! <sup>29</sup>Put false ways far from me and graciously teach me your law! <sup>30</sup>I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I set your rules before me. <sup>31</sup>I cling to your testimonies, O LORD; let me not be put to shame! <sup>32</sup>I will run in the way of your commandments when you enlarge my heart!

**My soul clings to the dust; give me life according to your word:** (v25) means that his life is mortal and destined to return to the dust of the earth from where mankind originally came from. He is fully aware of his mortality and prays that God will give him salvation and eternal life spoken of in the word of God.

**I will run in the way of your commandments when you enlarge my heart:** (v32) the expression, "when you enlarge my heart," means when his heart is full and overflowing with the knowledge of God's testimonies and statutes then he will utterly live in a manner that is pleasing to God and brings honour to his name and to God's name. It is interesting to notice that he says, "When God enlarges his heart," which seems to imply that God will fill his heart with His laws, which of course is true, but only if he studies and meditates upon it.

The Psalmist refers to it as God enlarging his heart because it is God's word that is filling his heart as he meditates upon it. Over the years I have heard some in the Christian faith say that they don't need to study or read God's word because they are led by the Holy Spirit and it is the Spirit that teaches them. There is a truth in this, but the Spirit leads and teaches us according to the indwelling word within the heart and mind. Those who do not read the words and teachings of Jesus and of the apostles and Paul maybe led by the Spirit, but it is unlikely that it will be God's Holy Spirit that they are being led by.

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**PSALM 119:33-40**


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- **Psalm 119:33-40:** Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end. <sup>34</sup>Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. <sup>35</sup>Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it. <sup>36</sup>Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain! <sup>37</sup>Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways. <sup>38</sup>Confirm to your servant your promise, that you may be feared. <sup>39</sup>Turn away the reproach that I dread, for your rules are good. <sup>40</sup>Behold, I long for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life!

**Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain:** (v36) this verse shines a brilliant spotlight upon the reality that one of the greatest sins is selfishness, because it puts self-first and is only interested in what will advance one's own dreams and goals. Selfishness is totally contrary to the Spirit of Christ.

Jesus didn't suffer the brutal lashings, and the extreme pain of the crown of thorns being force upon his head and the bloody and cruel death of the cross for himself, but for others. He came to serve and not to rule or use others to expand his own fame he does not dominate, force or manipulate people into his Kingdom, but invites them to come to him.

**Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways:** (v37) worthless things in this context would embrace anything that would hinder his faith or cause him to bring shame on the LORD or on himself, it does not mean that he cannot take time out to enjoy the non-sinful joys of this world, of creation, and of the brilliant voices and talents God has gifted non-believers with, unless they hinder their faith and growth in the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Confirm to your servant your promise, that you may be feared:** (v38) the Bible calls all people to fear God and the book of Psalms and Proverbs tell us that the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.

- The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever! (Psalm 111:10)
- The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. (Proverbs 9:10)

**The fear of the LORD has the following two aspects:**

- 1 An eternal aspect: wisdom teaches that mankind is separated from God because of sin and without God a person has no hope of eternal life and will be judged accordingly. The fear of the LORD in this context is wisdom because it motivates a person to seek God and eternal life.
- 2 An aspect for the present moment: the fear of the LORD in the present moment motivates mankind to obey God's Ten Commandments which are all designed to protect the innocent from harm, physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally and spiritually. The fear of the LORD in this context is also wisdom because if everyone feared the LORD humanity would live in harmony with each other. Sadly, there is very little fear of the LORD in the world today and so we see rampant rebellion, violence, crime and wars in most countries.

**The fear of God and Christians:** those in Christ look to the bloodstained cross of Calvary and understand and experience Christ's great love and God's grace in their hearts and minds and no longer act from fear, but from love in the same way that a man in love with a woman does not do things to please her from fear, but from the love dwelling in his heart. Likewise, it is with the faithful who belong to the Lord's global family.

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### PSALM 119:41-48

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- **Psalm 119:41-48:** Let your steadfast love come to me, O LORD, your salvation according to your promise; <sup>42</sup>then shall I have an answer for him who taunts me, for I trust in your word. <sup>43</sup>And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for my hope is in your rules. <sup>44</sup>I will keep your law continually, forever and ever, <sup>45</sup>and I shall walk in a wide place, for I have sought your precepts. <sup>46</sup>I will also speak of your testimonies before kings and shall not be put to shame, <sup>47</sup>for I find my delight in your commandments, which I love. <sup>48</sup>I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes.

**Let your salvation O LORD, come to me according to your promise:** (v41), the promise here refers to the covenant of blessings and curses Israel entered into with God at Mount Sinai. If Israel did what was right before the LORD and obeyed the covenant God would bless their homes and their health. He would multiply their children and their livestock and bless their farms and prosper all that they put their hand to do, but if they broke the covenant and turned from God to worship idols and pagan gods their health would suffer, woman would be barren, their livestock would diminish, their farms would come to ruin and everything they put their hand to and had established would come to ruin and all their farms and land would be laid waste. The following verses show that the United

Kingdom of Israel has always been God's special and unique nation unlike any other nation. To them God said:

- Israel was his son who he called out of Egypt and he loved them when they were a child (Hosea 11:1).
- He gave birth to Israel and carried them from the womb even to their old age. (Isaiah 46:3-4).
- Israel is his allotted heritage (Deut. 32:9) and the apple of his eye (Deuteronomy 32:10).
- Israel is a people holy to him (Deut. 7:6) and his treasured possession (Deuteronomy 14:2).

The LORD has not spoken this way with any other nation, but God has not only spoken of Israel differently, but always dealt with them differently to any other nation:

- To Israel God gave the Ten Commandments and showed his great power. (Exodus 20:1-17).
- To Israel God declared his word, statutes and his rules. (Rom. 9:4).
- To Israel God gave the prophets, the worship and the promises. (Romans 3:4).
- To Israel belonged the covenant, the adoption, the patriarchs and the glory. (Romans 3:5).
- To Israel the oracles of God were entrusted. (Rom. 3:2).
- The people of Israel are the offspring of Abraham the father of faith. (Romans 9:7).
- From Israel's race came the Christ the Saviour of the world. (Romans 9:5).

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Added to these God said:

- Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine (Exod. 19:5).
- The LORD has declared today that you are a people for his treasured possession, as he has promised you, and that you are to keep all his commandments (Deut. 26:18).

The Psalmist wrote:

- God declared his word to Jacob, his statutes and rules to Israel. He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his rules. Praise the LORD! (Psalm 147:19-20).

The LORD has not given any other nations such great privileges. These are the many reasons the Jews (especially the religious leaders of Jesus generation) considered themselves to be the holy race with God and the Gentile nations to be the unclean race without God.

**The thermometer of God's prophecy:** it is true that Israel has been and still is a special nation to God, but since Christ death and resurrection salvation for both Jews and Gentiles is in the Lord Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, Israel remains a clear sign of where we are in prophecy concerning Christ's return. It could be said that they are the thermometer of God's prophecy much like the mercury on a natural thermometer measures the heat of the day and moves up the vertical red line warning us of impending danger when the heat of the sun is reaching temperatures that are dangerous for the good health of the skin and our well-being.

Likewise Israel can be seen as the mercury of Bible prophecy in the sense that world events that come upon the nation of Israel (especially Jerusalem) are signs that give us some insight as to how close we are to that glorious breathtaking and world changing day when the Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory. But God's focus during our present age for eternal salvation is upon creating a new nation in Christ made up of Jews and Gentiles. This new nation is also called a new creation in Christ, the body of Christ, the Bride of Christ, the church and the Kingdom of God. For further information concerning this new nation God is building in Christ see the title:

- The Commonwealth of Israel, at the end of this chapter.

