

## **Inspired Tribute To God's Word**

### Psalm 119

#### **Introduction.**

I. Paul penned these words in the closing part of 2 Timothy. (2 Tim.3:16, 17).

2TI 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 that the man of God may be adequate [complete], equipped [ready and prepared] for every good work.

II. Peter wrote.

2PE 1:20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation [of human origin, by the will of man], 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved [borne along] by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. See also 2 Sam. 23:2; Matt. 10:17-20; 1 Cor. 2:13,14.

III. As Paul and Peter declared, I believe that the Bible is inspired of God.

- A. I do not believe it is a human book, but that it is God-breathed.
- B. I believe that not only are the thoughts are inspired, but also the very words of the Bible are inspired.
- C. I believe the writers of the Bible wrote exactly what God wanted to write.
- D. Because of this conviction, I would like for us to study an "Inspired Tribute To God's Word" - the 119th Psalm.

IV. Psalm 119 is one of the most brilliant, beautiful and breathtaking of all the precious psalms. It is unique and marvelous in a multitude of ways.

- A. It is the longest chapter in our current arrangement of the Bible - 176 verses.
- B. It is divided into 22 equal divisions with eight verses in each section.
- C. Each division is begun with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet such as Aleph, Beth, Gimel, Daleth, etc.
  - 1. Each verse in each of these divisions is begun with that alphabetical letter.
  - 2. The Hebrew alphabet was composed of 22 letters.
- D. This chapter exalts and extolls the Bible.
  - 1. Almost every verse has something to say by way of thrilling tribute expressed relative to God's word.
  - 2. Though there is repetition, the repetition is used to impress upon us the greatness of God's word.
  - 3. God's word is described with 9 other terms in this chapter.

<b>Law</b> - God's word is binding.	<b>Statues</b> - orders, rules	<b>Promises</b> - refers to the absolute truthfulness of God's faithful word.
<b>Testimony or testimonies</b> - unchanging word, written instructions.	<b>Commandments</b> - emphasizes God's word must be obeyed.	<b>Ordinances</b> - decrees, laws. rules
<b>Judgments</b> - righteous rules, orders	<b>Precepts</b> - orders. instructions	<b>Way (s)</b> - refers to God's will.

4. It is fitting that the Bible's longest chapter is a chapter about the Bible.

### III. Authorship

A. The author is unknown.

1. David or some other pious person may have penned this chapter.
2. Without quibble the Holy Spirit is the heavenly author.
3. Jesus accepted the psalms as inspired, and He often made reference to them. (Matt. 22:42; 22:42-44; Jn. 10:34 with Psa. 82:6).
4. The book of Psalms is the only book of the Bible originally divided into chapters. (Acts 13:33).

B. We can point out some people who did not pen it.

1. It was not penned by an atheist or infidel.
2. It was not penned by a disciple of the devil.
3. It was not penned by a God-hater.
4. It was not penned by one who disdained right and held truth in contempt.
5. It was not penned by a prodigal who majored in fleshly lusts and the prompt fulfillment of the same.
6. It was not penned by one who believed the Bible is humanly derived.
7. It was not penned by one who counted the Bible as a dead document, as a non-living letter.
8. It was not written by one who thought a person can prove anything by the Bible.
9. It was not penned by one who believed the Bible had to be directly illuminated by the Holy Spirit before it is profitable or comprehensible on man's part.
10. It was not written by one who viewed the Bible as filled with myths, legends, contradictions, jarring disharmonies, unbelievable folklore, etc.
11. It was not written by one who viewed the Bible as being of little value or worth.
12. It was not written by one who viewed the Bible as obsolete, archaic or out-of-date for finite man.
13. It was written by one who believed God's words are mere gridlines, and can be changed with circumstances.

IV. The author of this marvelous psalm teaches of four lovely "L's"

A. We are to learn, live, love, and be loyal to God's word.

B. The psalmist declares that men are to learn, live, love and be loyal to God's word using a variety of different words, concepts and phrases.

