

Psalm 119

This Psalm is an elaborate, ingenious and passionate meditation upon the law of God in the Old Testament not to be confused with Pharisaic legalism.

The Hebrew word used for “law” is “tôrâh” meaning teaching or instruction.

It stands for the Will of the Creator God revealed to His people.

It is the loving instruction of a parent to their child, [Proverbs 4:1-2], all pointing the child towards habitual modes of life and thought, [Psalms 19:7-11].

This Psalm may have been written by Ezra after the Temple was rebuilt, [Ezra 6:14-15] as a repetitive meditation on the beauty of God’s Word and how it helps us to stay pure and grow in faith.

The Psalm has 22 carefully constructed sections each corresponding to a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet and each verse beginning with the letter of its section.

Almost every verse mentions God’s Word. Such repetition was common in Hebrew culture where people did **not** have personal copies of the scriptures to read as we do, so God’s people were helped to memories His Word.

Section “Aleph” –

Psalms 119:1-8 [New King James] *“Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD! Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart! They also do no iniquity; they walk in His ways. You have commanded us to keep Your precepts diligently. Oh, that my ways were directed to keep Your statutes! Then I would not be ashamed, when I look into all Your commandments. I will praise You with uprightness of heart, when I learn Your righteous judgments. I will keep Your statutes; Oh, do not forsake me utterly!”*

The benefits that follow from devotion to God’s law,

- a) They are blessed in their lives, [verse 1].
- b) They are blameless, [verse 3].
- c) They have no cause for shame, [verse 6].
- d) They have inner integrity, [verse 7].

But the Creator God looks for deliberate conformity to His will, [verse 1], single-mindedness, [verse 2], obedience, [verse 4], study and meditation on the law, [verse 7].

Section “Beth” –

Psalms 119:9-16 [New King James] *“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You. Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes. With my lips I have declared all the judgments of Your mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.”*

This section covers the remedy for sin! In society we are drowning in a sea of impurity, everywhere we look we find temptations to lead sinful lives.

The Psalmist is asking a question that troubles us all, how do we stay pure in a filthy environment? [verse 1]

We cannot do this on our own strength, but must receive counsel and strength more dynamic than the tempting influences around us, [1 Peter 5:5-9; 1 John 4:4].

Romans 12:2 [New King James] *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

How do we renew our mind?

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 [New King James] *“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”*

The “inner man” is referring to our mind and “human” spirit, which is renewed by the study of God’s Word, the Christian Bible, on a daily basis.

John 16:13 [New King James] *“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”*

The Spirit of Truth [Holy Spirit] in us will then open up the scriptures to us.

[Please download and meditate on the articles on this website under the main heading ‘Holy Spirit’ to understand how we receive the Holy Spirit in our lives and how He can renew our lives.]

Section “Gimel” –

Psalms 119:17-24 [New King James] *“Deal bountifully with Your servant, that I may live and keep Your word. Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law. I am a stranger in the earth; do not hide Your commandments from me. My soul breaks with longing for Your judgments at all times. You rebuke the proud, the cursed, who stray from Your commandments. Remove from me reproach and contempt, for I have kept Your testimonies. Princes also sit and speak against me, but Your servant meditates on Your statutes. Your testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors.”*

The Psalmist continues to centre on the value of meditating on God’s Word for direction and purpose in our lives, [verses 17-18].

But without obedience to God’s Word there is **no** blessings, [verses 21-22].

As a Christian we seem to be in a world that is far from home, [verse 19].

The same situation as the Creator God placed Abraham, [Hebrews 11:8-10].

Society’s authorities are condemning and suspicious because we keep God’s laws, [verses 22 and 23] but God’s Word is our counsellor as the Holy Spirit opens up our understanding of God’s Word, the Christian Bible, [John 16:13].

Section “Daleth” –

Psalms 119:25-32 [New King James] *“My soul clings to the dust; revive me according to Your word. I have declared my ways, and You answered me; teach me Your statutes. Make me understand the*

way of Your precepts; so shall I meditate on Your wonderful works. My soul melts from heaviness; strengthen me according to Your word. Remove from me the way of lying, and grant me Your law graciously. I have chosen the way of truth; Your judgments I have laid before me. I cling to Your testimonies; O LORD, do not put me to shame! I will run the course of Your commandments, for You shall enlarge my heart.”

