

PSALM 119:1-3.

GOOD MORNING! "Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways."¹

A blessing is pledged to all those who hear and do the word of the LORD. "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only... whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."²

True religion is neither cold nor dead, for it delights in the word of the LORD. The thrill of the soul of the true religionist is to be controlled by the word of the LORD in the every day of life. "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doeth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God. ... Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."³

Blessed indeed is that life that is a true transcript of God's holy word. "Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the Living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart."⁴

The great PSALM 119 opens with directions concerning the real meaning of life. This word "blessed" can properly be connected with the concept of "happiness." Truly happy are the undefiled in the way.

This word "undefiled" is closely allied to the Bible word "righteousness." No one can attain true righteousness by his own striving, for by nature we are all sinners, and we all come short of uprightness. But there is a "righteousness of God which is by faith of JESUS CHRIST unto all and upon them that believe."⁵

Yes, and it takes the continual power of grace to keep the believer in the right way. O my soul, seek thou thy happiness in following hard after the LORD!

In the Bible the true life is called "a walk," which is a steady progress, a quiet advance. "Enoch walked with God..."⁶ Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ. The law of the LORD is not irksome to the children of the LORD. "And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him."⁷

Rough may be the way, stern the rule, hard the discipline, "narrow the gate," but there is a wealth of blessing -a treasure house of happiness- abounding for the truly godly life! "I am come," our LORD and Saviour is saying, "that they might have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."⁸

The law of the LORD is a blessed walk. Obedience to the will of the LORD means blessed singleness of heart. Our LORD spoke of those who tried to maintain a double loyalty, and pointed out that such a life is full of darkness because it lacks true loyalty to the LORD. "Ye cannot serve God and mammon."⁹

God is not sought by cold reason, but by the heart. "He that cometh to God, must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."¹⁰

Futile it is to seek to comprehend God by reason; blessed it is to know him by faith. "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."¹¹

"With my whole heart have I sought thee."¹² It is to those who seek the LORD that the choice blessings are given. "Blessed are they that keep his testimonies."¹³ The LORD God's word to Abraham was, "Walk before me and be thou perfect."¹⁴ -mature in loyalty, truly separated unto the LORD. "Blessed are they that keep his testimonies."

The word of the LORD is precious indeed; therefore it is for His children to keep His word. The believer who continues being both a hearer and a doer, "this man shall be blessed in his deed."¹⁵ Christian, if you will "keep" God's testimonies they will keep you!" -Keep you right in opinion, true in goal, and full of the blessed hope that "maketh not ashamed, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."¹⁶

AMEN.

¹ Psalm 119:1-3

² James 1:22,25

³ Micah 6:8, James 1:27

⁴ 2 Corinthians 3:3

⁵ Romans 3:22

⁶ Genesis 5:24

⁷ 1 John 2:28-29

⁸ John 10:10

⁹ Matthew 6:24

¹⁰ Hebrews 11:6

¹¹ 2 Timothy 1:12

¹² Psalm 119:10

¹³ Psalm 119:2

¹⁴ Genesis 17:1

¹⁵ James 1:25

¹⁶ Romans 5:5

PSALM 119:4-8.

GOOD MORNING! The Psalmist writes: "Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently! O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments. I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments. I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly."¹

When one begins to pray and to meditate deeply upon the development of Christian character and the maturing of the spiritual life, realization comes to him of his deep need and true dependence upon the grace of God.

Every eager desire to make spiritual progress climaxes in yearning for more of the living God. When the holy resolve seizes the obedient child of God, he begins to pray for Divine enabling.

Let us consider this from the negative standpoint: one makes a determined resolution to do better, to be more obedient, more powerful, more useful; but at the same time this one is not urgently desiring Holy Spirit control; then such resolution is an empty and meaningless pursuit. "All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One come down." The Christian's concern must be that of the Psalmist, when he prayed, "O forsake me not utterly."

"I need Thee O I need Thee," the blessed old hymn sings, "Every hour I need Thee." Obedience without faithful dependence on the LORD, or dependence without obedience are equally vain!

"Teach me the way which I should go;
I lift my soul to Thee;
Redeem me from the raging foe;
To Thee, O LORD, I flee."²

Let us learn from the Psalmist's petition: "O forsake me not utterly." First, a Divine truth is stated: "Thou hast commanded us to keep Thy precepts diligently." -Diligent obedience in all that the LORD our God has set before us to keep. This word "diligence" carries with it the meaning: "wholly, speedily" plus the idea of "guarding closely."

When I observe Who it is that is commanding a full and careful keeping of the holy precepts, I become humbly grateful for the "throne of grace," where I receive mercy, and "find grace to help in time of need."³ "O that my ways were directed to keep Thy statutes!"

In recognition of the "mercies of God," we are to present our bodies "a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God,"⁴ ... "that we may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."⁵

"Respect unto all thy commandments" keeps me from being "ashamed," and greatly encourages "praise" unto the LORD. "And now, little children, abide in him; that when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming."⁶

There is a double diligence for all of God's dear children: there is a holy urgency and a gladsome peace and fellowship with the gracious LORD to Whom we belong. "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear,"⁷ ... "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our LORD, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given

unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature."⁸

AMEN.

¹ Psalm 119:4-8

² Unknown author

³ Hebrews 4:16

⁴ Romans 12:1

⁵ Romans 12:2

⁶ 1 John 2:28

⁷ 1 John 4:18

⁸ 2 Peter 1:2-4

PSALM 119:9-16.

GOOD MORNING! An important question is asked by the PSALMIST: "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?" How shall a vital, active person become and stay godly?¹

A New Testament passage speaks to this truth: "For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."²

The Psalmist's question then is a vital one for us to consider. It is when this life is fresh and full of promise that this question stands out, demanding to be personally answered.

Solomon concludes a deep examination of the humanistic philosophy of life by pointing out that the time to "remember" our Creator is in the days of our youth, "while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt will say, I have no pleasure in them;"³ and concludes the whole study with a personally meaningful statement: "Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil."⁴

As the Scriptures always do, the answer to the question is that which shows us God's will for our lives. "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word."⁵

God's words, the holy Scriptures, are the blue-print for life. Another passage shows us that we are to "lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. ... But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man is blessed in his deed."⁶

After asking and answering this basic question of life, the Psalmist seeks the LORD in prayer, "With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes."⁷

The petition is based on his life's purpose. He is seeking the LORD, and his prayer is that the LORD will prevent his going astray in or from his search after God.

It is the obedience of faith that follows after the LORD. "O let me not wander from thy commandments." This matter of a loving obedience of faith is under consideration in our LORD'S teaching to those who "believed on him." "If," He said, "ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."⁸

Our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST is "the way, the truth, and the life." We are taught His way, His truth, His life by the Scripture of truth.⁹

Delight in God's word is a sure evidence that God's word is taking effect in the life. "I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches."¹⁰

The faithful resolve of the Psalmist is: "I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word."¹¹

The LORD'S word to His own, as He was preparing to leave them in bodily presence, was: "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."¹²

I am thine O LORD, I have heard thy voice,
And it told thy love for me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
And be closer drawn to Thee.

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed LORD,
To the Cross where thou hast died;
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer blessed LORD,
To thy precious, bleeding side.¹³

AMEN.

¹ Psalm 119:9

² 1 Timothy 4:8

³ Ecclesiastes 12:1

⁴ Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

⁵ Psalm 119:9

⁶ James 1:21-22,25

⁷ Psalm 119:10-12

⁸ John 8:31-32

⁹ John 14:6

¹⁰ Psalm 119:14

¹¹ Psalm 119:15-16

¹² John 14:6

¹³ Fanny J Crosby, "I Am Thine, O Lord"

PSALM 119:11.

GOOD MORNING! A passage in Psalm 119 promises amazing results for all who will heed the word of God. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."¹ The word of God cleanses, comforts in affliction, and, when obeyed faithfully, will keep us in fellowship with our LORD and Saviour.

Let us examine this verse and what the Psalmist is testifying to. Immediately we recognize the Author of the word. "Thy word." This Holy Bible, the whole of it, is God's word. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God,"²... "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."³

This Holy Bible has, through all the centuries, stood firm against three enemies: One, the enemy who misinterprets the Scriptures; Two, the enemy who says the Scriptures do not count; and Three, the enemy who seeks to destroy the Scriptures.

We may not treat the Holy Bible as we do any other book. We may not take from nor add to the text. There is a special warning in this regard in both the Law and the Revelation. In the Law we read: "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you."⁴ In the last book of the Bible, we read: "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."⁵

Modern revisions fall under the error of changing the text, because instead of taking the Bible as the word of God, they depend on nineteenth century revisionist scholars, and thus the pure word is compromised.

The Psalmist bears witness to the right handling of the word of God. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart." Hiding the word in the heart is remembering, meditating upon, and respecting the Scriptures as the "living word of life."

Hiding God's word in the heart means that the daily life is lived by God's word. To hide God's word in my heart means to cherish it and make it a vital part of my daily living.