- C. He fills this chapter with much repetition to stress the great importance of God’s holy word.
  - D. We will briefly examine each of the 22 divisions of this incredible tribute to God’s word..
- V. Here are some facts ascribed to God’s word that we should look for as we examine this chapter.
- A. God word is **good** and it should be a **delight** to us.
  - B. God’s word is to be **loved** by us, and be our hearts desire.
  - C. We are to have an **awe** (great reverence) for God’s word.
  - D. God’s word is **righteous**; it is perfect and true.
  - E. God’s word is **dependable** (trustworthy).
  - F. God’s word is **unshakeable**; it stands firm and secure despite the fact men disobey it and scorn it.
  - G. God’s word is **eternal**, and will never pass away. (Isa. 40:8; Matt. 24:35).

ISA 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.	MAT 24:35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away.
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- VI. Here are some additional facts we should keep in mind.
- A. God’s word **brings us freedom** from condemnation. (Jas. 1:25; Rom. 1:16; Jas. 1:21).
  - B. God’s word **brings us light**, and leads us out of darkness into the glorious light of God.
  - C. God’s word **brings us life** - spiritual life, abundant and eternal life, in the present and in the future.
  - D. God’s word **gives us stability**, that is, it keeps us standing firm and strong through the trials of life.

**Aleph** [al ef]

A

**PSA 119:1** How blessed [happy] are those whose way is blameless, Who walk in the law of the Lord.

- “Blessed are those” means God’s blessings are upon those who follow the admonition of this verse. See also verse 2.
1. One is happy and his way is “blameless” by walking “in the law of the Lord.”
  2. “Blameless” is not sinless. (Rom. 3:23; 1 Jn.1:8,10).
  3. We are “blameless” when we “walk in the light” and confess our sins. (1 Jn. 1:7, 9).
  4. We are “blameless” when we are baptized and are sprinkled by the blood of Christ. (Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 1:2).

ACT 2:38 And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.	1PE 1:2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure.
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**PSA 119:2** How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, Who seek Him with all their heart.

PSA 119:2 How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, Who seek Him **with all their heart.**  
PSA 119:10 **With all my heart I have sought Thee;** Do not let me wander from Thy commandments.  
PSA 119:34 Give me understanding, that I may observe Thy law, **And keep it with all my heart.**  
PSA 119:69 The arrogant have forged a lie against me; **With all my heart I will observe Thy precepts.**

1. Observe the emphasis on the “heart” and loving God and His word with “all their heart.”
2. The whole of man's heart consists of his intellect, his emotions, his will-power and his conscience.
3. With the intellect we think, reason, understand, weigh evidence, come to valid and sound conclusions, etc.
4. With the emotions we love, hate, trust, etc.
5. With the will-power we choose, decide, execute a given action, etc.
6. The conscience is man's "oughtness" mechanism. It approves when we do that we think is right; it disapproves when we do that we think is wrong.

**PSA 119:3** They also do no unrighteousness [that is practice deliberate sin]; They walk in His ways.

1. Those who follow the instructions of verse 2 do not practice unrighteousness, but “walk in His ways.”
2. They do not wilfully wander from His instructions.
3. They wisely learn the will of God, and live it. (Eph. 5:15).

**PSA 119:4** Thou hast ordained [commanded us to keep] Thy precepts [laws, orders], That we should keep them diligently.

1. God does not want His commandments to be ignored, or obeyed in some lukewarm or insincere or incomplete fashion.
2. The NIV translates: 119:4 “You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed.”

**PSA 119:5** Oh that my ways may be established [directed] To keep [hear, receive, love and obey] Thy statutes [rules]!

1. He wants to faithfully obey God’s word.
2. He prays for God’s assistance, direction in living by God’s rules (directions).
3. He knows he will not be able to do it alone. (Jere. 10:23; Isa. 55:8,9).

JER 10:23 I know, O Lord, that a man's way is not in himself; Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.

ISA 55:8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Neither are your ways My ways," declares the Lord.