God’s Word, the Christian Bible, can revive us as we meditate on it, [verses 25 and 28].

God’s Word, the Christian Bible, can only be understood as the Spirit of God opens it up to us, [verse 26].

1 Corinthians 2:9-12 [New King James] *“But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.”*

Two things in these verses are basic to our living a Christian life.

a) **Without the active work of the Holy Spirit in us we will not be able to understand the principles for godly life, as expanded in God’s Word.**

This is the same way that we **cannot** understand what makes us human instead of just another animal except we have the “*human*” spirit that God has given us, allowing us to plan and make decisions, [Job 32:8].

b) **Without that “*human*” spirit we would revert to animal ways, [Daniel 4:24-27].**

The vast majority of human beings have received the “*spirit of the world*” that is only the “*human*” spirit, so God’s Word, the Christian Bible, and the message that Jesus Christ brought from the Heavenly Father is foolishness to them, [1 Corinthians 2:14; 1 Corinthians 1:22-23].

Section “*He*” –

Psalms 119:33-40 [New King James] *“Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it. Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way. Establish Your word to Your servant, who is devoted to fearing You. Turn away my reproach which I dread, for Your judgments are good. Behold, I long for Your precepts; revive me in Your righteousness.”*

This teaching of God’s Word, the Christian Bible, [verse 33] is a lifelong way of life, we can never say “*I know enough*.” In fact this life will not be long enough to “*know*” the Triune God.

John 17:3 [New King James] *“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”*

The very definition of eternal life is a time of learning, as God continues to teach us more deeply His way of life.

It is in single-mindedness we are to fear the Creator God, [verse 36] a continual fear of His displeasure, [verse 39], and long for the very character of the Creator being formed in us, [verse 40].

Section “Waw” –

Psalms 119:41-48 [New King James] *“Let Your mercies come also to me, O LORD, Your salvation according to Your word. So shall I have an answer for him who reproaches me, for I trust in Your word. And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for I have hoped in Your ordinances. So shall I keep Your law continually, forever and ever. And I will walk at liberty, for I seek Your precepts. I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed. And I will delight myself in Your commandments, which I love. My hands also I will lift up to Your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on Your statutes.”*

In these verses we have the description of a person who is free and at peace, also equipped to be an instrument in the Creator God’s hands to teach others God’s way of life.

Contrary to what many people think and expect, obeying God’s laws does **not** inhibit or restrain us. Instead it frees us to be the person that the Creator God desires and plans for us to be.

By seeking God’s salvation through faith in the life, death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we receive forgiveness and freedom from the penalty of sin, [**Romans 6:23**] that is eternal death, this brings us peace of mind, [**John 14:27**] also credited with the righteousness of Jesus Christ, [**Romans 4:13, 16, 18-24**].

We also fulfil the Creator God’s purpose for our lives, to develop the “likeness” **not** just the “image” of Himself.

Genesis 1:26-27 [New King James] *“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”*

“Image” all human beings are born with this, Hebrew word “tselem” means resemblance, shadow, outward form, material representation.

But “likeness” Hebrew word “demûwth” means manner, attributes, character which takes time in the presence of the One we wish to reflect, hence a period of time in physical form that is able to change through making decisions, in this case guided by the Holy Spirit, [**Galatians 5:22-25**] so we can take on the “fruits” of the Holy Spirit which are the very characteristics of the Triune God.

This transformation includes an element of perseverance on our part, [Psalms 119:44-45] prayer and meditation, [Psalms 119:48].

Section “Zayin” –

Psalms 119:49-56 [New King James] *“Remember the word to Your servant, upon which You have caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life. The proud have me in great derision, yet I do not turn aside from Your law. I remembered Your judgments of old, O LORD, and have comforted myself. Indignation has taken hold of me because of the wicked, who forsake Your law. Your statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage. I remember Your name in the night, O LORD, and I keep Your law. This has become mine, because I kept Your precepts.”*

God’s Word, the Christian Bible, is the only source of real hope, comfort and courage when under affliction, when otherwise depression might strike home.