The Psalmist tells why God's word is hidden in the heart. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart that I that I might not sin against thee." God's word teaches us that we need to be concerned about our right relationship with God. We belong to God by right of creation. "All souls are mine,"⁶ saith the Scriptures. But we are by nature sinners against God, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God;"⁷ ... "there is none that doeth good, no, not one."⁸ ... "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our LORD."⁹

God's word teaches us how we may have a right relation with God, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our LORD Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."¹⁰

We cannot, because we are sinners, make ourselves right with God. But God has made a way to change our state from condemnation to acceptance! He has given us His only begotten Son,

"that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life ... for God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."¹¹

The Son of God, our Saviour, saith, "I am the way, the truth, and the life;"¹² ... "him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out."¹³ ... "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."¹⁴

An Old Testament invitation is directed to all who will hear: "Come now, let us reason together saith the LORD, though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."¹⁵

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." When once a right relation with God has been established by faith in the Saviour, then a new life is set before us by God's word; and God's word becomes the true guide of life as the Holy Spirit illumines that word to our hearts.

"Holy Bible, Book Divine, Precious treasure thou art mine."¹⁶ When once I love Him, because He has first loved me, I find that God's word, the Holy Bible, becomes a cherished possession; one that "is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,"¹⁷ that will "thoroughly furnish" doctrine, bring about maturity in grace, and causes me to bring forth the good works that are well-pleasing unto my Heavenly Father.

AMEN.

¹Psalm 119:11

² 2 Timothy 3:16

³ 2 Peter 1:21

⁴ Deuteronomy 4:2

⁵ Revelation 22:18-19

⁶ Ezekiel 18:4

⁷ Romans 3:23

⁸ Romans 3:12

⁹ Romans 6:23

¹⁰ Romans 5:1-2

¹¹ John 3:14,17

¹² John 14:6

¹³ John 6:37

¹⁴ 2 Corinthians 5:21

¹⁵ Isaiah 1:18

¹⁶ From "Holy Bible, Book Divine" by John Burton

¹⁷ 2 Timothy 3:16

PSALM 119:12-16.

GOOD MORNING! "Blessed art thou, O LORD:" the Psalmist writes by Holy Spirit direction, "teach me thy statutes. With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word."¹

Several times in the New Testament we read: "I would not have you to be ignorant," then there follows careful details of some truth that we could not discover for ourselves, truth that we are to receive by faith.

Is it not a characteristic of our day to doubt that there is a knowledge of spiritual truth available to the sons and daughters of man? Oh to be sure, our generation is well up on the knowledge of natural things. In fact, we often feel that we "know it all."

Yet when it comes to spiritual reality, we have tended to depend on those who profess to have a higher access than we can claim. We pride ourselves on our cleverness, smartness, sophistication. We are the most-read, though not the best-read people in history. Our civilization is rich in smartness and stupidity at the same time. We know a lot about things, but we have a vast ignorance about God's will and way for His creation.

What is the value of all our knowing, if we are ignorant of the truth as it is set forth for us in God's word? Tragically, many of us are like the football player who ran ninety yards to make a touch-down, but it was at the wrong goal!

To deny the Holy Bible, to minimize our sinfulness, to reason away our LORD'S bodily resurrection, to deny the fires of hell, and to ignore the Sovereign LORD God, to whom we are, all of us, accountable, is to be taking the broad road that leads to destruction.

Who is truly without knowledge? That one who is not sincerely searching God's word that testifies to us our LORD and Saviour Jesus Christ; "to whom we owe our life and breath and all the joys we have."²

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."³

Would you really understand the times? Then become a student of the word of God. None of those who believe the word of God needs to ask, "What are we coming to?" Believers of the word of the Living God; yea, every one who lives by these holy precepts; who delights in the statutes of the LORD, who does not forget God's word, knows with a blessed confidence that all of our tomorrow's are in God's hand.

Blessed is the man whose delight is in the word of the LORD, who meditates continually in the Scripture of truth. Delight in the word of God, the Bible, is a sure sign that it has taken effect in the heart and upon the life. "I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies. ... I will not forget thy word."

"I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches." For whatever riches are good; God's word is better. Riches are desirable as a means of obtaining the necessities of this life, but God's word supplies the eternal necessities of the soul! Riches are a way of gaining

personal pleasure, but God's word gains the highest joys. Riches are used to secure improvements, both personal and social; but God's word is by far the best education, for "Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding." ⁴

Truly there are some things that ought to be forgotten; but there is one thing that needs to be constantly freshened in the mind and in the heart, "I will not forget thy word."

O holy Book of truth Divine!
Eternal as thy Maker's name.
Through countless ages of decline,
Thy glowing truths have stood the same. ⁵

AMEN.

¹ Psalm 119:12-16

² Unknown source

³ 1 Corinthians 2:14

⁴ Job 28:28

⁵ F. E. Belden

PSALM 119:17-24.

GOOD MORNING! We read one of the scriptural patterns of prayer as it is given to us in the Psalms: "Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word. Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. I am a stranger in the earth: hide not thy commandments from me. My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto thy judgments at all times. Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed, which do err from thy commandments. Remove from me reproach and contempt; for I have kept thy testimonies. Princes also did sit and speak against me: but thy servant did meditate in thy statutes. Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counselors."¹

True godliness lies very much in the desires of the heart. A high value of the LORD'S commandment leads to a ready will to know and to do what God wills. A blessing indeed it is when all our desires are after the things of God.

The Psalmist is expressing a reverence for the holy will of God, and such a desire to know His will in personal experience that the longing is very near heart-break.

Without the abundant mercy of the throne of grace, we cannot live. Every thing we are and hope to be is all of grace. The very life of the child of God is by grace through faith "and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."²

JESUS CHRIST the LORD is the saint's victory. The most real communion between the believer and the LORD is described in the verses we have read. God reveals His will in His word, and the child of God longs to completely fellowship with the LORD, and hastens to be obedient to the word of God.

The desire of the Christian to do the will of God needs to be a consistent desire. The one who truly longs to know, and strives with diligence to do that which God reveals in His word, will experience fellowship with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ our LORD.

What could be a better commendation from the LORD than what the scripture gives to Enoch, the seventh from Adam. "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God."³

Let us consider the words the Psalmist uses concerning this earthly life: "I am a stranger in the earth." The New Testament uses this same expression to describe the Christian living below in this old sinful world: "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation."⁴

It is only men and women of faith who consider this present life, to be, as, in truth it is, a temporary thing. It is by faith that we do not fasten our eyes on the visible, but on the unseen. We are taught in the word that the visible things are transitory, but the unseen things are everlasting.

Since none of the things around me are really mine, "hide not thy commandments from me." Our LORD talked of those who had been disciples, but now were going away, to walk no more

with him, and He asked the twelve, "Will ye also go away?" Simon Peter quickly answered, "LORD, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life."⁵

There it is! That is the truth about this present life! If we lose the spiritual, if we reject the eternal word of God, what is there? To whom can we turn? How shall we then live?

How frail the thread of this present life! How soon are we removed! "I am a stranger in the earth, hide not thy commandments from me. ... Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law."

God's word is a wonder house of rare gems, a treasure house full of treasures. The Holy Spirit illumines the pure word of God to the believing heart, even as he reads and meditates.

Apart from spiritual life, the natural life is but a mere existence. We cannot live and grow and develop apart from the constant bestowing of divine grace; and you and I cannot live for the LORD in our own strength; "Deal bountifully with thy servant that I may live and keep thy word."

When this passing world is done; When has sunk yon glorious sun;
When the pearly gates I gain, Never to go out again;
Then, LORD, shall I fully know- Not till then- how much I owe!⁶

" ... I know I owe a debt of love, I know I owe, back to my sin I will not go, because a debt of love I owe. ..."⁷

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ... We love him, because he first loved us."⁸

AMEN.

¹ Psalm 119:17-24

² Ephesians 2:8

³ Hebrews 11:5

⁴ 2 Peter 11-12

⁵ John 6:67, 68

⁶ See editor's note below

⁷ unknown

⁸ 1 John 4:10, 19

This portion of the message comes from a poem by Robert M. McCheyne entitled "I Am Debtor". It is supposed that Dr. Keyes recollected from memory the portion of the poem which he used in his text, probably from a hymn arranged from the poem. The difference in wording can only be attributed to Dr. Keyes' adaptation of the parts that he could not recall. The first stanza reads:

When this passing world is done,
When has sunk yon glaring sun,
When we stand with Christ in glory,
Looking o'er life's finished story,
Then, Lord, shall I fully know -
Not till then - how much I owe.

PSALM 119:25-32.

GOOD MORNING! We are reading from Psalm 119. The Psalm is divided into twenty-two parts. The subject of the whole of the Psalm is the infallible word of the living God. A goodly number of adjectives are called into use by the Psalmist to present the value of God's word. There is a New Testament passage of scripture that also does this: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."¹

The part of Psalm 119 that we read today is part four, in which the Psalmist expresses a deep longing for spiritual strength in a time of severe testing. Let us remember that it is the words of Scripture that the Holy Spirit uses to give spiritual strength in the hour of trial.