ISA 55:9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

**PSA 119:6** Then I shall not be ashamed When I look upon all Thy commandments.

1. Some are ashamed of God’s word.
2. We must not be ashamed of Jesus or His words. (Mk. 8:38; Rom. 1:16).
3. God’s word is good, perfect, always right, leads to the abundant life now and forever.
4. Why would a wise person be ashamed of God and His word?
5. The verse could have the idea of not being ashamed of his conduct - disobedience to God’s holy commandments.

**PSA 119:7** I shall give thanks to Thee with uprightness of heart, When I learn Thy righteous judgments [rules, punishments].

1. Proper worship comes from knowing God's word. (Jn. 4:24).
2. A part of worship is to be eagerly seeking to learn His word.
3. Worship includes listening to God.

**PSA 119:8** I shall keep Thy statutes; Do not forsake me utterly!

1. The psalmist makes **a resolution** and **a plea**.
2. He promises to keep God's "statutes."
3. He recognizes he is a sinner, but pledges to obey God's word.
4. He knows God will not listen to those who live in rebellion to His word. See Psa. 1:1; 1 Pet. 3:12.

PRO 28:9 He who turns away his ear from listening to the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.

PRO 15:8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, But the prayer of the upright is His delight.

## **Beth [Bëth]** B

### **Securing Our Hearts** 119:9-11 Loyalty To God's Word

**PSA 119:9** How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Thy word.

1. The psalmist tells the young man/woman how to keep their way pure.
  - a. One way is not to run with evil companions. (Psa. 1:1; 1 Cor. 15:33).
  - b. One is not to conform to the world (Rom. 12:2; Jas. 4:4; 1 Jn. 2:15-17).
  - c. Another essential way is by obeying God's law regarding purity. See Gal. 5:16, 19-21, 22-24; 1 Cor. 6:18.
  - d. One must resist the devil, and draw near to God and His word. (Jas. 4:7, 8).
2. In order to keep the word one must learn it and love its Author, and recognize God only wants good for us. (Psa. 84:11).

**PSA 119:10** With all my heart I have sought [pursued] Thee; Do not let me wander [in ignorance or wilfully] from Thy commandments.

1. Our devotion to God must not be half-hearted, but we are to pursue him with "all" the heart. (Matt. 22:37-39).
2. God will help those who lean on Him. (1 Cor. 10:13; Heb. 13:5; Psa. 46:10; 121:1).

**PSA 119:11** Thy word I have treasured [stored] in my heart, That I may not sin against Thee.

- "Thy word" refers to God's - not the words of men.
- All sin is against God and grieves Him. (Gen. 39:9; Psa. 51:4).

GEN 39:9 "There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil, and sin against God?"

PSA 51:4 Against Thee, Thee only, I have sinned, And done what is evil in Thy sight, So that Thou art justified when Thou dost speak, And blameless when Thou dost judge.

1. It is vital that the word of God [the Supreme Being] be stored and treasured in the heart.
2. Knowing facts is not sufficient. A lot of people know a lot of the Bible, but it is not in their hearts.
3. The word of God in the heart provides knowledge and strength against temptation.
4. Jesus used God's word in resisting the devil. (Matt. 4:1-13).

**PSA 119:12** Blessed art Thou, O Lord [Jehovah, Yawveh]; Teach me Thy statutes [laws, rules].

1. He praises the great God of heaven.
2. He desires that God will teach Him His statutes.
3. He knows that God loves man, and His rules are for our good.
4. God teaches us when we study and meditate on His word.
5. He does not give us direct revelation as He did the apostles. (Jn. 14:26; 16:13; Gal. 1:18).
6. We learn God's word by studying what has been revealed in the written word.

**PSA 119:13** With my lips I have told of All the ordinances of Thy mouth.

- NIV "with my lips I have told of All the ordinances of Thy mouth.
1. The psalmist has revealed to others the words that have come from the mouth of God.
  2. He felt an obligation to share God's wondrous, saving, binding words.