Clearly Israel was God's chosen people from the beginning all they had to do to be saved was to remain faithful to the covenant they had entered into with the LORD at Mount Sinai and by faith believe in God's promise to Abraham. Peter in his letter and the book of Revelation show that the cleansing power of Christ's blood flows back to the foundation of the earth which means the faithful of the Old and New Testament are saved by the same Saviour and Redeemer. In the book of Revelation, it is written:

- All that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Rev. 13:8).

And Peter wrote:

- You were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot foreordained before the foundation of the world and manifest in these last times for you. (1 Peter 1:18-20).

These verses shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that Jesus was not only the central focus of God's eternal mind and of His eternal plans and purposes for mankind's salvation and for eternity, but also the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. The cleansing power of Jesus blood shed on the cross of Calvary doesn't just cover and cleanse only those who have come to the Lord after his death and resurrection, but flows all the way back to the foundations of the earth to Adam and Eve like a spiritual invisible river cleansing all the faithful of the Old Testament from the fall of Adam onward who obeyed the covenant and by faith looked to the appearing of the promised Messiah the Christ. The faithful of the Old Testament were saved by their faith that the blood of their sin sacrifices (shadows of Christ) covered their sin and by their faith in the promised seed of the woman spoken of in (Genesis 3:15), in the prophet Moses said was to come like him, in God's promise to Abraham that from his seed a deliver would come and by their faith in the promised seed of David the Messiah and Saviour. The faithful of the New Testament are saved by their faith in looking back to the bloodstained cross of Calvary and by looking forward to the glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ. This shines a glorious spotlight on the truth that whether a man or woman is of the Old or New Testament we are all saved by the same cleansing power, the same cleansing blood and the same Deliverer, King and Saviour. This is because God in his eternal mind planned and purposed before time began that His Son the Lord Jesus Christ would be the Saviour of all mankind for all eternity. Truly, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. (Heb. 9:22).

**I will also speak of your testimonies before kings and shall not be put to shame:** (v46) here is another manifestation of great faith, most are comfortable to share their faith or the Gospel with acquaintances and friends, but this young man desired greatly to speak to those that had authority over him and not be intimidated or made to feel ashamed of his faith. The secular world today believes many of the Bible stories are childish myths and mock and scoff at those who believe them. This is what the young man in this Psalm means when he says, "I will also speak of your testimonies before kings and shall not be put to shame." He will not be embarrassed at sharing the stories and teachings of the Bible.

## PSALM 119:49-56

- **Psalm 119:49-56:** Remember your word to your servant, in which you have made me hope. <sup>50</sup>This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life. <sup>51</sup>The insolent utterly deride me, but I do not turn away from your law. <sup>52</sup>When I think of your rules from of old, I take comfort, O LORD. <sup>53</sup>Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked, who forsake your law. <sup>54</sup>Your statutes have been my songs in the house of my sojourning. <sup>55</sup>I remember your name in the night, O LORD, and keep your law. <sup>56</sup>This blessing has fallen to me, that I have kept your precepts.

**My hope is in your word:** (v49) hope is to expect and anticipate with confidence it is, trusting and relying on something (usually with pleasure). In the Christians case it is trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for righteousness that leads to eternal life and in the Gospel and Christs return in glory. The things hoped for are not as extensive as the things unseen this is because the things hoped for refer to things future and joyful to us, whereas the things unseen embrace the future the past and the present and can refer to things good or bad.

**NOTE:** when salvation to eternal life is spoken of as the hope of the faithful in Christ, it is not called hope because it might or might not happen, but because it is unseen and yet future. The hope itself is guaranteed because it is based on God's promise and he cannot lie (Rom. 8:24). The apostle Paul wrote:

- In hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began (Titus 1:2).

The Christian hopes to be resurrected from the grave to be raised up to eternal life and everlasting glory to be made perfectly free from sin; to be everlastingly happy, but it is faith that gives these things a mental reality in the mind and it is under this influence of faith that those in Christ allow these unseen and yet future events to control their mind as if they were a reality now.

**Faith and hope:** the difference between faith and hope is that by faith alone we are sure of eternal salvation it is certain and guaranteed by faith whereas by hope we look forward with confidence that we will be raised to eternal life. All Christian hope stands on faith since it is faith that secures and guarantees the promise of God. In this way faith and hope go together they are partners that complement each other since the same things that are the focus of our hope are the same things that our faith is trusting in.

Faith secures while hope looks forward to what is secured by faith. A person who is full of faith is a person who has examined the evidence and is fully convinced that what they have examined proves itself to be true. The pillars of faith are conviction, assurance and confidence without these three there is no faith.

**My comfort in affliction is that your promise gives me life:** (v50) in times of hardship, grief and troubles it is God's promise of eternal life that brings comfort and his promise that He is with the faithful by His love, favour and grace.

**Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked who forsake your law:** (v53) when this young man saw the people of Israel who had known the love of the LORD and seen His mighty wonders and miracles turn away from God and bring shame to His name he was enraged. This could be likened to a man who only does good to his friends and one of the friends turns against him in such a manner that it brings him hurt and harm, naturally his other friends will be enraged at the betrayal of this wicked person who has hurt their friend for no good or justifiable reason.

**I remember your name in the night:** (v55) this is common amongst all the faithful in the Lord, the last thought in the darkness of the night is the Lord and the first thought in the morning is the Lord.

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HETH

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## PSALM 119:57-64

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- **Psalm 119:57-64:** The LORD is my portion; I promise to keep your words. <sup>58</sup>I entreat your favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise. <sup>59</sup>When I think on my ways, I turn my feet to your testimonies; <sup>60</sup>I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments. <sup>61</sup>Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me, I do not forget your law. <sup>62</sup>At midnight I rise to praise you, because of your righteous rules. <sup>63</sup>I am a companion of all who fear you, of those who keep your precepts. <sup>64</sup>The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love; teach me your statutes!

**I entreat your favour with all my heart:** (v58) this young man understood that the two paths to win God's favour is firstly, to live in a manner that is in accordance to God's laws and His holy character and secondly, to have a deep love and passion in the heart toward God and a continual desire that His favour would always be toward us.

**When I think on my ways, I turn my feet to your testimonies:** (v59) meaning when he thinks to act or behave in some sinful manner, he instead chooses to go the way that is right before God and brings honour to His name.

**At midnight I rise to praise you, because of your righteous rules:** (v62) some may wonder how can they measure how much they actually love the Lord, here is a measure, our love for God is as great as our love for His laws and ways is. Meaning if we do not love God's laws, we do not love God, regardless of how much we might emotionally feel we do, or believe we do, if we have no passion to live a life that honours Him, we are deceiving ourselves.

Many confess to believe in Christ and even go to church every Sunday, but every other day of the week live a life that is totally indifferent to how their behaviour and what they say reflects upon the good name of the Lord Jesus Christ. These people are not only deceiving themselves, but also bringing a bad testimony to God and to the good name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith.

**I am a companion of all who fear you, of those who keep your precepts:** (v63) anyone who loves the Lord will have a natural bond and brotherly affection to others (whether they know them or not) who love the Lord and do all they can to keep God's laws and live a life of faithfulness toward the Lord Jesus Christ. This is because the cement that holds the global body of Christ together is the love of God and the love of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

**The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love:** (v64) this carries the idea that God's love is seen:

- In all His creation and in those who love Him and live according to His laws and ways.
- In every good thing upon the earth.
- In every kind and compassionate act of charity toward the poor and helpless.
- In the love of a married couple, a family or anywhere love is manifested.

This is because God is love:

- Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:8).
- God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (1 John 4:16).