"My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word. I have declared my ways, and thou heardest me: teach me thy statutes. Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works. My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word. Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy law graciously. I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me. I have stuck unto thy testimonies: O LORD, put me not to shame. I will run the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart."²

When the mind and the spirit are overwhelmed, depression is struggling to envelope the life. Heaviness of heart is a killing thing, and when it prevails, it threatens to turn life into a long death, and the very blessedness of life is eroded by grief.

The life of the Psalmist, as is shown in these lines of Scripture, is not within himself but in the LORD of life. The word of the LORD is, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture. ... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."³

God in grace strengthens us by infusing His grace into our lives through His word. Spiritual strength is given by the word of God as it is applied to our lives by the Holy Spirit. "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."⁴

The Bible word, "comfort," that the Psalmist uses, means "to be strengthened, to be sustained." "Comforter" is the name that the LORD Jesus gave to the Holy Spirit. Our LORD said that the Holy Spirit is the Comforter that has been sent to us from the Father in Jesus' name.

The Psalmist petitions, "Strengthen thou me according unto thy word." God's word, the Bible, the whole book from Genesis to Revelation, is the food of the soul, the guide of life, the companion that encourages, the light that shines more brightly toward the perfect day.

The apostle Peter, in writing about the word of the LORD, saith, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts."⁵

The Psalmist is making a firm commitment: "I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me." Then he makes a most reasonable promise: "I will run in the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart."

Running is a strong and healthy action of the body; it requires energy, it is an exercise that needs a sound heart; I must depend upon the LORD for the strength and the vigor that is brought to me through the Sacred Scriptures.

Wholesome dependence upon the LORD is developed as we "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. ... To him be glory both now and for ever.

AMEN."⁶

¹ 2 Timothy 3:16-17

² Psalm 119:25-32

³ John 10:9,10

⁴ 2 Corinthians 3:18

⁵ 2 Peter 1:19

⁶ 2 Peter 3:18

PSALM 119:33-40.

GOOD MORNING! We read a Bible passage in which the Psalmist expresses a longing to know and to have applied God's word to daily living.

"Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight. Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way. Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear. Turn away my reproach which I fear: for thy judgments are good. Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy righteousness."¹

The Psalmist, desiring to be taught, asks for understanding. "Discipline my life so that I may delight in the commandments of the LORD." His yearning is that he will have a heart for "Thy testimonies;" he asks for "quickenings", the establishing of God's word within his life, and to be made alive in the imparted righteousness of the Mighty LORD.

The all-embracing gospel invitation that was made by our LORD is: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."²

Our gracious Saviour and LORD is the way, and the truth, and the life. How do we receive Him? By faith. He turns no seeker away. He disappoints none who receive Him to be all that God in His word sets Him forth to be.

Mark the path you are to follow: "Come unto Me." That is the first step. "Repent ye, and believe the gospel."³ Repentance is recognizing your need of Him. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."⁴

"Take my yoke" is the second step. The Psalmist puts it plainly, "What wait I for? I will take the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD."

Our LORD'S eye-opening words, "Learn of me", are the third step. We learn of the LORD Jesus by reading the Scriptures. "For he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."⁵

We come to the LORD Jesus by repentance and faith. "Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out."⁶ We learn of Him in the Bible. His promise is, "I will give you rest."

"Teach me," the Psalmist prays, "Give me understanding, ... Make me to go the way of the LORD, ... Incline mine heart, ... Quicken me in thy righteousness."

Now and forever, the LORD Jesus Christ "is the way, and the truth, and the life."⁷ He is the way to God. He is the truth of God's salvation. He is the new life that all of the sons and daughters of Adam must have!

We all must have a change from death to life. It is not reformation that we need, it is regeneration! This new life must come "by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost,"⁸ which is "shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour."⁹ All of this is from "the kindness and love of God our Saviour."¹⁰

The most wonderful truth of the gospel is this: that all who come by faith to the LORD Jesus Christ are accepted and enrolled in the school of God's grace.

If you will, come, as did the Psalmist, saying, "Teach me, O LORD!" Now is the time. Today is the day of salvation. The very fact that you are listening to the gospel invitation means that you are invited!

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one lay down thy head upon my breast!"
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.¹¹

AMEN.

¹ Psalm 119:33-40

² Matthew 11:28-30

³ Mark 1:15

⁴ John 1:12

⁵ Hebrews 11:6

⁶ John 6:37

⁷ John 14:6

⁸ Titus 3:5

⁹ Titus 3:6

¹⁰ Titus 3:4

¹¹ From "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" by Horatius Bonar

PSALM 119:41-48.

GOOD MORNING! Every Christian is entitled to the two-fold testimony of lip and life. The apostle wrote to the saints at Philippi, "Only let your conversation be as if to worship God. ... that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;"¹

The part of PSALM 119 that we are reading today, (verses 41-48) dwells on the desire of a godly life for the full expression of the holy will of God in the day-by-day of living. "Let thy mercies come also unto me, O LORD, even thy salvation, according to thy word. So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in thy word. And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments. So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever. And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts. I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed. And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved. My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes."²

The great -the exceeding great- love of God is expressed in the salvation He has brought down to us in the person of His Son, our LORD Jesus Christ. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."³

Let us think of the mercies of God that are exercised in our behalf, Let us "Behold the goodness and severity of God:"⁴ You and I were spared to hear the gospel; The Holy Spirit convicted us of our sins and of our need of the Saviour. He called us to Himself by the appeal of the gospel; He made us children of God the very moment we trusted in the JESUS CHRIST our LORD; He made us right with God by the cleansing of the precious blood; and the Holy Spirit began the work of making us like the LORD Jesus.

How truly we thank the LORD for the mercy that keeps us. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"⁵

The Psalmist speaks of the liberty that belongs to the saints. "I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts." The Saviour saith, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."⁶ ... "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he, being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed,"⁷

Obedying the LORD JESUS, by continuing in His word, makes us His true disciples, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."⁸ Living by the gospel of Christ is not a grievous life. No! It is an abundant life!

To follow men, to follow men's doctrines, to bow the knee to the idols of men's making, is only to live in blindness and darkness and slavery. What a contrast there is between that which God offers and what man offers!

O do not let the word depart, And close thine eyes against the light. Truly happy it is to "lift up my hands unto Thy commandments," to love the word of the LORD.

"... for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."⁹

AMEN.

¹ Philippians 1:27

² Psalm 119:41-48

³ Titus 2:11-14

⁴ Romans 11:22

⁵ 1 Peter 1:3

⁶ John 8:36

⁷ James 1:25

⁸ John 8:32

⁹ 2 Timothy 1:12

PSALM 119:49-56.

Psalm 119 is a very full portion of the Sacred Scriptures. In the Authorized English Version there are 176 verses. The grand theme of the Psalm is, "The living word of God."

The Psalm is divided into 22 parts of 8 verses each; the parts are according to the letters of the Hebrew alphabet, which is the original language of the Psalm.

The Psalm is itself a miniature Bible, the Scriptures condensed, and it is worthy of a lifetime of meditation and examination.

The part we read today begins with verse 49: "Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me. The proud have had me greatly in derision: yet have I not declined from thy law. I remembered thy judgments of old, O LORD; and have comforted myself. Horror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake thy law. Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage. I have remembered thy name, O LORD, in the night, and have kept thy law. This I had, because I kept thy precepts."¹

What comfort, what strength, what encouragement is the blessed word of the LIVING GOD! This is pointed out in the New Testament. "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."²

The Old Testament of the Bible is not a compilation of human thought about Godly things; neither is the BIBLE the record of man's groping after God. The Old Testament, indeed the whole BIBLE, is God's revelation of Himself to man. This holy Bible originates with God. Every part of the BIBLE was written by holy men of God who were moved upon by the Spirit of God.

We may properly pray with the Psalmist, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law."³

Twice the thought of comfort is brought out in this portion of the Psalm: "This is my comfort in my affliction." The word that caused him to hope, was his comfort. "I remembered thy judgments of old, O LORD; and have comforted myself." The very recollection of God's "judgments" restored him, aided him, refreshed his spirit. The older we get, the more of God's gracious providence we have to recall for which to praise God.

Jacob, in his blessing of the sons of Joseph, said, "God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day, The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads:"⁴

Much of Jacob's life had been lived selfishly, yet the providence of the heavenly Father had overshadowed his life, to the fulfilling of the promises of grace that had been shown to his father Isaac and his grandfather Abraham.

"I have remembered thy name, O LORD, in the night." There are many things that cause us to be awakened, or even to lie awake. It is then, almost without realizing, we become anxious of something in the present circumstances; and we begin to question, and fret over that which we cannot change.

Our LORD and Saviour shows us the direction we are to pursue. Instead of taking care for the necessities of the natural life, we are to seek "the kingdom of God and his righteousness."⁵

"The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe."⁶ It is the love of the heavenly Father that reminds us that He is the God of all comfort. Moses gave the word of the LORD to the children of Israel in the wilderness when he wrote, "Thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee."⁷

Twice the Psalmist speaks of remembering: "I remembered Thy judgments;" "I have remembered thy name, O LORD." And this stanza of the Psalm begins with the words, "Remember thy word unto thy servant."