**PSA 119:14** I have rejoiced in the way of Thy testimonies [unchanging word, written instructions], As much as in all riches.

1. He rejoices more in God's word than he does in riches.
2. We can go to heaven without riches, but we cannot go to heaven without obeying God's testimonies.
3. God's word does not change with the whims of man, but His word is unchanging and brings joy to those who obey it.

**PSA 119:15** I will meditate on Thy precepts [orders], And regard Thy ways [your will, path for me].

1. Once again he declares that he will mediate on God's precepts.
2. He will regard God's way, that is, the will of God.

**PSA 119:16** I shall delight in Thy statutes; I shall not forget Thy word.

1. God's statutes are not a burden to the child of God, but they are a delight.
2. He exclaims that he will not forget God's word.
3. This is accomplished by daily learning God's will, daily meditating on it, and daily obeying it.
  - a. Most of us put a lot of emphasis on food.

- b. Much more importance should be put on spiritual food - God's word. (Matt. 4:4).
- 4. We need to study God's word so diligently that we will not forget it. Hymns help us learn and retain God's word.
- 5. We need instill God's word in our children, and expect them to study it and memorize it.
  - Deut. 6:4-9; Eph. 6:4.
    - a. Our children learn English, math, science and countless other subjects because we expect it of them.
    - b. They can and will learn God's word if we expect it of them and live it before them.
    - c. It is essential that we instill God's word in their hearts, and prepare them to give answer in regard to the faith.

**Gimel** [Gim el or geeh mel] - 3<sup>rd</sup> Letter  
**g, gh**

**PSA 119:17** Deal bountifully with Thy servant, That I may live [maintain life] and keep Thy word.

1. "Deal bountifully" - bless.
  - a. "Bountifully" has a very broad application.
  - b. It is broad enough to include material and spiritual blessings.
2. It is not sinful to ask for the blessings of God. (Matt. 6:9-13; 7:7-11; Jas. 4:2, 3).
  - a. Keep in mind that the blessings of God include, but are not limited to material blessings.
  - b. There are so many things we need.
3. God's bountiful blessings make it possible to maintain life, and help others.
  - a. This is not to be understood as having every material thing we desire.
  - b. It is primarily a reference to the necessities of life - food, clothing, shelter. (Matt. 6:25-33).

**PSA 119:18** Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from [out of] Thy law.

1. Some listen to or read the Bible with their eyes closed.
  - a. They never see the wonders of God's word.
  - b. They read the Bible as literature or to attack it or in some casual fashion without reflecting on it.

**2 God's word tells us how to be:**

Saved (Jn. 8:32; Jas. 1:21).	How to be good citizens (Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-17).
Enable us to grow and mature (1 Pet. 2:1,2)	How to be wise (Jas. 3:13-18; 1:5,6; Prov. 1:7; 9:10).
How to be comforted. (Psa.23; Jn. 14:1-3).	How to preserve health
How to worship.	How to get along with others. (Matt. 7:12; 22:39).
How to be happy (Matt. 5:3-12; 1 Pet. 3:10-12).	How to avoid hell and go to heaven, etc.

**PSA 119:19** I am a stranger [temporary resident, pilgrim] in the earth; Do not hide [conceal] Thy commandments from me.

1. We are pilgrims on this earth. (1 Pet.2:11,17; Heb.11:13).
2. Even the patriarchs were aware that this world is not our home.
3. Heaven is our home. (Jn. 14:1-3; 1 Pet. 1:4; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Matt. 5:10-12).]

PSA 119:20 My soul [life, heart] is crushed [broken, overwhelmed with longing After Thine ordinances at all times.

1. He has an overwhelming desire to hear and obey God's ordinances.
2. This is not something he desires when the circumstances are right or when the moods strikes him but "at all times."

**PSA 119:21** Thou dost rebuke the arrogant, the cursed [ones], Who wander from Thy commandments.

1. The "rebuke" is in the form of reaping what one has sown in this life or the life to come or both. (Gal. 6:7; Hos. 8:7).
2. Those "who wander" from God's commandments will pay unless there is repentance.
3. Even those who repent will not necessarily escape all earthly consequences.
4. One can be forgiven by God and still suffer bitter and horrible temporal consequences.