“The proud” Hebrew word “zêd” means arrogant, presumptuous, seething with self-importance utterly deride, and scoff, a person who dismisses with contempt even the thought of there is a Creator God. Here equally dismisses the godly person who is nevertheless maintained by the vitalising power of the Creator God, through His Word, the Christian Bible, [**verse 51**].

“*Judgements of old*” the thought is either that God’s Word has stood the test of time or that human history abounds in examples of the overthrow of godless scoffers, [**verses 52-53**].

“*Pilgrimage*” meaning a sojourning residence as an alien or refugee as a result of obedience to the Creator God’s precepts, [**verses 54-56**].

Section “*Heth*” –

Psalms 119:57-64 [New King James] *“You are my **portion**, O LORD; I have said that I would keep Your words. I entreated Your favour with my whole heart; be merciful to me according to Your word. I thought about my ways, and turned my feet to Your testimonies. I made haste, and did not delay to keep Your commandments. The cords of the wicked have bound me, but I have not forgotten Your law. At midnight I will rise to give thanks to You, because of Your righteous judgments. I am a companion of all who fear You, and of those who keep Your precepts. The earth, O LORD, is full of Your mercy; teach me Your statutes.”*

The Creator God and His Word **cannot** be separated is the lesson of this section.

A person who desires God’s favour, blessings and grace [verse 58] must at the same time choose to cultivate and obey God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

“Portion” it is God who opened our eyes to the truth that had been blinded by Satan, [2 Corinthians 4:4].

2 Corinthians 4:6 [New King James] *“For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”*

Through the study of His Word and what can be ours through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, [**Colossians 1:12-14**].

John 15:12-17 [New King James] *“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another.”*

Just as Jesus Christ chose to lay down His life for us to show His love for us, we also, out of love for Him, should lay down our lives for Him, [**Romans 12:1**].

The total dedication to God’s Word that was the “portion” of the Psalmist’s life must also be ours.

Such dedication will cause us to avoid all the snares and pressures introduced by other people to deviate from God’s way of life, [**verse 61**].

Section “*Teth*” –

Psalms 119:65-72 [New King James] *“You have dealt well with Your servant, O LORD, according to Your word. Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe Your commandments. Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word. You are good, and do good; teach me Your statutes. The proud have forged a lie against me, but I will keep Your precepts with my whole heart. Their heart is as fat as grease, but I delight in Your law. It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes. The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of coins of gold and silver.”*

This section is about the good discipline of the Creator God. God does good, [verse 65] teaches good, [verse 66] is good, [verse 68] and purposes are good, [verse 71].

This good purpose of our Creator God of necessity must involve the blessing of discipline.

Hebrews 12:5-11 [New King James] *“And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: ‘My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.’ If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”*

Such discipline is designed by the Creator God to attach us the more devotedly to His Word.

The affliction that the Creator God had allowed to come on the Psalmist appears to be a smear of lies, [verse 65] but it only succeeded in driving him into more wholehearted devotion to the Word of God and as a result a greater discernment of the Word of God and knowing how valuable it is to his life, [verses 71 and 72].

The “key” verse in this section is verse 67 which should be our own personal attitude towards any discipline we receive from the Creator God.

Section “Yod” –

Psalms 119:73-80 [New King James] *“Your hands have made me and fashioned me; give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments. Those who fear You will be glad when they see me, because I have hoped in Your word. I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are right, and that in faithfulness You have afflicted me. Let, I pray, Your merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to Your word to **Your servant**. Let Your tender mercies come to me, that I may live; for Your law is my delight. Let the proud be ashamed, for they treated me wrongfully with falsehood; but I will meditate on Your precepts. Let those who fear You turn to me, those who know Your testimonies. Let my heart be blameless regarding Your statutes, that I may not be ashamed.”*

The Creator God made human beings to work with Him and enjoy life with Him.