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**PSALM 119:66-72**


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- **Psalm 119:65-72:** You have dealt well with your servant, O LORD, according to your word. <sup>66</sup>Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments. <sup>67</sup>Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word. <sup>68</sup>You are good and do good; teach me your statutes. <sup>69</sup>The insolent smear me with lies, but with my whole heart I keep your precepts; <sup>70</sup>their heart is unfeeling like fat, but I delight in your law. <sup>71</sup>It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes. <sup>72</sup>The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

**Teach me good judgment and knowledge:** (v66) it is one thing to learn knowledge and all the doctrines, but it is a totally different thing to have good judgment, good council and make wise choices. We should do all we can to learn God's laws and earnestly pray that God will give us the wisdom to apply the knowledge.

Following are two good examples of not having good judgment and wisdom:

1. Some have enormously great knowledge, but are so legalistic with it they do as much harm as they do-good, because they lack love, compassion, mercy and grace, for them salvation is all about having every doctrine and every teaching of the Bible perfectly ticked.
2. Others have overflowing love, compassion, mercy and grace, but have very little knowledge and what they do have is mostly gained from the teaching of others and not their own reading of God's word. For this group salvation is all about feeling the emotion and trusting the Spirit to guide them.

Both these groups have something good to offer the global body of Christ and both have things that damage the name of the church and the good name of the Lord Jesus Christ because both bring harm to those seeking and those following Christ. Obviously the two groups I have mentioned are extremes and clearly there is no perfect church since all are filled with sinners saved by grace, but the two examples do shine a brilliant spotlight on why this young man is earnestly praying that the LORD will teach him good judgment.

**Before I was afflicted I went astray:** (v67) clearly this young man had turned from the ways of the LORD and got himself into some form of trouble (perhaps like many teenage Christians do in those vulnerable years) and has realised his foolishness, repented and now deeply desires to do all he can to live in a manner that honours God.

**It is good that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes:** (v71) it is quite likely that wicked men had lead this young man away from the faith and away from God's laws, but on the up side it has made him aware that there is nothing more precious in this world than the steadfast love of God and having God's favour toward him and not against him.

**The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces:** (v72) whatever sin and trouble this young man got into it has now brought him to a full consciousness that God's ways are more precious than silver and gold. This is because the heart and mind of those who are in tune with God will be filled with love, contentment, peace and joy.

## PSALM 119:73-80

- **Psalm 119:73-80:** Your hands have made and fashioned me; give me understanding that I may learn your commandments. <sup>74</sup>Those who fear you shall see me and rejoice, because I have hoped in your word. <sup>75</sup>I know, O LORD, that your rules are righteous, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me. <sup>76</sup>Let your steadfast love comfort me according to your promise to your servant. <sup>77</sup>Let your mercy come to me, that I may live; for your law is my delight. <sup>78</sup>Let the insolent be put to shame, because they have wronged me with falsehood; as for me, I will meditate on your precepts. <sup>79</sup>Let those who fear you turn to me, that they may know your testimonies. <sup>80</sup>May my heart be blameless (undefiled in KJV) in your statutes, that I may not be put to shame!

**Your hands have made and fashioned me:** (v73) this expression applies to all mankind in the sense we are all descendants of our earthly father Adam who God made from the dust, but it can also apply to the way in which God has moulded our character. In this young man's life God used his afflictions and backsliding to bring him to a deep place of appreciating the beauty of His laws and the blessing there is in following them.

**Those who fear you shall see me and rejoice, because I have hoped in your word:** (v74) it is certain that this young man's family, friends and all the faithful who knew him were greatly hurt as they watched him turning away from the paths of God that they had taught him, but it is equally certain they were enormously overjoyed when they saw him desiring to return to the LORD with such passion and a deep desire not only to study and learn all God's laws and ways, but to do them.

**In faithfulness you have afflicted me:** (v75) here again is great faith, many who suffer troubles and hardships hold a grudge toward God whereas this man recognises it as a work from God's faithfulness and love toward him. There are some who God has to remove His hand of blessing as he did with the prodigal son and let them fall so far that they are eating with the pigs, to bring them to an awareness of the utter foolishness of the path they have taken.

**Let your mercy come to me, that I may live:** (v77) mercy comes from the Hebrew word (*cheched*) and means kindness and favour. It carries the idea of bowing to show one-self, loving and kind. God's mercy is revealed in His offering to sinners' salvation by grace and mercy in Christ whereby at the Lord's return to judgment he will through his mercy and compassion bless those who belong to him with eternal life. All of us are saved solely by the mercy of God.

**Let those who fear you turn to me, that they may know your testimonies:** (v79) those who fear the LORD in this context refers to all who do what is right before the LORD. When a brother or sister turns away from the LORD to do their own thing and go the wrong way, they feel a sense of shame when they return to their brothers and sisters in the faith. This young man no doubt felt this same sense of shame and is praying that those in the faith will accept him with open arms.

**May my heart be blameless (undefiled in KJV) that I may not be put to shame:** (v80) the words blameless and undefiled do not mean without sin, but carry the idea of a good and decent person who does what is right and good. For further notes concerning this see the word blameless following verse one to eight (above).

- **Psalm 119:81-88:** My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word. <sup>82</sup>My eyes long for your promise; I ask, "When will you comfort me?" <sup>83</sup>For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke (a bottle in the smoke, in KJV) yet I have not forgotten your statutes. <sup>84</sup>How long must your servant endure? When will you judge those who persecute me? <sup>85</sup>The insolent have dug pitfalls for me; they do not live according to your law. <sup>86</sup>All your commandments are sure; they persecute me with falsehood; help me! <sup>87</sup>They have almost made an end of me on earth, but I have not forsaken your precepts. <sup>88</sup>In your steadfast love give me life, that I may keep the testimonies of your mouth.

Though this young man has repented from his wicked ways and is studying God's laws and meditating on His statutes so that they will be a guide to his life, his enemies (perhaps those who caused him to stumble and who he mixed with in his fallen state) are still telling lies and falsehoods about him (v86) and persecuting him so badly that they have almost brought him to death (v87). This is why he asks the following three questions:

- 1 When will you comfort me? (v82).
- 2 How long must your servant endure? (v84).
- 3 When will you judge those who persecute me? (v84).

Though this young man longs for God's salvation and has set his hope in the word of the LORD (v81) he says he feels like a wineskin in the smoke (a bottle in the smoke in KJV) (v83). In these ancient times it was common in the East for wine bottles to be made of skins of beasts and hung up in tents over a smoky chimney to dry them before the wine was poured into them. The wine-skin would of course shrivel and the tent would become dark and dingy because of the smoke. So the expression he feels like a wineskin in the smoke would carry the idea that he is afflicted and in sorrow and distress because of the persecution that he is still suffering and because of this he feels God is not comforting him. This of course would be the reason that he is praying that God would give him life meaning, comfort, peace and joy and asking God how long must he endure before God would judge those who are continuing to persecute him?

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### PSALM 119:89-96

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- **Psalm 119:89-96:** Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. <sup>90</sup>Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast. <sup>91</sup>By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants. <sup>92</sup>If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction. <sup>93</sup>I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life. <sup>94</sup>I am yours; save me, for I have sought your precepts. <sup>95</sup>The wicked lie in wait to destroy me, but I consider your testimonies. <sup>96</sup>I have seen a limit to all perfection, but your commandment is exceedingly broad.

O LORD, your word is forever fixed in the heavens: (v89) some might wonder at this statement since much of God's word has been done away with, (i.e., the Levitical law, the sacrifices, the ceremonial laws, the feast days and the Sabbaths etc.), but these truths do not mean that the Psalmist statement, "God's word is forever fixed in the heavens," is not a true statement. This is because God's word clearly teaches that the Old Testament Covenant containing the ceremonial and Levitical law is done away with and replaced by a New Covenant of grace which means that the statement "God's word is forever fixed in the heavens," is a true statement since God's plans, purposes and promises for mankind's salvation were established in God's eternal mind before the foundations of the earth and set in motion before time began.

**Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth:** (v90) there is no end to God's faithfulness, even when His people turn from Him, His faithfulness is such that should they return in repentance He will accept and welcome them back into His eternal home.

**If your law was not my delight, I would have perished in my affliction:** (v92) though this young man went astray from the faith that he had been taught the teaching that he had previously been given concerning God and His ways was enough to stop him continuing on in his wickedness and being brought to utter ruin.

**I will never forget your precepts, for they have given me life:** (v93) the word precepts come from the Hebrew word (*piquwd*) and means God's appointed mandate for the law and His commandments and statutes. God's law gave him life, because it delivered he from the path of the wicked which leads to sorrow and grief and ultimately to the darkness of the grave never to rise again, in contrast to this God's law leads to righteousness, contentment, joy and peace and ultimately to eternal life and everlasting happiness.

**The wicked lie in wait to destroy me:** (v95) this could be likened to a man who has mixed with people who have no respect for God or for the law and eventually seeing the wickedness and foolishness of the people his is mixing with he turns to the Lord and forsakes them and their wicked ways, but they continue to harass and bullying him. In these circumstances' wisdom would say the following three things to this young man:

1. Talk to the proper authorities, avoid such people and if he does have to be in their environment go with friends.
2. No matter what lies and falsehoods they may be saying about him ignore them, the only one he needs approval from is the Lord and if he is right before the Lord what man says about him carries no weight and he certainly should not give their lies any power over his life.
3. Walk before God knowing that His favour, love and grace, is toward him and God is certainly not fooled by the lies and falsehoods of his enemies.

**I have seen a limit to all perfection, but your commandment is exceedingly broad:** (v96) the word perfect comes from the Hebrew word (*tamiym*) and means entire and complete. In the context of God's word, it carries the idea of perfect and complete truth and integrity and of one being undefiled and perfectly upright and whole, meaning without spot or blemish (i.e., perfect in every way). The young man through all his study and meditation had clearly seen that any claims of perfection can only arise from the fact that such a person making a claim to be perfect does not properly perceive or understand their true nature. People feel they are perfect, because they have no clear view of the perfection of God's Holy law and no clear view of the Holiness of God and no clear view of how far God's Holy eyes search out the heart, the mind and the thoughts of man. They feel perfect because they set up for themselves their own standard and when they become conformed to this standard (which they are able to do) they consider themselves to be perfect. But should their standard be compared with the Holy Law of God (a far higher and more perfect standard) and against God's Holiness they would be clearly see that not only was the standard they had set for themselves seriously lacking, but also that they were imperfect and flawed people. This is because God's Law is a perfect standard that they could never meet since it requires far more than they had accounted for in the standard they set for themselves. It is very easy to flatter and convince ourselves that we are perfect, if we make our own standard of character, but it is not possible for anyone to make such a claim of perfection, if they measure themselves by the standard of God's word and the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. All the claims of people to perfection are made simply because they do not properly understand what the law of God requires.

**All perfection has a limit:** means that all perfection concerning mankind has limits. It matters not how great a king or prince maybe, or how powerful the political authorities of government and all its systems of rule might be or how wise earthly lawgivers and their laws are or how rich and wealthy or perfect mankind's accomplishments and enjoyments in this world are all are limited and fall short in comparison to the word of God. There is nothing perfect on earth because everything has an end, only God's word lasts forever. Riches and wealth, power and authority ultimately all come to nothing and flourishing states and kingdoms are brought to ruin even mankind himself is destined to death. All things of mankind have an end there is no perfection of mankind that does not have limits, flaws and an end. No earthly man or woman can create something so perfect as God's law and His word. It is only God's word that reaches to all the needs of the human heart and shows the perfect way to peace and to God and to eternal life and everlasting happiness. The fullness and sufficiency of God's word reaches to all generations and on into eternity and no mortal man or woman can ever outgrow it. Human wisdom and power, glory and riches, and the greatest and most perfect accomplishments and enjoyments in this world soon come to an end. The glory of man is, but as the flower of the grass that perishes, and for this reason it is right and proper to say that, "God's covenant, His law and His word, is established perfectly in heaven, but with limitations on the earth below." The words, "I have seen a limit to all perfection" (Psalm 119:96) mean that the actual can never correspond with the ideal, meaning that our human standard of perfection can never match God's true standard of perfection. God's perfection and His word will never deceive those who trust it and will make everyone happy both here in this world and in the world to come. It is useful for all people in all times and conditions, and for all purposes, to inform, direct, quicken, comfort, cleanse and save. It has such a height, breadth and depth of doctrine and mysteries in it that can never be fully reached and fathomed and its fullness can never be exhausted; the promises of it, reach both to this life, and the life that is to come. The principles and instructions of its laws are so large that all our works of righteousness are in-adequate and fall far short of the holy perfection of God. When we stand before the invisible, immortal, Almighty, Holy God of all creation and the source of all life there is no perfection of righteousness to be found in us. In contrast to this the righteousness of the Son of God the Lord Jesus Christ the King and Saviour of the world is as large and as broad as every holy commandment, law, rule and principal and for this reason it is only in Christ that anyone of us can stand before God and be counted worthy. The apostle Paul wrote:

- Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. (Rom. 10:4).

**A word of encouragement:** no matter how devoted and faithful a brother or sister in Christ maybe not one of them can attain to the perfect perfection of God's Holy law, for anyone who thinks this is not a true statement consider the following words of Paul:

- For Christ Jesus my Lord sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— <sup>10</sup>that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philip. 3:8-14).

- **Psalm 119:97-104:** Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. <sup>98</sup>Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. <sup>99</sup>I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation. <sup>100</sup>I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts. <sup>101</sup>I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word. <sup>102</sup>I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me. <sup>103</sup>How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! <sup>104</sup>Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

**Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies:** (v98) this is because God's commandments (which would also embrace God's word) give wisdom, bring God's blessing and favour and led to eternal life. In contrast to this his enemies (which would also mean God's enemies) follow the ways of the flesh which leads to foolishness, wickedness and to the darkness of the grave never to rise again.

**I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts:** (v100) the truth of this statement is stunning. It's truth not only applies to this young man, but to all the faithful in the Lord. Those who study and meditate upon the word of God and apply it to their lives have more understanding and wisdom than the aged who deny God and kings of countries and rulers of nations. Since the faithful not only understand the nature of mankind and also have insight into the ultimate plan of God for this earth, but also know the right path in life to God's love, grace blessing and favour and because of this they have hope, contentment, peace and joy in their heart and mind.

**I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word:** (v101) to keep God's word will mean:

- Never giving any form of deceit, lie, deception or any form of corruption an open door into our lives.
- Never perverting justice or oppressing others to advance our career or our own goals and dreams.
- Never twisting or distorting the Scriptures so that it appeals to self, ego and pride to attract greater numbers into the church and build massive congregations for the purpose of being exalted as one of great renown and fame amongst the global body of Christ.
- Never using God's people as merchandise to advance one's own personal riches and wealth.

**How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!** (v103) when we can from the heart make this statement, we can rest assured we truly love the Lord and our love for him is real and not just an emotional fantasy of the mind. There are people who say they love the Lord, but they have no interest in God's laws or living in a manner that brings honour to God's name. They may attend church every Sunday, but on every other day of the week they give God no thought and live their life totally indifferent to how their behaviour and speech reflects upon God's honour and the good name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith. Those who live this way are deceiving themselves and should heed the following words of Jesus:

- Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup>On that day many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?" <sup>23</sup>And then will I declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness." (Matt. 7:21-23)
- Why do you call me "Lord, Lord," and not do what I tell you? (Luke 6:46).

**Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore, I hate every false way.** (v104) to live a life that truly honours God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ there must be a love for the ways of God

and a heartfelt hatred toward all that is false; all that is against His good name; against His character and against his ways. There is no doubt every faithful Christian looks toward the return of Christ with great joy and excitement since they know it will mean being raised to an immortal body, everlasting happiness and seeing their Lord face to face. This excitement is magnified a hundred-fold for those who have hatred toward sin and every false way since they know that it will also mean that righteousness, justice, joy and peace will rule the earth.

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## PSALM 119:105-112

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- **Psalm 119:105-112:** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. <sup>106</sup>I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous rules. <sup>107</sup>I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word! <sup>108</sup>Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your rules. <sup>109</sup>I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law. <sup>110</sup>The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts. <sup>111</sup>Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart. <sup>112</sup>I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

**Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path:** (v105) to fully understand the beauty and reality of these words imagine walking along a path covered with all sorts of dangers in the darkness of the night with a torch that that is so powerful that its light brilliantly shines upon the path clearly bringing into view every dangerous rock and branch lying on the path, every hole and every living creature such as a snake or scorpion or any other poisonous creature lying on the path even though everything else surrounding the path is in utter darkness. This is what the word of God was like to this young man. The statement, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path," is also the true testimony of all the faithful who though they are citizens of heaven are at this present time walking through the spiritual darkness of the world.

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**I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word:** (v107) this verse clearly shows that just because this young man has turned from his wicked ways and set his mind to study and meditate upon God's laws does not mean all the troubles of the past are instantly removed. Though we are forgiven we will in many cases still suffer the consequences of our sin. It could be likened to a Christian girl who falls from the faith and become pregnant, because she had been sharing her bed with various boyfriends, but eventually returns in repentance to the Lord. Even though she will be forgiven she will still have the baby. Being forgiven of sin does not mean all consequences of our sin are deleted. Some time ago two Australian ring leaders of a gang of drug smugglers were caught in Indonesian and because of their sin they were facing the death penalty.

The spent ten years in jail, found the Lord, repented of their sin and turned their lives around to helping others, but were eventually shot. Standing before the firing squad they refused to be blindfolded and faced those about to kill them singing, "Amazing Grace." Clearly, they were forgiven, but forgiveness did not set them free from the consequences of their sin, but it did set them free from eternal death (i.e., total and utter extinction) to eternal life and everlasting happiness in glory.

**I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law:** (v109) this statement carries the idea that though this young man treasures and values his life and would love to have everything he does prosper and succeed (as most do) he will do nothing that compromises God's holy law to achieve such prosperity and success.

**The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts:** (v110) these words carry the idea that no matter how

dangerous or fearful he may feel or whatever lies and falsehoods his enemies may say about him he will not compromise God's laws to win their favour.

**PSALM 119:113-120**

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- **Psalm 119:113-120:** I hate the double-minded, but I love your law. <sup>114</sup>You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word. <sup>115</sup>Depart from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the commandments of my God. <sup>116</sup>Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live, and let me not be put to shame in my hope! <sup>117</sup>Hold me up, that I may be safe and have regard for your statutes continually! <sup>118</sup>You spurn all who go astray from your statutes, for their cunning (deceit is falsehood in KJV) is in vain. <sup>119</sup>All the wicked of the earth you discard like dross, therefore I love your testimonies. <sup>120</sup>My flesh trembles for fear of you, and I am afraid of your judgments.

**I hate the double-minded:** (v113) those who are double mind refers to those who have one foot in the world, because they seek after worldly pleasures, riches or fame and indulgent luxuries, and have the other foot in the Kingdom of God. They cannot or will not fully commit to one or the other, but live their lives with a foot in both camps. The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation said of these types of people:

- I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! <sup>16</sup>So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. (Rev. 3:14-15).

These types of people have just enough religion to make them feel they are right with God and destined to heaven while they go about living their life totally indifferent to how their behaviour and speech reflects on God's honour and the good name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith. We may attend church every Sunday, but every other day of the week give God no thought, but continue to live as they please. Those who live in such a manner will never know God's indwelling love and grace in their heart and mind or His Spirit working within until they fully commit to him and do all they can to live a lifestyle that honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith.

**You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word:** (v114) when salvation to eternal life is spoken of as the hope of the faithful, it is not called hope because it might or might not happen, but because it is unseen and yet future. The hope itself is guaranteed because it is based on God's promise and He cannot lie (Rom. 8:24).

- In hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began (Titus 1:2).

The faithful hopes to be resurrected from the grave to be raised up to eternal life and everlasting glory to be made perfectly free from sin; to be everlastingly happy, but it is faith that gives these things a mental reality in the mind and it is under this influence of faith that the faithful allow these unseen and yet future events to control their mind as if they were a reality now. This is why the young man is able to say, "You are my hiding place and my shield," come what may, God will keep him in His saving grace and raise him up to be His treasured possession.

**Depart from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the commandments of my God:** (v115) it is not wrong or sinful to have secular friends, but should they act in a manner that hinders our faith or tempts us to wrongdoing then we must say as this young man did, "Depart from me, you evildoers." This does not mean you cannot continue to witness to them, but it does mean that it is extremely foolish to hang out with them as a social friend.

**Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live, and let me not be put to shame in my hope:** (v116) though we are all called to walk in the Spirit (i.e., love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23) and not the flesh (i.e., sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness and orgies) (Gal. 5:19-21) it is right and proper to ask God to help us. It could be likened to a small child learning to ride a bike; on their first few attempts they will often call out, "Daddy help me," until they have mastered the skill of riding it on their own. Their father will never stop helping his children, but he will hope that they will mature to adulthood and be able to stand on their own and instead of seeking help, will rather help others. Likewise, our heavenly Father desires that all His children would grow to spiritual maturity and adulthood.

**You spurn all who go astray from your statutes, for their cunning is in vain:** the King James Bible says, their deceit is falsehood, though this statement can refer to the secular world it is primarily referring to those who belong to the nation of Israel and not to the secular nations. It means God will reject all who confess to believe in Him, but twist and distort His word to suit their own lifestyle or to advantage them in some way.

**All the wicked of the earth you discard like dross, therefore I love your testimonies:** (v119) dross is a waste product it is of no value to anything and only fit for the garbage. This is how God view those upon the earth who:

- Deliberately and consciously deny His existence.
- Oppress others (especially the poor and helpless) and afflict harm upon people for their own financial gain.
- Abuse woman and children to gratify their own lustful and perverted sexual appetites.
- Deny the law of love and twist and pervert justice for their own advantage and use all sorts of corruptions, deceptions and lies to advance their own wealth and riches.
- Plot murder, theft and war to gain greater power, control, wealth and land.

Paul in his letter to the Romans wrote:

- Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:10).

Paul shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that the spirit underpinning the law is love, because the spirit of the law is to protect the innocent from all types of harm and hurt, whoever keeps the law will do no wrong to a neighbour (neighbour embraces all mankind not just those in God's Kingdom). Jesus commanded his followers to "Love their neighbours as themselves," (Mark 12:31). Next to loving God with all our heart, mind and strength the command to love your neighbours as yourself is not only the greatest commandment in the entire Bible and under sun, the moon, the stars and all the heavenly hosts, but also the greatest commandment before God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

To love your neighbour as yourself, (Matt. 22:39) means do not deliberately do harm to other humans. No sane person deliberately does things to inflict pain on themselves, loving others as you love yourself is not about feeling some warm and fuzzy emotion towards others, it is about not hurting others as you would not hurt yourself. James the brother of Jesus said:

- If you really fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing well. (James 2:8).