**PSA 119:22** Take away reproach and contempt from [that have fallen upon] me, For [because] I observe Thy testimonies.

1. God's people most often suffer great ridicule especially if they speak out or stand up for the truth.
2. Those who follow the way of righteousness must be prepared for ridiculed, and must not let this destroy their faith.
3. Jesus taught us to expect it. (Matt. 5:10-12).

**PSA 119:23** Even though princes sit and talk against me, Thy servant meditates [reflects] on Thy statutes. See Psa. 119:46.

1. The identity of these "princes" is not known.
2. The implication is that the author of this chapter was a man known among the prominent.
3. The author of this chapter could be David or Solomon, but this is speculation since the author does not identify himself.

**PSA 119:24** Thy testimonies [unchanging revealed statutes] also are my delight; They are my counselors.

1. Worldly men seek the counsel of men, and they delight in having the approval of men.
2. God's children seek the counsel of God's infallible and unchanging word.
3. God's word is always right, and never wrong. (Psa. 33:4). See 2 Tim. 3:16,17; 2 Tim. 2:15.

### **Daleth** [dä leth or dahlet] - 4<sup>th</sup> Letter D

**PSA 119:25** My soul [life, heart] cleaves to the dust [is close to death]; Revive me [give me life] according to Thy word.

1. All of us are mortal and we must realize that death is always close. (Job. 14:1,2; Jas. 4:14).
2. Whether we live one more day, or another 100 years it is close.

**PSA 119:26** I have told of [declared to You O God] my ways, and Thou hast answered me; Teach me Thy statutes.

1. He has confessed his sins and weaknesses to God, and God has answered his prayers.
2. He has acknowledged his ignorance, and recognizes that the knowledge he needs is found in God's word.
3. He craves God's "statutes."

PSA 119:27 Make me understand the way of Thy precepts, So I will meditate on Thy wonders. Psa. 145:5,6.

**PSA 119:28** My soul [life, heart] weeps because of grief; Strengthen me according to [by] Thy word.

1. He is drowning in tears.
2. This weeping may be because of sin on his part and on the part of others.
3. It may be because of his suffering or the suffering of others.

**PSA 119:29** Remove the false way [a life of sin and lies] from me, And graciously grant [provide] me Thy law.

1. See Prov. 6:16-19
2. God has provided us His law in His revealed word to us.
3. God's law [word] contains all truth. (Jn. 16:13; 17:17; 2 Tim. 3:16,17).

**PSA 119:30** I have chosen the faithful way [a life of faithfulness]; I have placed [set] Thine ordinances [constantly] before me.

1. God's ordinances are constantly on His mind.
2. He thinks about them every day.

PSA 119:31 I cleave to Thy testimonies [revealed, unchanging statutes]; O Lord, do not put me to shame [because of my obedience]! He did not want others to ridicule him for his faithfulness, but realized it could happen.

**PSA 119:32** I shall run [live, eagerly pursue] the way of Thy commandments, For Thou wilt enlarge my heart [understanding and commitment].

1. He wants a greater understanding of God's will, statutes, ways, commandments, how to please God, etc.
2. He wants to understand more and more.
3. He wants to know how to please God and be completely committed to Him.

### **He**

PSA 119:33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of Thy statutes, And I shall observe it [steadfastly] to the end [of life].

PSA 119:34 Give me understanding [wisdom, discernment between right and wrong], that I may observe Thy law, And keep it with all my heart. See Prov. 2:6; Jas. 1:5.

**PSA 119:35** Make me walk [live] in the path [way] of Thy commandments, For I delight in it [Your path].

1. God's way is narrow. (Matt. 7:13, 14).
2. God's commandments forbid the path of following one's own way, lust, idolatry, rebellion, etc. (Prov. 14:12).