Matthew 20:28 [New King James] *“just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*

The basis of this work and relationship is lovingly serving one another, willing to lay down our lives, that is time and substance for the Creator God and other human beings.

Galatians 5:13 [New King James] *“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”*

The “liberty” that Paul is speaking about is our freedom from the penalty of sin, the sin that makes us unfit to work alongside our Creator God.

Galatians 5:14 [New King James] *“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”*

Like the Psalmist, Paul links this love of one another to the understanding of the law of the Creator God.

It is easy to know that the judgements of the Creator God are good and right until it comes to being corrected by God personally, [verse 75].

We then have to cry out to the Creator God for mercy and compassion towards His servant, as a matter of life and death, [verses 76 and 77].

Note the Psalmist recognises his position in life as the servant of the Creator God, the Hebrew word translated “servant” is “ebed” which means a person is a bonds slave with no personal rights only duties towards their master.

The precepts of the Creator God must be meditated on, **not** just accepted as right and good, as well as being shared with all others who fear the Creator God, because of Who and what He is, [verses 78-79].

Only with the deep understanding of God’s Word, the Christian Bible, that comes through the active indwelling of the Holy Spirit and our taking time in our life to meditate on God’s Word will we not bring shame on our Creator God, [John 16:13; Psalms 119:80].

Section “Kaph” –

Psalms 119:81-88 [New King James] *“My soul faints for Your salvation, but I hope in Your word. My eyes fail from searching Your word, saying, ‘When will You comfort me?’ For I have become like a wineskin in smoke, yet I do not forget Your statutes. How many are the days of Your servant? When will You execute judgment on those who persecute me? The proud have dug pits for me, which is not according to Your law. All Your commandments are faithful; they persecute me wrongfully; help me! They almost made an end of me on earth, but I did not forsake Your precepts. Revive me according to Your lovingkindness, so that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth.”*

The Psalmist sought deliverance from his sins, his enemies and his fears, hope deferred made him faint, his eyes failed by looking out for this expected salvation. Yet when our eyes fail to see God’s intervention, our faith in Him must not, [verses 81 and 82].

A wineskin bottle if hung in smoke will become dry and shrivelled up, this is how the Psalmist felt his life was like, [verse 83] yet he did **not** stop trusting God’s Word and the promises he found in them.

The shortness of life is often the basis of appeal in the Psalms, [verse 84].

All the persecution was bringing the Psalmist near to death, [verse 87] yet he still depended on the promises that the Creator God had made in His Word.

Section “Lamed” –

Psalms 119:89-96 [New King James] *“Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides. They continue this day according to Your ordinances, for all are Your servants. Unless Your law had been my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction. I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life. I am Yours, save me; for I have sought Your precepts. The wicked wait for me to destroy me, but I will consider Your testimonies. I have seen the consummation of all perfection, but Your commandment is exceedingly broad.”*

The Psalmist now in his meditation views three areas of human life.

The eternal Creator God in heaven, [verse 89]. How the Creator God had dealt with human beings over the years, [verse 90]. All the physical created universe and continual maintenance, [verses 90 and 91].

All the above bear witness to the unchangeable character of the Triune God and all are under His control, [verse 91].

This changeless Word of God, the Christian Bible, must therefore be the most secure basis for life in all its aspects, [verses 92-96].

The Hebrew word translated “*perfection*” is “*tiklâh*” meaning completeness that nothing can be added to it to improve it, [verse 96] for it is all encompassing.

Section “*Mem*” –

Psalms 119:97-104 [New King James] “*Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts. I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word. I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me. How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.*”

How are we able to meditate on God’s Word all day long?

We do this by judging every action we take by God’s Word; the way we dress, speak, walk, eat, etc., etc.

We can only do this by studying and meditating on God’s Word diligently every day so we know how to act.

Never allowing our mind to be idle, or losing control of our thoughts for our mind left to itself will naturally, influenced by Satan, turn to evil.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 [New King James] “*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.*”

With such control of our thoughts, that can only happen with an active presence of the Holy Spirit within us bringing God’s Word to remembrance, [John 14:26].