James calls Jesus command, "Love your neighbour as yourself," the royal law and says if we are keeping this one law we are doing well. The thing God hates the most is when we deliberately do harm to another person, physically, verbally, financially sexually, emotionally or spiritually and the thing God loves the most is when we do-good to others.

**My flesh trembles for fear of you, and I am afraid of your judgments:** (v120) the flesh (i.e., pride, ego, anger, jealousy, lustful passions, greed, and such like things) has very reason to fear the LORD since if it is not disciplined and restrained and instead allowed to reign as king to do as it pleases it will be cast into the lake of fire (a symbol of utter and total extinction) when it stands before the judgment seat of God. For further information concerning the lake of fire, see the title:

- Lake of Fire, in Death (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## PSALM 119:121-128

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- **Psalm 119:121-128:** I have done what is just and right; do not leave me to my oppressors. <sup>122</sup>Give your servant a pledge of good; let not the insolent oppress me. <sup>123</sup>My eyes long for your salvation and for the fulfilment of your righteous promise. <sup>124</sup>Deal with your servant according to your steadfast love, and teach me your statutes. <sup>125</sup>I am your servant; give me understanding, that I may know your testimonies! <sup>126</sup>It is time for the LORD to act, for your law has been broken. <sup>127</sup>Therefore I love your commandments above gold, above fine gold. <sup>128</sup>Therefore I consider all your precepts to be right; I hate every false way.

**Do not leave me to my oppressors:** (v121) as one travels through the Bible it becomes very clear that one of the greatest things that God considers an abomination on earth is the oppression and domination of others for one's own gain (especially the poor and the helpless). There is no place in the Kingdom of God for oppression and the domination of others all are called to serve each other in love, kindness, mercy and grace.

**My eyes long for your salvation and for the fulfilment of your righteous promise:** (v123) this righteous promise no doubt refers to the covenant God made with Abraham and His sworn promise to Isaac, which He confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance." (Psalm 105:8-11). The ultimate fulfilment of this promise will be perfectly fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ the promised seed of Abraham (Matt. 1:1) when he returns in glory. In chapter eleven of Hebrews (commonly known as the hall of faith) it is written: -

- By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. (Heb. 11:8-10).

God at this present time is still in the process of building the everlasting city that both the faithful of the Old and New Testament look forward to. At this present time, it is being established worldwide amongst every nation, language and people by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, it is a spiritual city called a new nation in Christ, a new creature in Christ, the church, the global body of Christ and the Kingdom of Christ. This present spiritual city God is building in the hearts and minds of the faithful worldwide will be a literal city on earth when Christ the offspring of Abraham returns in glory to Jerusalem the Holy city of God and gathers the faithful to himself and then rules and reigns as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace

on earth perfectly fulfilling God's promise to Abraham Isaac and Jacob and His promise to all who by the same faith belong to Abraham's global family. For further information on this city see the title:

- Spiritual Kingdom of God.

In the New Testament. (ON WEBSITE MENU).

**I love your commandments above gold, above fine gold:** (v127) this does not mean that it is wrong to have worldly wealth, but it does mean it is wrong if we love the riches and wealth more than we love God. It means our love for God is so great that we would never lie, steal, cheat, deceive, or oppress others or pervert justice to increase our worldly bank account. It also means we would never twist and distort the Scriptures in such a way that they appeal to the flesh (i.e., self, ego and pride) so as to attract a greater number of people into our assembly and thereby increase our income.

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PE

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### PSALM 119:129-136

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- **Psalm 119:129-136:** Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them. <sup>130</sup>The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple. <sup>131</sup>I open my mouth and pant, because I long for your commandments. <sup>132</sup>Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your way with those who love your name. <sup>133</sup>Keep steady my steps according to your promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me. <sup>134</sup>Redeem me from man's oppression, that I may keep your precepts. <sup>135</sup>Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes. <sup>136</sup>My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law.

**The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple:** (v130) no one has to go to university to understand God's commandments and Christ's teachings concerning godly behaviour. In Paul in his letter to the Romans wrote:

- Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:10).

And Jesus commanded all his followers to:

- Love their neighbour as themselves. (Mark 12:31).

Both Paul's and Jesus statements clearly shine a brilliant spotlight upon the truth that God's word imparts understanding to the simple and that no one has to go to university to discover what type of behaviour thrills and delights the heart of God. Anything that flows out from love and is good and right and does no harm to anyone is behaviour that will not only cause God's heart to rejoice, but will also cause the heart of the Lord Jesus Christ and all the angels in heaven to rejoice with great joy.

**Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your way with those who love your name:** (v132) here is the key to God's favour: "simply love Him." But this does not just mean have an emotional feeling, but embraces living a lifestyle that honours God and does what is right and good.

**My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law:** (v136) there is a heartfelt depth to this statement that may not be clearly seen by all. The young man is not deeply and emotionally grieved just because people are breaking God's law, the tears are because those who do break God's law inflict harm and grief upon others in some manner and cause great suffering, pain and destruction and sorrow across the entire face of the earth. If no one broke God's law, there would be no wars, murders, rapes, theft, adultery, child abuse and the list goes on.

This is why all who love God's law and understand that it is underpinned by love (because each law protects the innocent from harm) shed tears when they see people breaking His law. The tears are for the innocent who suffer because wicked people are breaking God's Law; God also sheds these same tears.

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TSADHE

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## PSALM 119:137-144

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- **Psalm 119:137-144:** Righteous are you, O LORD, and right are your rules. <sup>138</sup>You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness. <sup>139</sup>My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget your words. <sup>140</sup>Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it. <sup>141</sup>I am small and despised, yet I do not forget your precepts. <sup>142</sup>Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is true. <sup>143</sup>Trouble and anguish have found me out, but your commandments are my delight. <sup>144</sup>Your testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.

**Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it:** (v140) here is the beauty the wonder and the miracle of the Christian faith its roots go back to the foundations of the world. It was planned and purposed in the eternal mind of God before time began. God's plan for mankind's salvation has survived all generations of history and it is still growing and flourishing toward its final destination when it's Saviour and King returns in glory to establish the glorious Kingdom God promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the faithful of the Old and New Testament. Non-believers and those of other faiths think Christianity only began when the Virgin Mary gave birth to the Lord Jesus Christ, but this is not so, God planned and purposed Christ's coming into this world long before the seven days of creation. It would be right and proper to say that God set in motion mankind's salvation on earth with the creation of Adam and Eve and not at the birth of Christ. Nothing that happens on our earth takes God by surprise or shock. This is because in His eternal mind and eternal foreknowledge He has seen all things from the beginning to the end and planned and purposed all things accordingly. This is why prophets inspired by God's spirit were able to speak of future events and why Paul could confidently say:

- Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written, <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:35-39).

**I am small and despised, yet I do not forget your precepts:** (v141) this is a young man, so the words, "I am small and despised" could refer to his physical size or his lack of authority and power compared to those who are continuing to harass and afflict him. It is most likely a combination of both, but though he feels somewhat intimidated by those around him it will not deter him from being faithful to God. This could be likened to a Christian man who was sharing with me some time ago how he was raised up in a Christian home and as a very young boy looked up to the minister until in his teenage years he discovered the minister had been abusing children, though it would be perfectly understandable if he had walked away from the faith he didn't, he left that church, eventually found another one and remains today a devoted and faithful Christian.

**Trouble and anguish have found me out:** (v143) trouble and anguish is the end result of turning away from God and his laws to follow one's own worldly passions and corrupt ways. One of the aspects of wisdom is having the ability to see the end result of a choice or action made in the present moment. The foolish do not have this wisdom they do not consider

that the end result of the wickedness that they are doing is going to end in sorrow, trouble and grief of some sort. It could be said that the entire population of mankind that denies the existence of God lack this aspect of wisdom and live in a foolish manner since their end without God is the darkness of the grave never to rise again.