How precious, how soul-satisfying, is the comfort of the LORD. How all-embracing of life is the "Comforter," the Holy Spirit, sent down from heaven to live in the life of the child of God.

"Holy Spirit, faithful guide, ever near the Christian's side;
Gently lead us by the hand, pilgrims in a desert Land."⁸

"Precious hiding place

In the shelter of His love
Not a doubt or fear,
Since my LORD is near,
And I'm sheltered in His love."⁹

AMEN.

¹ Psalm 119:49-56

² Romans 15:4

³ Psalm 119:18

⁴ Genesis 48:15-16

⁵ Matthew 6:33

⁶ Proverbs 18:10

⁷ Deuteronomy 8:2

⁸ From "Holy Spirit, Faithful Guide" by Marcus M. Wells

⁹ From "Precious Hiding Place" by Avis M. Christiansen

PSALM 119:57-64.

GOOD MORNING! Psalm 119 has been called the alphabet of Divine love. Yes, God's love is shown to us in His word. And, that is why "We love him, because he first loved us."¹

The part of Psalm 119 we read today begins with verse 57: "Thou art my portion, O LORD: I have said that I would keep thy words. I entreated thy favour with my whole heart: be merciful unto me according to thy word. I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies. I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments. The bands of the wicked have robbed me: but I have not forgotten thy law. At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments. I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts. The earth, O LORD, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes."²

It was the Psalmist's firm resolve to keep, to treasure up, to observe, to obey the word of the LORD. For whether the Scriptures teach doctrine, promise, or precept, all are most precious to the soul of the child of God.

"I entreated Thy favor with my whole heart." The favor of God is His grace. "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."³

The confidence of faith makes us bold in prayer, but faith never teaches us to live without prayer, or justifies in being other than humble suppliants at the throne of grace.

"I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies." This was the choice of his life! This was the decision of eternity! On another occasion the Psalmist sang, "In Thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."⁴

The concluding lines of the book of Hebrews pens these words, "By him (the LORD Jesus Christ) therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."⁵

Thanking the LORD turns the darkness into the sunshine, and consecrates all the hours to the worship of the Living God. "At midnight, I will rise to give thanks unto thee, because of thy righteous judgments."

Let us note how this portion of Psalm 119 is bound up. There is first the holy declaration: "Thou art my portion, O LORD." And finally, a confident supplication: "The earth, O LORD, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes." The first is an expression of the full assurance of faith, and the last is a faith expression of holy desire.

The more full the assurance, the more earnest the petition. The fuller the certainty of relationship, the more real the humble dependence upon the grace of God. "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled."⁶

"Thy promise is my only plea,
With this I venture nigh;
Thou callest burdened souls to Thee,
And such O LORD, am I."⁷

AMEN.

¹ 1 John 4:19

² Psalm 119:57-64

³ 1 John 1:7

⁴ Psalm 16:11

⁵ Hebrews 13:15

⁶ Matthew 5:6

⁷ From "Approach, My Soul, The Mercy Seat" by John Newton

PSALM 65-72.

GOOD MORNING! The ninth section of Psalm 119 testifies to the gracious purpose of the chastening from the LORD. The passage begins with a statement that magnifies the grace of God: "Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O LORD, according unto thy word. Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments. Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word. Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes. The proud have forged a lie against me: but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart. Their heart is as fat as grease; but I delight in thy law. It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes. The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver."¹

Earlier, the Psalmist petitions, "Teach me thy statutes." We may be sure of this, there is heavenly wisdom brought to all who earnestly read and meditate upon the Scriptures.

The learning we must have is not acquired by the intellect, it is received by the heart. We do not learn spiritual truth by emulation, nor by ambition, nor by pride; spiritual learning is the gift of God to those who "walk in the light, as he is in the light."²

Sometimes we weary of the lesson. Sometimes we even absent ourselves from the classroom. Yet the LORD loves us too well to be indulgent with us, to spoil our development by overlooking that which is difficult, and has been, for the moment, an unattractive lesson.

The Psalmist in Psalm 103, directed by the Holy Spirit, writes: "Like as a father pitieth his children; so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust."³

Sometimes the lesson must be held over, sometimes the hand of correction must be applied to bend the stubborn will. Hear the Psalmist testify, "before I was afflicted I went astray: but now I have kept thy word. ... Good for me that I have been afflicted that I might learn thy statutes."

Affliction to the obedient and trusting child is always beneficial. It may be that a child of the eternal God will cry: "O that it were with me as in those summer days before tribulation came."

However, we need to learn that such a complaint is unwise and unfaithful on our part, and may, in the grace of God, foreshadow additional courses of study, for the lesson has not been completed.

The apostle wrote by instruction, "...we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."⁴

Where there is no spiritual life, affliction works no spiritual benefit. But where the heart is a "new heart," tribulation awakens the conscience, backsliding is confessed, and the life becomes again absorbed in affection for the God of all grace.

Hear the Psalmist testify that the medicine of affliction works a positive change, that once more his life was committed to the school of discipleship. Even though affliction comes to us from a bad source, it is overruled by God for a good end.

Romans 8:28 is God's truth declared: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." The saint's worst is better than the natural man's best; for a thousand benefits have come to God's people through the trials, tribulations and grief of this earth life. It is by these things that we have learned the blessed commandments of the LORD.

This portion of the 119th Psalm begins with a statement of conviction: "Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O LORD, according unto thy word;" and the whole portion is flavored with the goodness of the LORD to men and women of faith, so that the very oppression of the worldly-minded has wrought good in their lives.

Finally, the law of the LORD is tested in experience, and is better than the best of earthly treasures: "The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver."

Earthly pleasures vainly call me;
I would be like JESUS;
Nothing worldly shall enthrall me;
I would be like JESUS.
He has broken every fetter,
I would be like JESUS;
That my soul may serve Him better,
I would be like JESUS.⁵

AMEN.

¹ Psalm 119:65-72

² 1 John 1:7

³ Psalm 103:13-14

⁴ Romans 5:3-5

⁵ From "I Would Be Like Jesus" by James Rowe

PSALM 119:73-80.

GOOD MORNING! The tenth section of Psalm 119 is a prayer, "Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments. They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; because I have hoped in thy word. I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me. Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant. Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight. Let the proud be ashamed; for they dealt perversely with me without a cause: but I will meditate in thy precepts. Let those that fear thee turn unto me, and those that have known thy testimonies. Let my heart be sound in thy statutes; that I be not ashamed."¹

It is wise and spiritually profitable that we should remember where we came from. "Thy hands have made me and fashioned me." In Psalm 139, the writer declares, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made:"² A New Testament passage states: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."³

Both in our natural birth and in our spiritual birth, God has made us and fashioned us. This truth calls for our reverence, and gratitude, and affection; for we are creatures from the hand of God! The original statement of Holy Scripture is: "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life: and man became a living soul."⁴

And here is an arresting thought, spoken by God's statesman to the king of Babylon: "...the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, thou hast not glorified, ... Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting."⁵ O my soul, consider this truth! Made by God, answerable to God, the very breath of life in God's hand, and yet not reverencing, not acknowledging God!

The missionary apostle, addressing people very like ourselves, said to them, "That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live and move and have our being."⁶ And he went on, instructed by the Holy Spirit to say: "God ... now commandeth all men every where to repent."⁷

Because our Creator and Sustainer and Saviour takes such a personal interest in every one of us; because He "commendeth his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us";⁸ because the living God is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance,"⁹ ought we not, one and all, to "Humble [ourselves] therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt [us] in due time:"¹⁰?

The personal invitation of our God is, "Come now, and let us reason together,... though your sins be as scarlet; they shall be as white as snow, though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."¹¹

In the prayer of the Psalm, the writer is asking: "Let...thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, ... Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: ... Let the proud be ashamed; ... but I will meditate in thy precepts. ... Let those that fear thee turn unto me,"

Indeed, the communion of saints is a very precious privilege ordained by our LORD.

It was a dark hour, much like our day, when the word of the LORD was written: "Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD harkened, and heard it."¹²

The final petition in this section of the Psalm is: "Let my heart be sound in thy statutes;" When the heart is truly committed to the word of God, the prospects of life are full and spiritually prosperous. This word "sound" carries the meaning of "healthy." "Let my heart (have a healthy interest) in thy statutes."

I am thine, O Lord. I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
And be closer drawn to thee.¹³

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."¹⁴

AMEN.

¹ Psalm 119:73-80

² Psalm 139:14

³ Ephesians 2:10

⁴ Genesis 2:7

⁵ Daniel 5:23,27

⁶ Acts 17:27-28

⁷ Acts 17:30

⁸ Romans 5:8

⁹ 1 Peter 3:9

¹⁰ 1 Peter 5:6

¹¹ Isaiah 1:18

¹² Malachi 3:16

¹³ from "I Am Thine, O Lord" by Fanny J. Crosby

¹⁴ Matthew 5:6

PSALM 119:81-88.

GOOD MORNING! Trouble and affliction do come to the LORD'S people. The damp winds of adversity do go through our defenses. Tribulation does break through our canvas covers. Floods of grief and bereavement sweep over our souls, and all the barriers of courage and fortitude cannot keep them out!