Such a life driven and motivated by God’s Word, the Christian Bible, will make us wiser than our opponents, [verse 98] also wiser than any human teachers who ignore God’s Word, [verse 99]; a good example of this is the false teaching of evolution that pervades most forms of “*education*” these days.

[Please download and study the articles on this website that are listed under the main heading ‘*Evolution – The Delusion Of*’ – you will be eternally glad that you did.]

Wiser also than so-called wise elders [“*ancients*”] because our wisdom comes from “*above*,” [verse 100].

James 3:13-17 [New King James] “*Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.*”

This wisdom from “*above*” is given to us by the Holy Spirit [1 Corinthians 12:8] as a result of our meditation of God’s Word in His presence.

James 1:5 [New King James] “*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*”

We have to ask for such wisdom as a gift for it cannot be purchased, [Proverbs 17:16] and received by those who fear the Creator God, [Proverbs 9:10; Proverbs 1:7].

As a result of loving God's Word we come to hate every false way that has been promoted by Satan in the form of lies who is the source of all lies, [John 8:44].

Section "Nun" –

Psalms 119:105-112 [New King James] *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn and confirmed that I will keep Your righteous judgments. I am afflicted very much; revive me, O LORD, according to Your word. Accept, I pray, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD, and teach me Your judgments. My life is continually in my hand, yet I do not forget Your law. The wicked have laid a snare for me, yet I have not strayed from Your precepts. Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever, for they are the rejoicing of my heart. I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes forever, to the very end."*

The practical use of God's Word, the Christian Bible, is again emphasised, as a guide in our lives, [verse 105].

The Psalmist makes a solemn determination to hold on to God's Word, [verses 106, 111-112].

In times of trouble, [verse 107] of joy, [verse 108] in peril and hostility, [verse 111].

God's Word, the Christian Bible, will be the Psalmist's guide to the very end of his life, we all need to have such commitment to it in our lives.

Section "Samek" –

Psalms 119:113-120 [New King James] *"I hate the double-minded, but I love Your law. You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word. Depart from me, you evildoers, for I will keep the commandments of my God! Uphold me according to Your word, that I may live; and do not let me be ashamed of my hope. Hold me up, and I shall be safe, and I shall observe Your statutes continually. You reject all those who stray from Your statutes, for their deceit is falsehood. You put away all the wicked of the earth like dross; therefore I love Your testimonies. My flesh trembles for fear of You, and I am afraid of Your judgments."*

To the Old Testament saint, God's law was not a burdensome legal imposition of Pharisaism as the New Testament sometimes reveals it. It was liberating, [Psalms 119:45] delightful, [Psalms 119:103] a joy, [Psalms 119:103].

The love of God's law was all-absorbing, utterly excluding the double-minded [verse 113]. The Hebrew translated "double-minded" [or "vain" in King James translation] is "shav" meaning deceptive, false, useless, lying. All these are attributes of Satan, who at this time is still allowed to influence all human beings, [Revelation 12:9; 2 Corinthians 4:4; John 8:44; 1 John 5:19].

We see that the Psalmist hates this influence of Satan, and wants such people who are influenced by Satan to keep away from him, [verse 115].

To live such a life of single-minded obedience to God's Word requires divine help, [verses 116-117] and a recognition that the Creator God **cannot** bless where His word is deserted, [verse 118] so it is necessary to deliberately put away all the wickedness of this society, [verse 119] Paul's warning, [2 Timothy 4:3-4].

Love of God's Word is fostered by the reverence and holy fear due to the Creator God and His judgements, [verse 120].

Section “Ayin” –

Psalms 119:121-128 [New King James] *“I have done justice and righteousness; do not leave me to my oppressors. Be surety for Your servant for good; do not let the proud oppress me. My eyes fail from seeking Your salvation and Your righteous word. Deal with Your servant according to Your mercy, and teach me Your statutes. I am Your servant; give me understanding, that I may know Your testimonies. It is time for You to act, O LORD, for they have regarded Your law as void. Therefore I love Your commandments more than gold, yes, than fine gold! Therefore all Your precepts concerning all things I consider to be right; I hate every false way.”*

The Psalmist pleads for divine action for several reasons.