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QOPH

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## PSALM 119:145-152

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- **Psalm 119:145-152:** With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O LORD! I will keep your statutes. <sup>146</sup>I call to you; save me, that I may observe your testimonies. <sup>147</sup>I rise before dawn and cry for help; I hope in your words. <sup>148</sup>My eyes are awake before the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promise. <sup>149</sup>Hear my voice according to your steadfast love; O LORD, according to your justice give me life. <sup>150</sup>They draw near who persecute me with evil purpose; they are far from your law. <sup>151</sup>But you are near, O LORD, and all your commandments are true. <sup>152</sup>Long have I known from your testimonies that you have founded them forever.

**They draw near who persecute me with evil purpose; they are far from your law:** (v150) this young man has turned from his wicked ways and passionately desires to return to the LORD and live a life that is in accordance to all Gods laws and ways, but there are still people who are continually harassing him. This is the experience of many who turn to Christ their families, friends and all who have ever known them turn against them. A Moslem who turns to Christ is cast out from their entire society and a Jew who turns to Christ is spoken of as one who has forsaken the faith.

Even many who belong to the Jehovah Witness religion who turn to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and away from the Jehovah's Kingdom are cast out and rejected by their families and the friends that they have known all their lives.

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22

**But you are near, O LORD, and all your commandments are true:** (v151) all God's commandments are true means:

- They all bring spiritual life, joy and contentment to all who keep them.
- No one who keeps them will ever bring harm of any sort upon another human.
- Those who obey them will be favoured and blessed by God.
- They lead the way to eternal life and everlasting happiness.

The expression "you are near, O LORD, and all your commandments are true" also carries the idea that God by His Spirit and love will be near to all who keep His commandments and faithfully follow Him.

**Long have I known from your testimonies that you have founded them forever:** (v152) here is encouragement for all parents who have raised children in the faith, but as teenagers have gone their own way. This young man was such a person, under his Israelite parents he was raised to be faithful to the God of Israel, but as a young man went his own way, until he was deeply afflicted and troubled and reflected upon all the good things he had been taught in his childhood and upon realising the wisdom of it and the love and grace of God returned to what he had known and experienced as a child.

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RESH

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## PSALM 119:153-160

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- **Psalms 119:153-160:** Look on my affliction and deliver me, for I do not forget your law. <sup>154</sup>Plead my cause and redeem me; give me life according to your promise! <sup>155</sup>Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek your statutes. <sup>156</sup>Great is your mercy, O LORD; give me life according to your rules. <sup>157</sup>Many are my persecutors and my adversaries, but I do not swerve from your testimonies. <sup>158</sup>I look at the faithless with disgust, because they do not keep your commands. <sup>159</sup>Consider how I love your precepts! Give me life according to your steadfast love. <sup>160</sup>The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

**Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek your statutes:** (v155) those who know the love and grace of God truly desire that all would be saved, but we must accept that there are those who are so fleshy that they have absolutely no interest in following God's laws and His ways. I have over my many years of Christianity seen those who cannot accept this truth and give months of their time to trying to save a person who has no interest, whereas their time would have been better spent seeking out others who are interested or helping others who are struggling in their faith.

**Great is your mercy, O LORD; give me life according to your rules:** (v156) Mercy comes from the Hebrew word (*cheched*) and means kindness and favour, to be compassionate by word or deed and especially by divine grace, it carries the idea of showing pity, tender mercy and showing good will and showing mercy toward the helpless and the afflicted joined with a desire to help them. It carries the idea of bowing to show oneself loving and kind.

**God's mercy:** is revealed in His offering to sinners' salvation by grace in Christ and at the judgment seat His mercy will be revealed when He blesses those who belong to Christ with eternal life.

#### **God shows Mercy to those who:**

- Belong to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Love God and keep His commandments (Exod. 20:6) (Deut. 5:10) (Nehemiah 1:5).
- Listen to the LORD'S rules and keeps them (Deut. 7:9-12).
- Walks before God with all their heart in faithfulness and in righteousness of heart (1 Kings 3:6) (1 Kings 8:23 2) (Chron. 6:14).
- Fear God and are obedient to Him (Luke 1:50) (Rom 11:30).

#### **God does not show mercy to:**

- Those who are guilty (Exod. 34:7) (Num. 14:18).
- People who do not show mercy to others (James 2:13).

**The tablets of stone and the mercy seat:** it is interesting to notice that the only thing Moses put in the Ark of the Covenant was the two tablets of stone. The law was under the mercy seat overshadowed by the wings of the cherubim and it was from above the mercy seat that the LORD spoke. This means that to get to the law one had to go through mercy first. The law was covered by mercy. This clearly shines a brilliant spotlight upon the truth that the Ark of the Covenant was built according to the perfect design of God.

The apostle Paul wrote, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23) and that, "the wages of sin is death," but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 6:23). We all sin and are therefore all under the condemnation of the law and condemned to death, without God's mercy we would all be doomed to the darkness of the grave never to rise.

- There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets that Moses put there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the people of Israel, when they came out of Egypt (2 Chron. 5:10).

**I look at the faithless with disgust, because they do not keep your commands:** (v158) now having seen the error of his backsliding state and being aware of the affliction and troubles those who confessed to believe, but had no faithfulness toward living their lives in a manner that honoured God and how his association with them brought troubles and afflictions into his life he now has no respect for those who confess to believe, but do not live their life in faithfulness toward God.

**The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever:** (v160) the expression "God's word is truth," is one of the most common statements those who have been in the Christian faith for many years will have heard. It is obviously a true statement, but many churches claim this truth for themselves stating that they are the only ones who teach the true word of God. So how is a new seeker of God to know who is actually teaching the truth of God? The simple answer to this is that most Christian churches rightly teach the fundamental truth that sinners are saved only by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah and Son of God who died on the bloodstained cross of Calvary and rose from the dead to the right hand side of his heavenly Father and by God's grace.

Those seeking God with this foundational truth and an honest and humble heart need not fear. This is because God's not only gives grace to cover the sinful inward dysfunctions and aberrations that we have inherited from our earthly father Adam while we faithfully seek to grow in the fruits of the Spirit, but also gives grace to covers our lack of knowledge while we faithfully seek to grow in greater knowledge of Christ and His heavenly Father and in the knowledge of God's plans and purposes and what he requires of us.

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## SIN AND SHIN

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### PSALM 119:161-168

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- **Psalm 119:161-168:** <sup>1</sup>Princes persecute me without cause, but my heart stands in awe of your words. <sup>162</sup>I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil. <sup>163</sup>I hate and abhor falsehood, but I love your law. <sup>164</sup>Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous rules. <sup>165</sup>Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble. <sup>166</sup>I hope for your salvation, O LORD, and I do your commandments. <sup>167</sup>My soul keeps your testimonies; I love them exceedingly. <sup>168</sup>I keep your precepts and testimonies, for all my ways are before you.

**Princes persecute me without cause, but my heart stands in awe of your words:** (v161) the expression, "my heart stands in awe of your words," embraces all of God's words and promises and not just His law. Here is great faith (especially in a young man) those with great authority oppress, harass and bully him for no justifiable reason, yet he is determined to remain faithful to God's word and be in awe of it. This could be likened to a Christian teenager today being bullied on the internet or at school not because they had done anything wrong, but because of the jealousy or the evil in the heart of their bullies, but rather than succumb to the torments of their abusers they remain faithful to God and trust in His word that no matter what falsehoods and lies people may say about them God perceives the heart and knows the truth.

**I hate and abhor falsehood, but I love your law:** (v163) this should be the heartfelt attitude of every man and woman who confesses to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, if those who believe in the Lord examine their mind and hearts and find there is a total lack of hatred toward deception and lies they should truly question their love toward God and what they have been taught concerning Him.