PSA 119:36 Incline my heart to Thy testimonies [written instructions], And not to dishonest [evil, crooked, covetous] gain.

PSA 119:37 Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity [worthless things, false things, idolatry in its many forms], And

revive me [give me new life] in Thy ways.

**PSA 119:38** Establish [keep] Thy word [promises] to Thy servant, As that which produces reverence for Thee.

1. Reverence for God is created by realizing that He is our Creator, and that His power and knowledge, and presence is unlimited.
2. Reverence for God is created by the fact God keeps His promises.

PSA 119:39 Turn away my reproach [insult] which I dread, For Thine ordinances [regulations] are good.

PSA 119:40 Behold, I long for Thy precepts [commandments, statutes]; Revive me through Thy righteousness.

### Vav

PSA 119:41 May Thy lovingkindnesses [mercies, blessings] also come to me, O Lord, Thy salvation according to Thy word [as You promised];

PSA 119:42 So [then] I shall have an answer for him who reproaches [insults, taunts] me, For I trust [have full confidence] in Thy word.

**PSA 119:43** And do not take the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, For I wait for [eager for] Thine ordinances.

1. Do not take so much as a single word of truth from my mouth.
2. We , as he, should cherish all of the ordinances of God.]

PSA 119:44 So I will keep Thy law continually, Forever and ever [hearing, receiving, loving and obeying].

**PSA 119:45** And I will walk [around] at liberty [freely], For I seek Thy precepts.

1. He will not walk in a licentious way, but according to freedom of God's word.
2. God gives us freedom to pursue good, and puts no limitation on our pursued to learn and obey His word. See Gal. 5:22,23.

**PSA 119:46** I will also speak of Thy testimonies [written words] before kings, And shall not be ashamed.

1. He will not be intimidated by kings and will even proclaim God's written instructions to them.
2. God's word is for all. (Mk.16:15).
3. See also Psa. 138:1 'gods' is from "elohim" that can be translated "God, gods , judges, angels."
  - a. This is determined by context.
  - b. Here is seems to be used in the sense of "judges."
4. Matt. 10:18, 19; Acts 26:1,2.

**PSA 119:47** And I shall delight in Thy commandments, **Which I love**.

1. The commandments of God were not something he dreaded or merely endured.
2. He had a deep love for God's holy word, and was eager to learn and obey it.

PSA 119:48 And I shall lift up my hands [in fervent prayers ] to [because of] Thy commandments, **Which I love**; And I will meditate on Thy statutes.

## Zayin

**PSA 119:49 ¶** Remember the word [promises ]to Thy servant, In which Thou hast made me hope.

1. Remember the promises you gave me.
2. The promises of God create and inspire hope.
3. God does not lie, and we can have full assurance in His promises. (Heb. 6:18; 13:5,6).

**PSA 119:50** This is my comfort in my affliction, That Thy word has revived me.

1. Affliction, as uncomfortable and dreaded as it may be, gives us a new perspective and most often revives us spiritually.
2. Without affliction many of us would go astray and remain in that state of condemnation.

**PSA 119:51** The arrogant utterly deride [mock] me, Yet I do not turn aside from Thy law.

1. We must not let the ridicule and mocking of the wicked cause us to turn from the Lord.
2. We must ignore this mocking, and constantly seek God's law.

**PSA 119:52** I have remembered Thine ordinances from of old [long ago], O Lord, And comfort myself.

1. By remembering God's ordinances, past or present, he is comforted.
2. There is the realization that God's commandments are good and they are always for our good.

**PSA 119:53** Burning indignation has seized me because of the wicked, Who forsake Thy law.

1. He expresses the idea that he was burning with anger because of the wicked.
2. We need a righteous anger. (Eph. 4:26,27).
3. Jesus had it. (Matt. 21:12, 13; Jn. 2:13-17).

**PSA 119:54** Thy statutes are my songs In the house [place, world] of my pilgrimage.

1. He is happy about the commandments of God, and sings about them as he sojourns on the earth. (Phil. 4:4).
2. He looks forward to the time he will see God face to face, and can sing praise to God in His very presence.