The Scriptures of truth inform us, "In the world ye shall have tribulation."¹ When our LORD spake of the interval between His ascension and return, He said that the conditions would be so severe that, "except those days be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."²

Yes, all who believe on, trust in, and depend on the LORD, must experience trouble, distress, peril, sorrow and heartache. Those truly trusting in the LORD know that the God of all grace has an eternal purpose that cannot be thwarted by these things. In fact, all of these things "work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."³

One of our LORD'S explanations of these things is given in Romans 5: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our LORD Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."⁴

We have come to a portion of the great Psalm that is filled with tears. For the Psalmist it is the midnight of suffering. It is the hour of pain and bereavement from the pressures of the enemy's persecution. "My soul fainteth for thy salvation: but I hope in thy word. Mine eyes fail for thy word, saying, When wilt thou comfort me? For I am become like a bottle in the smoke; yet do I not forget thy statutes. How many are the days of thy servant? when wilt thou execute judgment on them that persecute me? The proud have digged pits for me, which are not after thy law. All thy commandments are faithful: they persecute me wrongfully; help thou me. They had almost consumed me upon earth; but I forsook not thy precepts. Quicken me after thy lovingkindness; so shall I keep the testimony of thy mouth."⁵

Scripture provides a precious word of encouragement for such times of distress, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. ... Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well-doing, as unto a faithful Creator."⁶

The Psalmist writes that he is encouraged and undergirded: "I hope in thy word. ... I do not forget thy statutes. ... All thy commandments are faithful. ... I forsook not thy precepts."

O the multiplied blessedness of true faith in God! "For by it the elders obtained a good report. ... But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."⁷

A petition concludes this portion of the Psalm: "Quicken me after thy lovingkindness; so shall I keep the testimony of thy mouth." Did you notice? It is not a plea for relief from the pressure, but for strength to be an overcomer in the conflict.

The Psalmist desires that the LORD his God be exalted in and through his life. When the saints in the early church were threatened and whipped, they prayed like this: "And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,"⁸

When the saints are revived in their spiritual lives, they are out of reach of their assailants. Let the inner life, the spiritual life, be vigorous, and all is well in the conflict. "And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight:"⁹ ... For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall."¹⁰

Heavenly Father, let it be heart-work with Thy servants, - hearts that are made strong by Thy grace.

There's a royal banner given for display
To the soldiers of the King;
As an ensign fair we lift it up today,
While as ransomed ones we sing.
Tho' the foe may rage and gather as the flood,
Let the standard be displayed;
And beneath its folds, as soldiers of the LORD,
For the truth be not dismayed!¹¹

"All thy commandments are faithful."

AMEN.

¹ John 16:33

² Matthew 24:22

³ Romans 8:28

⁴ Romans 5:1-5

⁵ Psalm 119:81-88

⁶ 1 Peter 4:12-13,19

⁷ Hebrews 11:1,6

⁸ Acts 4:29

⁹ Leviticus 26:8

¹⁰ Psalm 18:29

¹¹ From "The Banner of the Cross" by Daniel W. Whittle

PSALM 119:89-96.

GOOD MORNING! The living, lasting, faithful word of God is the message of this 12th section of Psalm 119, which begins with verse 89: "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth. They continue this day according to thine ordinances: for all are thy servants. Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction. I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me. I am thine, save me; for I have sought thy precepts. The wicked have waited for me to destroy me: but I will consider thy testimonies. I have seen an end of all perfection: but thy commandment is exceeding broad."¹

All things of this earth have a limit, but the holy word of God is eternally all-abiding. "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven." Our Saviour declared in His manifesto of the kingdom of heaven, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."²

We should be startled into careful consideration by noting that the "jot" and "tittle" are as detailed and critical as the crossing of a "t" and the dotting of an "i". The perfect law is perfectly kept.

God's law touches every act, every word, and thought of mankind; and is of such a spiritual nature that it judges the motives, desires, and emotions of the soul.

The word of God reveals a perfection which convicts us for our shortcomings as well as for our transgressions. God's law does not allow us to make up for deficiencies in one direction by special carefulness in another. "If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well. But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. ... So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty."³

There is a breadth about the commandment which has never been met to the full in any son or daughter of Adam. One only, the God-Man, JESUS CHRIST the LORD, is perfect and without sin. "Therefore by the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified in his sight."⁴

"For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven." Men's teachings change so often that there is never time for them to be settled: but the LORD'S word is from eternity past the same and will remain unchanged eternally.

Yes! Our LORD and Saviour CHRIST JESUS is "the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."⁵ ... The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms:"⁶ ... "Thy faithfulness is unto all generations."

Let us consider the Psalmist's confession of faith: "I am thine, save me; for I have sought thy precepts." By faith we are conscious that we belong to the LORD by the new birth; this makes us confident that "he is able to keep that which [we] have committed unto him against that day."⁷

We are God's possession by creation, and by election, and by redemption, and by his acceptance in CHRIST JESUS the LORD. We cannot stand on our achievements, we cannot rely upon our endurance "for, The just shall live by faith."⁸

"My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness,
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

His oath, His covenant, His blood,
Support me in the whelming flood,
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay."⁹

"I am thine, save me." When I say to the heavenly Father, "I am thine," I am pleading the covenant of grace that has always been in effect. "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."¹⁰ "... And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."¹¹

AMEN.

¹ Psalm 119:89-96

² Matthew 5:17-18

³ James 2:8-10,12

⁴ Romans 3:20

⁵ Hebrews 13:8

⁶ Deuteronomy 33:27

⁷ 2 Timothy 1:12

⁸ Galatians 3:11

⁹ From "The Solid Rock" by Edward Mote

¹⁰ 1 John 4:10

¹¹ 1 John 2:2

PSALMS 119:97-104.

GOOD MORNING! Our meditation today begins with verse 97 of the 119th Psalm: "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word. I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me. How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way."¹

The pure praise of God for His incomparable word wells up in these verses. Let us enumerate the Psalmist's reasons for so manifold a praise for the word of the LORD.

First, the living God has made His child wiser than his enemies by training him in obedience. "I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one."²

We learn to be overcomers by the precepts and commandments of God's word. The commandments of the Bible heeded, bestow practical wisdom, and make us conquerors over the arch enemy of souls.

A holy life is the highest wisdom and the surest defense. We are instructed to "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith,"³

The child of God who continues to walk in "the faith which was once delivered unto the saints,"⁴ is an overcomer in the spiritual battle. "(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)"⁵

Secondly, it is through the meditation in the testimonies of the word of God that the child of God has a true understanding of them; an understanding that cannot be obtained from a merely worldly education. "I have more understanding than all my teachers; for thy testimonies are my meditation."

One can sit under the teaching of the wisest of worldly teachers, and yet remain willfully ignorant of the truth. But, when I give earnest diligence to God's word, when I meditate upon the law of the LORD, then will I understand the will of and way of the LORD.

This is the burden of the words of the apostle to Timothy, "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ... All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."⁶

Thirdly, the Psalmist writes of loving God's law, that the words of the LORD are sweeter than honey in his mouth, and by keeping the precepts of the LORD, he understands things not perceived by the ancients.

Our LORD, glorified His Father, "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight."⁷

Scripture speaks clearly on this subject: "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."⁸ And again, "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."⁹ ... "I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me."

"My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;
Tho' some may dwell where these abound,
My prayer, my aim, is higher ground.

I want to live above the world,
Tho' Satan's darts at me are hurled;
For faith has caught the joyful sound,
The song of saints on higher ground."¹⁰

AMEN.

¹ Psalm 119:97-104

² 1 John 2:14

³ 1 Peter 5:8-9

⁴ Jude 1:3

⁵ 2 Corinthians 10:4

⁶ 2 Timothy 3:14-17

⁷ Luke 10:21

⁸ 1 Corinthians 2:12

⁹ John 20:31

¹⁰ From "Higher Ground" by Johnson Oatman, Jr.

PSALM 119:105-112.

GOOD MORNING! Today we are reading verses 105 through 112 of Psalm 119. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. I have sworn, and I will perform it, that I will keep thy righteous judgments. I am afflicted very much: quicken me, O LORD, according unto thy word. Accept, I beseech thee, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD, and teach me thy judgments. My soul is continually in my hand: yet do I not forget thy law. The wicked have laid a snare for me: yet I erred not from thy precepts. Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart. I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes alway, even unto the end."¹

You and I are travelers through "Life's little day." We often find ourselves walking in dark and cluttered places. Well for us that we never venture there without the light-giving word of the LIVING GOD!

The Scriptures were written and passed down to us for our benefit. "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."²

Each one of us needs to personally become like the one spoken of in Psalm 1: Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."³ For it is the living word of the living God that provides the light we need and must have to see and to walk through this world.

Let the darkness settle down around us; the Scriptures, like a flaming torch, reveal the way of life. Under the influence of the clear light of knowledge, the Psalmist has firmly made up his mind, and solemnly declares his resolve in the presence of the LORD; and pledges himself to abide faithful to the determinations and the decisions of his God. "I have sworn, and I will perform it, that I will keep thy righteous judgments. ... Accept, I beseech thee, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD."