His own loyal service, [verses 121-122]

According to God’s mercy and righteous promises, [verses 123 and 124].

Because of the urgent circumstances, [verse 126].

These are grounds which every obedient believer may plead to the Creator God in prayer.

The Psalmist’s certainty of divine response is indicated by his decisive actions to be pleasing the Creator God, [verses 127 and 128].

Faith in the Creator God only comes alive when we apply God’s Word to our daily tasks and concerns. We need understanding of the scriptures and a desire to apply them, both come from an active presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Section “Pe” –

Psalms 119:129-136 [New King James] *“Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them. The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. I opened my mouth and panted, for I longed for Your commandments. Look upon me and be merciful to me, as Your custom is toward those who love Your name. Direct my steps by Your word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me. Redeem me from the oppression of man, that I may keep Your precepts. Make Your face shine upon Your servant, and teach me Your statutes. Rivers of water run down from my eyes, because men do not keep Your law.”*

Recorded in these verses are statements about God’s Word and the Psalmist’s response to them.

“Wonderful” that is a marvel beyond human power to accomplish, in its effect illuminates the minds of humble human beings, [verse 130] as a result the Psalmist has spiritual hunger to keep them, [verses 129-131].

Verses 132-135 are prayers, for God’s Word is only fully effective if God uses it for a blessing, when He does, then it tells of His steadfast love and mercy giving victory to the obedient, [verse 133] and a greater desire to obey God’s Word, [verse 134].

When we learn God’s statutes we see His character “face,” [verse 135].

The very thought that the majority of people do not know the true Creator God and His Word, the Christian Bible, brings tears to the eyes of all who are true Christians, [verse 136].

Section “Tsade” –

Psalms 119:137-144 [New King James] *“Righteous are You, O LORD, and upright are Your judgments. Your testimonies, which You have commanded, are righteous and very faithful. My zeal has consumed me, because my enemies have forgotten Your words. Your word is very pure; therefore Your servant loves it. I am small and despised, yet I do not forget Your precepts. Your righteousness*

is an everlasting righteousness, and Your law is truth. Trouble and anguish have overtaken me, yet Your commandments are my delights. The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting; give me understanding, and I shall live.”

The value of God’s Word constantly excites the Psalmist’s devotion to it. The particular worth of the Word of God as stated in this section is that it mirrors God’s character. Especially His faithfulness and trustworthiness.

God’s Word is also pure meaning free from any impurities or worthless dross, [verse 140]. It is also true, eternal truth, [verse 142].

Titus 1:1-2 [New King James] *“Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God’s elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,”*

It is impossible for the Creator God to lie. The foundation of our faith in the Creator God is that He is the source of all truth and He cannot lie.

A person’s real excellency always makes them small in their own eyes, realising how dependent we are on our Creator God to accomplish anything of lasting value, [verse 141].

John 15:4-8 [New King James] *“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; **for without Me you can do nothing.** If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”*

Many people try to be good and honest doing what they see is right. But our Saviour, Jesus Christ, tells us that the only way to be truly good in life is to stay close to Him, like a branch attached to the vine. Apart from Jesus Christ working in us, our efforts are unfruitful and do not bring glory to the Triune God.

We all will face trouble and anguish in our lives, but as we are obedient to God’s Word we will **not** face these trials alone, [verse 143].

John 14:15-18 [New King James] *“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; **I will come to you.**”*

Do **not** overlook the last five words, for they are a promise from our Saviour Jesus Christ, [Hebrews 13:5-6].

Section “Qoph” –

Psalms 119:145-152 [New King James] *“I cry out with my whole heart; hear me, O LORD! I will keep Your statutes. I cry out to You; save me, and I will keep Your testimonies. I rise before the dawning of the morning, and cry for help; I hope in Your word. My eyes are awake through the night watches, that I may meditate on Your word. Hear my voice according to Your lovingkindness; O LORD, revive me according to Your justice. They draw near who follow after wickedness; they are far from Your law. You are near, O LORD, and all Your commandments are truth. Concerning Your testimonies, I have known of old that You have founded them forever.”*

The first three verses in this section recall a period of intense prayer, wholehearted, [verse 145] directed by God, [verse 146] as personal cost to self, [verses 147-148]. A prayer that included meditation on God’s Word.