**PSA 119:55** O Lord, I remember Thy name in the night [not just in the day], And keep Thy law. Psa. 1:2

1. Some people are faithful in the day, but night is a time for sin.
2. He keeps God's law - day or night.

**PSA 119:56** This has become mine [happened to me], That I observe Thy precepts. See Psa. 119:67, 71.

## Heth

**PSA 119:57** The Lord is my portion [inheritance]; I have promised to keep [obey] Thy words.

1. The greatest inheritance is God.
  - a. We can call Him "**My Shepherd.**" (Psa. 23:1).
  - b. We can call Him "**My God.**" (Psa. 38:21).

- c. He is our **“Refuge and Strength.”** (Psa. 46:1).
  - d. He is or **Creator and Father.** (Gen. 1:26, 27; Matt. 6:9).
2. This inheritance does not come by physical birth, race, nationality, wealth, money, merit, but by believing in God and His word.
  3. Salvation is an unearned gift of God offered to all. (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 6:23).

PSA 119:58 I entreated Thy favor with all my heart; Be gracious to me according to Thy word [promises].

1. He recognizes that God’s blessings are a matter of grace.
2. He seeks God’s favor with “all,” that is, his whole heart.
3. God’s favor is bestowed upon those who trust in Jesus’s blood and are merciful to others.
4. It is bestowed upon those who follows the instructions of Peter. (1 Pet. 3:10-12; 2 Pet. 1:5-11).

PSA 119:59 I considered my ways, And turned my feet to [obey] Thy testimonies.

1. As human we tend to follow our own way much more than we recognize or admit.
2. The author sees this, and asks God’s help in turning his ways to God’s “testimonies.”
3. Real obedience is not obeying God when His instructions agree with what we like.

**PSA 119:60** I hastened and did not delay [hesitate, procrastinate] To keep Thy commandments.

1. God’s word needs to be obeyed now. (Eccles. 12:1).
2. The Bible warns against boasting about what we might do tomorrow. (Prov. 27:1).
3. Delay is dangerous because the heart can be hardened. (Heb. 3:13).
4. The wicked seek to ensnare the righteous by getting them to delay God’s commandments.

**PSA 119:61** The cords [ropes] of the wicked have encircled [attempt to bind] me, But I have not forgotten Thy law.

1. Wicked men seek to lead us away from God and His word.
2. Some want to destroy us, and others want us to be like them.
3. They hate those who walk in the light, and refuse to live with them in darkness.

**PSA 119:62** At midnight I shall rise to give thanks to Thee Because of Thy righteous ordinances.

1. He is so grateful for God’s blessings that even when most are asleep He gives thanks.
2. He is so grateful for God’s “righteous ordinances” that he is anxious to express it to God no matter the hour.

**PSA 119:63** I am a companion of all those who fear [revere] Thee, And of those who keep Thy precepts.

1. We need to primarily associate with those who “fear” God.
2. Bad companionship and destroy us. (Psa. 1:1; 1 Cor. 15:33).
3. We are not to avoid all contact with the world. (Mk. 16:15; 1 Cor. 5:9-13), but must be cautious in regard to our contact with the world.
4. We must not become unequally yoked. (2 Cor. 6:14-17).

2CO 6:14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

2CO 6:15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?

2CO 6:16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

2CO 6:17 "Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. "And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you.

**PSA 119:64** The earth is full of Thy lovingkindness, O Lord; Teach me Thy statutes.

1. God is good to all mankind. (Matt. 5:43,44; Rom. 2:4).
2. He wants all to be saved. (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9)
2. God has special blessings for His spiritual children. (Psa. 84:11; Matt. 7:7-11; Eph. 1:3; 1 Pet. 3:10-12; 1 Jn. 5:14,15).