There is really no value in extorted confessions. God's revenues are not derived from forced taxations, but from freewill offerings. "By him [the LORD JESUS CHRIST] therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."⁴

The work of grace is brought to the life through faith. "Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all."⁵

"My soul is continually in my hand: yet I do not forget thy law." The Psalmist was living in physical danger. Yet, like the apostle, he is saying, "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors, through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that ...[nothing]... shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."⁶

"Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever:" The word of the LORD God as his lot, his portion, his estate; and what is more, he has laid hold upon the Scriptures, taking them into personal possession and enjoyment. To know the doctrine, to enjoy the promise, to practice the command, this is to lay hold on the riches that are ours in CHRIST JESUS our LORD.

Blessed be the LORD, we have been born again "to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away."⁷ What God so freely gives, we take by faith. That which rejoices the heart is sure to be chosen and treasured. This is not head knowledge, but heart treasure which brings joy. "Thy testimonies ... are the rejoicing of my heart."

God's precious word promises, "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation."⁸ When once our hearts rejoice in the word of God, we greatly prize it, and become forever united to the Author by the illumination of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

"Word of the everlasting God,
Will of his glorious Son;
Without thee how could earth be trod,
Or heaven itself be won?"

Lord, grant us all a right to learn
The wisdom it imparts;
And to its heavenly teaching turn,
With simple, child-like hearts."⁹

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

AMEN.

¹ Psalm 119:105-112

² Romans 15:4

³ Psalm 1:1-3

⁴ Hebrews 13:15-16

⁵ Romans 4:16

⁶ Romans 8:37-39

⁷ 1 Peter 1:4

⁸ Isaiah 12:3

⁹ From "Lamp of Our Feet, Whereby We Trace" by Bernard Barton

PSALMS 119:113-120.

GOOD MORNING! Not one of us can live as we ought to live without the grace of God living within our souls. For every law of God, there is also a provision of grace given, so that we might live by His precepts. "By my God," wrote the Psalmist, "I have run through a troop," ...and.. "have I leaped over a wall."¹

All of the sustenance we need is found in our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."² ... "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."³

For every word of command, God has made a provision of grace, enabling us to live by His precepts. All of the guidance, all of the strength, all of the encouragement is provided in our LORD JESUS CHRIST. "Who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."⁴

The passage we read today is Psalm 119 verses 113 through 120: "I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love. Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word. Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the commandments of my God. Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope. Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually. Thou hast trodden down all them that err from thy statutes: for their deceit is falsehood. Thou puttest away all the wicked of the earth like dross: therefore I love thy testimonies. My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy judgments."⁵

Ecclesiastes, the Bible book that explores the vain doctrine of human reason and logic, concludes with a statement of Bible doctrine: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."⁶

There is a most unworthy saying passing around, one that is altogether false: "There is nothing to fear except fear itself." The Bible declares: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge. ... The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."⁷

It is most right that we should have a healthy fear of the LORD. We ought to fear to offend Him. We ought to "stand in awe and sin not."⁸

Listen again to the Psalmist's final words in this section, "My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy judgments."

Such "fear" is the reverence, the holy awe of the true Sovereign. Indeed, this is the horror of sin as deserving God's judgment.

The more we love the LORD, the God of all grace, the more firmly we will strive against that which we know is displeasing to the holy will of the LORD God. This fear is a proper reverence that makes us know that we are standing on holy ground.

The instruction of Scripture is: "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire."⁹

The Bible explains that this fear is not a fear that has torment, but a fear that increases watchfulness, and walks hand in hand with perfect confidence in saving grace.

Let us carefully consider the Psalmist's petition written here for our learning: "Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word: ... Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: And let me not be ashamed of my hope. Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe:"

The Psalmist is saying that it was so necessary that the LORD should be the strength and support of His servant that he could not live without sustaining grace.

Our God has provided all the necessary keeping power, we are "kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."¹⁰

As God's child, we are not pleading for that which is lacking, we are asking in faith for that which God has promised. "Uphold me according unto thy word."

Christian, you will never have occasion to be ashamed of your hope in the LORD! "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."¹¹

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.¹²

AMEN.

¹ Psalm 18:29

² 2 Corinthians 12:9

³ Philippians 4:19

⁴ 1 Corinthians 1:30-31

⁵ Psalm 119:113-120

⁶ Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

⁷ Proverbs 1:7; 9:10

⁸ Psalm 4:4

⁹ Hebrews 12:28-29

¹⁰ 1 Peter 1:5

¹¹ Hebrews 6:19-20

¹² From "The Solid Rock" by Edward Mote

Psalm 119:121-128.

GOOD MORNING! There is no title to Psalm 119, neither is any writer's name mentioned. Psalm 119 is a miniature Bible. The more it is read and meditated upon, the fresher and richer it becomes. There is a length and a breadth to this great Psalm that holds the serious student enraptured. The sincere reader soon recognizes that the subject of Psalm 119 is the matchless, incomparable, living word of the living God.

Today we begin reading with verse 121: "I have done judgment and justice: leave me not to mine oppressors. Be surety for thy servant for good: let not the proud oppress me. Mine eyes fail for thy salvation, and for the word of thy righteousness. Deal with thy servant according unto thy mercy, and teach me thy statutes. I am thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know thy testimonies. It is time for thee, LORD, to work: for they have made void thy law. Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold. Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way."¹

Many of God's children have been led to pray, "It is time for thee, LORD, to work:" because the earthly situation through which they are passing has deeply grieved them.

When the LORD begins to do His "strange work,"² we cannot know the form or fashion it will take, for our God is "a consuming fire."³

Our God works according to the counsel of His own will. The Psalmist, in harmony with the will of God, writes: "Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time has come to favour her, yea, the set time, is come. For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof."⁴

When the LORD God arises, His work may not be confined in its results to the quickening of the spiritual life of His church, rather it may be associated with providential upheavals and convulsions that will fill the hearts of the unbelieving with astonishment and dismay.

There have been times when God's work and the signs of His holy presence have been seen in the terrible shaking of the nations, in the very plowing up of the foundations of the social order.

Time after time the divine wrath has been visited upon injustice and unrighteousness and tyranny; and for the emancipation of peoples whose lives had a long and hopeless mean.

The kingdom of God does not stand in isolation; there are relations which closely involve it with the material universe, and with the whole of human society.

Often the LORD God has worked through the elements of nature, through blasting and mildew, through floods and famine, through locust and blight; through flagging commerce, with its machinery rusting in the mill and its ships rotting in the harbor.

Indeed, the Bible teaches that all of the elements of nature are the LORD'S servants. "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:"⁵ Neither is the LORD "slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."⁶

The petition of the Psalmist is: "Be surety for thy servant for good. ... Deal with thy servant according unto thy mercy." The Psalmist is praying that the LORD God will be for him, all that the LORD God is for all of His children.

At all times and in all circumstances our Eternal Security; since the world was brought into being by the creative word of God, the LORD JESUS is the surety of all of His own.

Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan!
Oh, the grace that brought it down to man!
Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span
At Calvary!

Mercy there was great, and grace was free;
Pardon there was multiplied to me,
There my burdened soul found liberty,
At Calvary.⁷

AMEN.

¹ Psalm 119:121-128

² Isaiah 28:21

³ Hebrews 12:29

⁴ Psalm 102:13-14

⁵ Isaiah 59:1

⁶ 2 Peter 3:9

⁷ From "At Calvary" by William R. Newell

PSALM 119:129.

GOOD MORNING! We examine one verse in the great Psalm 119: "Thy testimonies are wonderful."¹ This is the enthusiastic praise that is the inspired word of God, written for our learning. This same praise has been echoed from soul to soul through the long centuries, for the wonder of the Bible grows on us as experience is enlarged.

The more deeply we search it, the more we feel that the Bible is not merely a book, but THE BOOK!

One of the first things about the Bible which evokes our wonder is the very fact of its existence; the way in which the Bible grew, little by little, part by part, century after century. The last part of the Old Testament was written nearly five hundred years before the one who wrote the final part New Testament was even born!

The perfection and the completeness of the Bible is not due to any conscious cooperation of the writers with each other, but to the direction of Him by whom they wrote.

The very existence of the Bible is evidence that it is not of men. The Holy Bible is the gift of the LIVING GOD. "Thy testimonies are wonderful."

Another marvel: The Bible is one book, yet it is made up of many books. The Saviour said, "The scripture cannot be broken."²

Many have tried, but none have succeeded in the turning up a single error. The integrity of the Bible is constantly attacked, but it has not lost one line of its sacred pages.

Again, it is a wonder that this Bible is alive and well today. Our libraries are filled with forgotten books, not so the Bible. Think of this: What book has had a chance of being circulated widely among a people from which it did not originate? The Bible has leaped over the barriers of time, and geography, and society, and language, and is still the most widely circulated book among all the peoples of this earth. "Thy testimonies are wonderful."

Another marvel of the Bible is the interest that is given to it. This is the only book read by all nations and peoples and languages and tongues. The Bible is the book read by the little child and by the old man; the Bible is read with profound interest by the simple, the unlettered, and by the scholar, for, like the holy love of God, the Bible: "is so high you can't get over it, so deep you can't get under it, so wide you can't get round it,"³ so you just lovingly turn its pages in personal interest. "Thy testimonies are wonderful."