Those who are oppressing the Psalmist are near, [verse 150] but God's nearness is granted to a person who can testify with conviction to the truth of the Creator God's commandments, [verses 151-152].

We can only do this through an active presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

John 14:26-27 [New King James] *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”*

Such a relationship with the Holy Spirit can give us great comfort and confidence in a time of trouble.

Section “Resh” –

Psalms 119:153-160 [New King James] *“Consider my affliction and deliver me, for I do not forget Your law. Plead my cause and redeem me; **revive me** according to Your word. Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek Your statutes. Great are Your tender mercies, O LORD; **revive me** according to Your judgments. Many are my persecutors and my enemies, yet I do not turn from Your testimonies. I see the treacherous, and am disgusted, because they do not keep Your word. Consider how I love Your precepts; **revive me**, O LORD, according to Your lovingkindness. The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.”*

Like all Psalmists, when trouble comes he runs to the Creator God in prayer, not from Him in rebellion. Three times the Psalmist prays *“revive me”* according to God's Word, [verse 154] according to God's judgements, [verse 155] according to God's steadfast loving kindness, [verse 159].

Since the Creator God will act only according to His Word, the Christian Bible, no-one can expect to enter into His blessings who do not obey His Word, [verses 153, 155, 157].

All who do honour His Word, the Christian Bible, may rest assured, confident that the Creator God will keep all the promises He makes in His Word, [verse 160].

The entirety of God's Word can be summed up in two words, *“the truth.”*

The peace of mind that we all seek and desire is found only in God's Word.

Section “Shin” –

Psalms 119:161-168 [New King James] *“Princes persecute me without a cause, but my heart stands in awe of Your word. I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure. I hate and abhor lying, but I love Your law. Seven times a day I praise You, because of Your righteous judgments. Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble. LORD, I hope for Your salvation, and I do Your commandments. My soul keeps Your testimonies, and I love them exceedingly. I keep Your precepts and Your testimonies, for all my ways are before You.”*

Four areas of human life in which God's Word, the Christian Bible, must have priority in how we respond and act.

Worldly honour, [verse 161] ambition, [verse 162] lying, [verse 163] in scripture this often refers to pagan religious practices that have been placed in human minds by Satan, [John 8:44] or his ministers, [2 Corinthians 11:14-15]. **The use of our time as human beings, [verse 164].**

The right response to each of the above will bear good “fruit.”

Peace of mind, [verse 165]. Wisdom to avoid problems [verse 165]. Assurance of salvation from eternal death, [verse 166]. Fearlessness by being under the constant scrutiny of the Creator God, [verse 168].

Modern society longs for peace of mind. In these verses just studied is clear instruction on how to attain this.

Trust in the Creator God who alone stands above the pressure of daily life and will give us full assurance of His love and care for us as an individual, when we seek to obey His Word, the Christian Bible.

Section “Tau” –

Psalms 119:169-176 [New King James] *“Let my cry come before You, O LORD; give me understanding according to Your word. Let my supplication come before You; deliver me according to Your word. My lips shall utter praise, for You teach me Your statutes. My tongue shall speak of Your word, for all Your commandments are righteousness. Let Your hand become my help, for I have chosen Your precepts. I long for Your salvation, O LORD, and Your law is my delight. Let my soul live, and it shall praise You; and let Your judgments help me. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, for I do not forget Your commandments.”*

The Psalmist chooses to end his great meditation on the Word of God by noting again that we are totally dependent on the Creator God for every spiritual blessing, we must put ourselves in the path of life that will allow God to bless us, that is by obedience to His Word.

Consequently Biblical based prayer and obedience are the marks of the godly person, seen in their mind, [verse 166] words, [verses 171, 172] will, [verse 173] emotions, [verse 174] conscience, [verse 176].

John 10:1-16 [New King James] *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.’ Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them. Then Jesus said to them again, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.’”*

The sheep follow the Good Shepherd because they know His voice, [God’s Words].