**Great peace, have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble:** (v165) those who love God's law will keep it and whoever keeps it will never stumble since keeping God's law means running from all forms of wickedness, evil and corruptions. Some today think that by legalistically imposing or forcing God's laws onto others it will keep them from going astray, but this thinking is flawed, imposing or forcing rules upon people will never motivate them to keep such laws. The only way to motivate people to follow God's laws is to bring them to a heartfelt place where they love God's laws and the only way to do this is to show them the love and grace God has toward them.

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TAW

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### PSALM 119:169-176

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- **Psalms 119:169-176:** Let my cry come before you, O LORD; give me understanding according to your word! <sup>170</sup>Let my plea come before you; deliver me according to your word. <sup>171</sup>My lips will pour forth praise, for you teach me your statutes. <sup>172</sup>My tongue will sing of your word, for all your commandments are right. <sup>173</sup>Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts. <sup>174</sup>I long for your salvation, O LORD, and your law is my delight. <sup>175</sup>Let my soul live and praise you, and let your rules help me. <sup>176</sup>I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.

The following verses show that this young man is seeking the LORD'S salvation:

- *Turn to me and be gracious to me*, as is your way with those who love you (v132).
- *Make your face shine upon your servant*, and teach me your statutes (v135).
- I call to you; *save me*, that I may observe your testimonies (v146).
- Plead my cause and *redeem me; give me life* according to your promise! (v154).
- Great is your mercy, O LORD; *give me life* according to your rules (v156).
- Consider how I love your precepts! *Give me life* according to your steadfast love (v159).
- I long for *your salvation, O LORD*, and your law is my delight (v174).
- I have *gone astray* like a lost sheep; seek your servant (v176).

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This Psalm is a prayer of a young Israelite man who was raised as a child in the Jewish teaching concerning the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob the God of Israel, but who had for whatever reason gone astray from God. Now seeing the error of his ways and desiring to return to God he does two things:

1. Makes multitudes of promises to God that he will be faithful and will hold the law and word of God dear to his heart and will follow it all the days of his life.
2. Prays that God would redeem him, save him and give him life eternal.

**Give me understanding according to your word:** (v169) this young man prays God would give him understanding of His word, this should be the prayer of us all. It is one thing to learn intellectual legalistic head knowledge, but it is another thing to learn to apply such knowledge with grace love and compassion

**I have gone astray like a lost sheep:** (176) we are not told what it was that caused this young man to go astray, maybe:

- The power of temptation or the fear of persecution.
- In some criminal way or through the power and prevalence of sin.
- By his own infirmity and sinful errors or because of the tyranny and fear of his enemies.

We can only speculate, but whatever the cause he feels like a lost sheep separated from its fold without a shepherd and protector. It is most likely that his wanderings have separated him from his family, friends and relations and the place of worship and true happiness.

**Seek your servant:** (176) the young man prays God would seek him out, hear his prayer and save him. He understands that he has no power within himself to save himself to eternal life and that no one else can redeem him he must look to God and God only to save him so he finishes his prayer praying God would seek him out as a shepherd seeks out his lost sheep, and brings him back into the fold.

**For I do not forget thy commandments** (176) the repentant youth continues to promise God he will remain faithful and never again disregard the laws of God, but will make them his affection and by a deliberated choice willingly keep them so that he glorifies God's name.

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## FOOTNOTE

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The young man recognised that there is a limit to all perfection and the apostle Paul in his letters teaches that the flesh limits every Christian from attaining to the ultimate perfection of God's Holy Law. The reason for reading and meditating on God's word is so that those desiring to please the LORD know the good and right thing to do. God's word will not automatically keep the faithful from sinning just because they read a lot of Scripture, but meditating upon God's laws and His word will protect one from sinning in that the more a person understands Gods laws, mercy and grace the more they will know God and His steadfast love and it is this love of God dwelling in the heart that gives the motivation to restrain the flesh and live to please the Lord, nevertheless it is still up to the individual to choose which way they will go, God never forces His will onto anyone.

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## THE COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL

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It is important to understand that the promised seed of Abraham and David is Christ, all the promises to Israel are now fulfilled in Christ therefore they are not limited to Israel only, but extend and embrace all those who belong to Christ. This is because God is now creating one new nation in Christ made up of both Jew and Gentiles. (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew). This means that Jews and Gentiles become one new nation in Christ (also called a new man, a new creation, the church, the body of Christ and the Kingdom of God).

The Apostle Paul said:

- Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands— <sup>12</sup>remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the *COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL* and *STRANGERS* to the *COVENANTS* of *PROMISE*, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us both *ONE* and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup>by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself *ONE NEW MAN* (or Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace, <sup>16</sup>and might reconcile us (Jews

and Gentiles) both to God in *ONE BODY* through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). <sup>17</sup>And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). <sup>18</sup>For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in *ONE SPIRIT* to the Father. <sup>19</sup>So then you (Gentiles) are *NO LONGER* strangers and aliens, but you are *FELLOW CITIZENS* with the *SAINTS* (the Jews) and members of the *HOUSEHOLD* of God, <sup>20</sup>built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone <sup>21</sup>in whom the *WHOLE STRUCTURE* being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a *DWELLING PLACE* for *GOD* by the Spirit (Ephes. 2:11-22).

Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the, Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles). In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Christ is the head of this new nation and its Jewish and Gentile citizens are now equal in status before God since in Christ we are all brothers and sisters in the same eternal family that God is now establishing in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout all nations of the world.

The practical application of what this means to those who belong to Christ is that all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel also apply to them. The book of Revelation states:

- When Christ returns in glory every eye will see him, even those who pierced him and all the tribes of the earth (Rev. 1:7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and he has made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

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### **THE GLORY OF THE SPIRITUAL TEMPLE GOD IS BUILDING IN CHRIST**

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Jews and Gentiles are being united together as one body in Christ to be a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Believing Jews and Gentiles are being prepared by the prophets and apostles' teachings and by the influence of Christ and the Holy Spirit to become a majestic and glorious sacred temple in which God dwells for all eternity. When this majestic building is completed there will be nothing so worthy of reverence since God dwells in it; so ancient since the patriarchs and prophets laboured in building it; so solid since love cements it together; so closely united and indivisible since Christ is the corner stone; so exalted since it reaches as high as heaven and to God himself; so full of wisdom since its specifications are the word of God; so full of light since the Holy Spirit dispels every dark corner; so spacious since it is spread over the whole earth; so invincible and indestructible since it is being built by God, by Christ, by the Holy Spirit and by the influence of God's eternal word; so divine since it is a living, vibrant, dynamic temple inhabited by the Holy Spirit, and so universal since all its unique stones though spread throughout the world are compacted together in Christ.

God is the master builder of this majestic and glorious temple; Christ is the corner stone; faithful believers are the proper materials; the prophets and apostles are its foundation and the Gospel and love its pillars. Christ is the door and faith is the entrance into it. It is a spiritual building and through, faith and grace this living building is growing into an eternal house fit for the most Holy God to dwell in. It's beauty and radiance will

surpass all temples that have ever gone before it since it will be adorned with a vast variety of rich colour made up of Jews and Gentiles of every age, country, sex, and condition: the mightiest of kings, the most renowned lawgivers, the most profound philosophers, the most eminent scholars and all those of whom the world was not worthy have formed this building, (taken from the beautiful writings of a faithful, but unknown brother in Christ).

Peter wrote:

- Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame (1 Pet. 2:6).

Every faithful brother and sister in Christ are represented as living stones that God is using to build this spiritual, majestic temple of eternal glory which will be manifested in splendour for all to see when:

- The Lord himself descends from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ are raised then we who are alive are caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thess. 4:15-18).

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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