Do not say that you can read the Bible as you do any other book. No! When you come to the Bible you must come with awe and reverence. Listen with your soul, and give honest heed as you read; the living God is speaking!

This holy Bible is God's word to your heart. This holy Bible is the living word of the living God. "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."⁴

The Bible is supernatural in origin, eternal in duration, inexpressible in value, infinite in scope, divine in authorship, human in penmanship, regenerative in power; infallible in authority, personal in application, and, as the "scripture of truth" declares, is the breath of God in its totality.

Once more, the Bible has stood age after age of terrible and determined persecution. Men have tried to burn the Bible out of existence; discredit it with false manuscripts; legislate against its place in the lives of the people; change its text with corrupt inserts and omissions of the text; and mock it in the presence of the youth who would love it. "For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."⁵ "Thy testimonies are wonderful."

No one can come honestly, humbly, and in faith to the Bible without seeing himself as he is. But the greatness and the wonder of the Bible is not chiefly in its indestructibility, nor in its rigid truthfulness man-ward, regarding sin and its awful consequences. The greatness of the Bible is in its sure answer to man's most serious question: "How can I, a sinner, indelibly stained with sin; be made right in the sight of a holy and just God?" Rest assured that the full answer is continually given on the pages of this holy Bible.

A simple heathen, in an official position that had suddenly become impossible, asked the missionary apostle and his companion, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" The answer came, clear and true, and is written for our sake: "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house."⁶

The Bible tells us of the Saviour that God has given to us. The Bible tells us that to believe on the LORD JESUS CHRIST is to be accepted with God. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."⁷

"Holy Bible, Book divine,
Precious treasure, thou art mine."⁸

"Thy testimonies are wonderful."

AMEN.

¹ Psalm 119:129

² John 10:35

³ Unknown writer

⁴ 2 Peter 1:19-20

⁵ 1 Peter 1:24-25

⁶ Acts 16:30-34

⁷ John 3:36

⁸ From "Holy Bible, Book Divine" by John Burton

PSALM 119:129-136.

GOOD MORNING! The seventeenth part of Psalm 119 begins with exclamations: "Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them. The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple. I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for thy commandments. Look thou upon me, and be merciful unto me, as thou usest to do unto those that love thy name. Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me. Deliver me from the oppression of man: so will I keep thy precepts. Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; and teach me thy statutes. Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law."¹

The Psalmist says: "Thy testimonies are wonderful." Has this been the experience of your life? Have you examined God's word, the Bible, and found it to be full of wonderful revelations, and commands, and promises, and soul-saving comforts?

The Scriptures are truly "wonderful" in their nature, and they are without error, and bear within themselves overwhelming evidence of their truthfulness.

Thy testimonies are wonderful. God's word is in its effect upon the life instructing, elevating, strengthening, and comforting to the soul. The LORD JESUS CHRIST is called Wonderful, and this book, the Bible, testifies of Him. He says, "Search the scriptures; ... they are they which testify of me."²

Have you seen the LORD JESUS on the pages of the Old Testament of the Bible? The Old Testament was completed some five hundred years before our Saviour was born in Bethlehem of Judah. The Old Testament symbols point to the coming of "the Just One;"³ our LORD and Saviour, JESUS CHRIST.

Do you see in the New Testament, which was completed during the first century AD, the one true portrait of the Saviour? "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons,"⁴ The New Testament is the one absolutely full and complete portrait of the gift of God, our LORD JESUS CHRIST.

If you will cherish the holy Bible with all your soul, you will see the LORD of glory, yes, and you will most assuredly recognize Him. Also, if you will cherish His word you will not be ashamed before Him, your LORD, at His coming. God's word is, by all who by faith claim the LORD JESUS CHRIST, adored as the "scripture of truth."⁵

The Psalmist goes on to write, "The entrance of thy words giveth light." When God's word enters through the eye gate or the ear gate into the soul, it gives light. The word of our LORD is, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."⁶ Again, "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."⁷

What a power rests upon the reading and the hearing of the word of God! Notice carefully: the word of the LORD "giveth understanding."

The Scriptures teach us: "But be ye doers of the word. ... whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, ... this man shall be blessed in his deed."⁸ The holy love that God has for men and women of faith can be, by faith, both seen and experienced in the keeping of God's word.

Let us never be delinquent as were the people in Hosea's day, when the LORD said through His prophet, "I have written unto him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing."⁹ The people of Israel were habitually neglecting the Scriptures. They were not even concerned with seeing what God was saying to them!

"I longed for thy commandments." Longed to know them; longed to be corrected by them; longed to share them with others. May God help each one of us to be an earnest disciple in the school of God's written word.

Yes, the New Testament writes concerning the Old Testament Scriptures, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."¹⁰

Finally, let us dwell a moment upon the Psalmist's petition: "Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me." A New Testament passage illuminates the Psalmist: "But I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. ... I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."¹¹

Again, in the model of prayer as it is given to us in the New Testament: "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever."¹²

Let us, each faithful follower of the LORD JESUS, continually bow in humble adoration before our gracious LORD; let us diligently bring every thought into harmony with His will.

Thou my everlasting portion, More than friend or life to me;
All along my pilgrim journey, Saviour let me walk with Thee.

Not for ease or worldly pleasures, Nor for fame my prayer shall be;
Gladly will I toil and suffer, Only let me walk with Thee.¹³

AMEN.

¹ Psalm 119:129-136

² John 5:39

³ Acts 7:52

⁴ Galatians 4:4-5

⁵ Daniel 10:21

⁶ John 8:12

⁷ 1 John 1:5-7

⁸ James 1:22,25

⁹ Hosea 8:12

¹⁰ Romans 15:4

¹¹ Philippians 3:12-14

¹² Matthew 6:13

¹³ From "Close to Thee" by Fanny J Crosby

PSALM 119:137-144.

GOOD MORNING! We are reading in the great 119th Psalm: "Righteous art thou, O LORD, and upright are thy judgments. Thy testimonies that thou hast commanded are righteous and very faithful. My zeal hath consumed me, because mine enemies have forgotten thy words. Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it. I am small and despised: yet do not I forget thy precepts. Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth. Trouble and anguish have taken hold on me: yet thy commandments are my delights. The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live."¹

This passage of the PSALM is speaking of the perfect righteousness of the LORD our God, and of His word that was written by holy men of God "as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."²

The Psalmist is praying that the word of the LORD will have its promised effect in his own life, to the honor and glory of the Father of mercies "with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."³

We know and apprehend by faith that it is by the word of God that we enter into the abundant life that our LORD came to give us. The more we are taught by the Holy Spirit to receive the eternal rightness of God's word, and the more He quickens us to love the word of the LORD, the stronger and more blessed we shall become.

This is what the Scripture is showing us in the New Testament passage: "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."⁴

There is a New Testament companion statement to this eighteenth portion of Psalm 119. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God. ... Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." ... "And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us."⁵ It is the blessed ministry of the Holy Spirit to lead us into an ever clearer knowledge of the things of God.

Our LORD JESUS said, "When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come: He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shew it unto you."⁶

Our LORD speaks of the Holy Spirit as, "the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."⁷

The petition of the Psalmist is "The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting: give me understanding and I shall live." Long as the earth shall stand, as long as there shall be an intelligent creature in the universe, it will be confessed that God's plans of mercy are in all respects marvelous proofs of his justice and holiness.

The precious blood of Jesus our LORD declares the righteousness of God, for it is written, "To declare, I say at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."⁸

A beautiful prayer hymn puts it this way:

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glows with thy fire divine."⁹

AMEN.

¹ Psalm 119:137-144

² 2 Peter 1:21

³ James 1:17

⁴ 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

⁵ 1 John 3:1-3, 24

⁶ John 16:13-15

⁷ John 14:26

⁸ Romans 3:26

⁹ From "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" by Edwin Hatch

Psalm 119:145-152.

GOOD MORNING! One thought runs solidly the whole of Psalm 119, and that is: The surpassing excellence of God's holy word. There are several synonyms used to describe the word of God: "Thy law; thy sayings; thy statutes; thy commandments; thy testimonies; thy judgments."

The Psalmist petitions and pledges and makes declarations of devotion; and all of them rest upon the precious, infallible, everlasting word of God.

Today let us read another portion of this great Psalm: "I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O LORD: I will keep thy statutes. I cried unto thee; save me, and I shall keep thy testimonies. I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy word. Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word. Hear my voice according unto thy lovingkindness: O LORD, quicken me according to thy judgment. They draw nigh that follow after mischief: they are far from thy law. Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth. Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever."¹

The Psalmist is showing us first how he prayed, "I cried with my whole heart." His prayer is a sincere, plaintive, painful, human appeal. Heart cries are the very essence of prayer. Pleading with God must be from the very seat of one's affections and emotions.

Scripture instructs us: "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him."²

If God did not hear prayer, then all prayer would be in vain. But blessed be the LORD God, He is faithful to hear every prayer that is prayed in the name of the LORD JESUS CHRIST. "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."³

In the second place, the Psalmist's is showing us the subject of his prayer: "I cried unto thee; save me, and I shall keep thy testimonies." The prayer is very short. Nevertheless, it is full of meaning. The Psalmist needed saving! None but the LORD could save him! To the LORD God he cried, "Save me!" He is not using vain repetitions; he is not multiplying words. He is like Simon Peter, sinking beneath the turbulent waves: "LORD, save me."⁴ That was enough. It is always enough.

Be sure when you pray that you call on the name of the LORD. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."⁵ The promise of God is very encouraging: "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the LORD shall be saved."⁶

The first time in the Bible the phrase: "to call upon the name of the LORD,"⁷ is written, is in the early days of GENESIS chapter four. From that day to this, men and women have called upon the name of the LORD. "But as many as received him [the LORD JESUS CHRIST], to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."⁸

Let us see what happens when the Psalmist prays: "Thou art near, O LORD." "Before they call I will answer, and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."⁹ Brother, sister, call on the name of

the LORD! Ask, seek, knock at the door of God's freely given resources! "How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"¹⁰

"Concerning thy testimonies," the Psalmist writes, "I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever." "Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly. ... The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."¹¹

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!¹²

AMEN.

¹ Psalm 119:145-152

² Matthew 6:7-8

³ 1 John 5:14-15

⁴ Matthew 14:30

⁵ Acts 4:12

⁶ Romans 10:13

⁷ Genesis 4:26

⁸ John 1:12

⁹ Isaiah 65:24

¹⁰ Luke 11:13

¹¹ James 5:17, 16

¹² From "How Firm a Foundation" by George Keith

PSALM 119:153-160.

GOOD MORNING! We are reading, this morning, the twentieth portion of Psalm 119, "Consider mine affliction, and deliver me: for I do not forget thy law. Plead my cause, and deliver me: quicken me according to thy word. Salvation is far from the wicked: for they seek not thy statutes. Great are thy tender mercies, O LORD: quicken me according to thy judgments. Many are my persecutors and mine enemies; yet do I not decline from thy testimonies. I beheld the transgressors, and was grieved; because they kept not thy word. Consider how I love thy precepts: quicken me, O LORD, according to thy lovingkindness. Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever."¹

The New Testament often speaks of "supplications." Truly, this passage of Scripture is the supplication of a faithful child of God.

The Psalmist is making a double petition in which he pleads with the LORD to deliver him, and to quicken him; there is here a strong word of supplication: "Consider."

The Psalmist is asking the LORD to "Consider" his affliction, and to "Consider" how he loved the LORD'S precepts."

This petition is presented before God's Throne of grace. "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, ... Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."²

An old hymn of the faith recognizes our ofttime failure to live up to our privilege: "O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!"³

The LORD JESUS is our throne of grace. He is both the place and the means of our salvation. "Yes, there's One! only One! The blessed, blessed Jesus, He's the One! When afflictions press the soul, When waves of trouble roll, And you need a Friend to help you, He's the One!"⁴

The Psalmist uses this word, "quicken." Three times he uses it. To quicken is to revitalize, to revive, to make alive! "Quicken me according to thy word." ... "Quicken me according to thy judgments." ... "Quicken me, O LORD, according to thy loving kindness." Our LORD tells us that He came, "that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."⁵

To the woman at Jacob's well, our LORD said, "If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water."⁶ And, when she did ask, the Saviour told her, "I that speak to thee am he."⁷ - the giver of living water.

Everything that our soul needs is found in the LORD JESUS CHRIST, the sent of God, the Saviour, the One whom God made "to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."⁸ ... "For whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."⁹

"All that I want is in JESUS, He satisfies, joy He supplies,
Life would be worthless without Him; All things in JESUS I find."¹⁰

This portion of the Psalm is closed with an exclamation. "Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever." From Genesis to Revelation God's word is true. All of God's decrees, all of His commands, all of His promises; and all of His purposes are righteous, and as righteous, are everlasting.

This holy Bible is true, and trustworthy from its opening statement, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth;"¹¹ to its closing benediction, "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all."¹²

God's justice endureth forever, God's mercy endureth forever, God's faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds, Everlasting is God's faithfulness to His everlasting word.

AMEN.

¹ Psalm 119:153-160

² Hebrews 4:14, 16

³ From "What A Friend" by Joseph Scriven

⁴ From "He's the One" by J. B. Mackay

⁵ John 10:10

⁶ John 4:10

⁷ John 4:26

⁸ 2 Corinthians 5:21

⁹ Romans 10:13

¹⁰ From "All Things in Jesus" by Harry D. Loes

¹¹ Genesis 1:1

¹² Revelation 22:20-21

PSALM 119:161-168.

GOOD MORNING! The twenty-first octave of Psalm 119 is the testimony of a devout child of God. The joy of this believer is deep and profound. Reverence and gratitude fills his soul. The everlasting promises of God are like a rainbow against the dark background of earthly circumstances. "Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word. I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil. I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love. Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments. Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them. LORD, I have hoped for thy salvation, and done thy commandments. My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly. I have kept thy precepts and thy testimonies: for all my ways are before thee."¹

Did you hear the statement the Psalmist makes? "Great peace have they that love thy law: and nothing shall offend them."

The Psalmist has not said that uninterrupted peace belongs to those whose law-keeping is flawless, but he is saying that "great peace" comes to those that "love" God's law.

The Bible speaks of certain "loves" that are greatly rewarded: those that "love the name of the LORD, ... Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer:"²

Our LORD said, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."³

There is a crown of righteousness laid up for all those who are "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;"⁴ and there is "a crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."⁵

The "love" spoken of in these Scriptures is the God-kind-of-love which is a total, self-giving, emotion-packed affection.

In this Psalm there are two very precious rewards granted unto them that "love God's law:" they have "great peace," and there is nothing that "offends" (becomes a stumbling block) to them. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."⁶

Those that love God's law (which in this Psalm embraces the whole of the word of God), "shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."⁷

We may nail this truth down: To love God's law, God's unchangeable living word, is to be given "great peace." "Peace I leave with you," saith our Saviour, "my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."⁸

The gospel changes the life within, so that the outer circumstances are no longer the ruling passion. "Nothing shall offend them." The New Testament illumines this truth: "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."⁹

Finally, the Psalmist declares: "All my ways are before thee." That the living God sees the innermost secrets of the heart is a point terrible to the ungodly, but the source of great joy to saints.

Walk, Christian, in the confidence of God's omniscience. "O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. ... Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."¹⁰

The greatest possession of my life is to be able to sing, "All my ways are before thee."

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,
The joy of my heart, and the boast of my tongue;
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,
Hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.

Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own,
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son;
All praise to the Spirit whose whisper divine,
Seals mercy and pardon, and righteousness mine.¹¹

AMEN.

¹ Psalm 119:161-168

² Isaiah 56:6-7

³ John 14:21

⁴ Titus 2:13

⁵ James 1:12

⁶ Romans 8:28

⁷ Psalm 1:3

⁸ John 14:27

⁹ 2 Timothy 1:7

¹⁰ Psalm 139:1-4, 23-24

¹¹ From "The Divine Mercy" by John Stocker

PSALM 119:169-176.

GOOD MORNING! The final eight verses of the 119th Psalm are a prayer. "Let my cry come near before thee, O LORD: give me understanding according to thy word. Let my supplication come before thee: deliver me according to thy word. My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes. My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness. Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts. I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law is my delight. Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments."¹

The great 119th Psalm sets forth the excellencies of the word of God. Here in the final portion, there are a series of petitions deeply breathing the attitude of all who love the word of the LORD and sincerely seek to obey it from the heart.

God's word is all-sufficient. The more like the LORD Jesus we become by the Holy Spirit's applying the Scriptures to our lives, the more concerned we are for the removal of our spiritual imperfections. "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his suffering, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead."²

The New Testament passage continues: "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. ... I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in CHRIST JESUS."

Let us look at the final requests of the Psalmist: "Give me understanding according to thy word." This is a desire for the spiritual perception promised in the word of God. Such a desire is altogether in harmony with the Scriptures; for it produces obedience to God's word.

To understand spiritual things is the gift of God and not the attainment of man. To have a wisdom enlightened by heavenly light and conforming to heavenly truth is a possession that only grace can give. "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."³

May we all this day be among those who are taught of the LORD! "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."⁴

Other expressions of desire by the Psalmist are: "Let thine hand help me, ... Let my soul live. ... let thy judgments help me. ... Seek thy servant." These all are the requests of a child of God who often approaches the throne of grace in true spiritual worship.

Let the grace of God enable us to maintain in our hearts the memory of God's commandments. This will continually restore us to practical holiness of life. "I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments."

Prone to wander, Lord I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love,
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for thy courts above.⁵

"Wherefore, he [my LORD and my God] is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."⁶ ... "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever."⁷

AMEN.

¹ Psalm 119:169-176

² Philippians 3:10-11

³ Romans 8:26-27

⁴ Titus 2:11-14

⁵ From "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" by Robert Robinson

⁶ Hebrews 7:25

⁷ Hebrews 13:20-21