### **Teth** - 9<sup>th</sup> Letter - T

**PSA 119:65** Thou hast dealt well with [richly blessed] Thy servant, O Lord, according to Thy word.

1. God always keeps His word and all the promises found in His word.
2. We can count on God.

**PSA 119:66** Teach me good discernment and knowledge, For I believe [trust, rely on, cling to] in Thy commandments.

1. We need to be able to distinguish good from evil. (Heb. 5:11-14).
2. This requires that we learn to rightly apply the word of God. (2 Tim. 2:15).

**PSA 119:67** Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep [hearing, receiving, trusting, loving, and obeying] Thy word. See Psa. 119:71.

1. This "affliction" may have come from his enemies, or it may have come from God in the form of discipline.
2. "Affliction" can have a positive effect if one lets it draw him to God and His word..
3. It draws some to God, and drives others away.

**PSA 119:68** Thou art [absolutely] good and [always] doest good; Teach me Thy statutes.

1. He recognizes that God is good and always does good.
2. He is incapable of evil because of His holiness. (Jas. 1:13).
3. Only Deity is sinless. (Jas. 1:13; 1 Pet. 2:22).

**PSA 119:69** The arrogant [godless, wicked] have forged [made up, put together] a lie against me; With all my heart I will observe Thy precepts.

1. They evidently charged him with insincerity and half-heartedness.
2. Though a sinner, he was striving to serve God with his all.
3. The same things may be true of God's children today.

4. Some seek to destroy them even though in their imperfections they are seeking to please God with all their hearts.

**PSA 119:70** Their heart [mind] is covered with fat, But I delight in Thy law.

1. "Fat" stands for sin. Their heart had little or no feeling. It was insensitive to God and His law. It was thick with sin.
2. Their hearts are bloated or covered with sin.

MAT 15:19 "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

3. The wicked delight in sin and find pleasure in it, but he delights in God's law.

**PSA 119:71** It is good for me that I was afflicted, That I may learn Thy statutes.

1. See Psa. 119:67.
2. Affliction causes many to come to their senses, and draw close to God.

**PSA 119:72** The law of Thy mouth is better to me Than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

1. Men have always placed great value on gold and silver.
2. God's word is worth much more.
3. God's law leads to heaven and its immense blessings.

#### Yodh - 10<sup>th</sup> Letter

**PSA 119:73** ¶ Thy hands made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn Thy commandments.

1. He recognizes God as His Creator. (Gen. 1:26, 27). See Eccles. 12:1; Isa. 40:8; Rom. 1:25; 1 Pet. 4:19.
2. He is asking for understanding to learn and rightly apply God's word.

PSA 119:74 May those who fear [revere and worship] Thee see me and be glad [rejoice], Because **I wait** for [always ready to receive and obey] Thy word.

**PSA 119:75** I know, O Lord, that Thy judgments are righteous [never wrong], And that in faithfulness Thou hast afflicted me.

1. See Heb. 12:10,11
2. God discipline is not pleasant, but it is perfect - designed to draw us back to God.
3. Our free will, however, is an important part of the discipline, that is, how we choose to respond to it.

**PSA 119:76** O may Thy lovingkindness comfort me, According to Thy word to Thy servant.

1. The author views himself as a "servant" of God. (Psa. 119:17,23, 38, 49, 65, 76, 84, 122, 124, 125,135, 140, 176).
2. It is vital that we recognized we are God's servants now and even in heaven. (Rev. 22:3).

PSA 119:77 May Thy compassion [mercy] come to me that I may live, For Thy law is my delight.

PSA 119:78 May the arrogant [wicked, godless, proud] be ashamed, for they subvert [attack, seek to ruin] me with a lie; But I shall meditate on Thy precepts. Psa. 119:97

**PSA 119:79** May those who fear Thee turn to me, Even those who know Thy testimonies.

1. God-fearing people were his friends.
2. The wicked were against him.

PSA 119:80 May my heart be blameless [faithfully abide, above approach] in Thy statutes, That I may not be ashamed.

### **Kaph - 11<sup>th</sup> Letter**

PSA 119:81 ¶ My soul [life, heart] languishes [faints with longing] for Thy salvation; I wait for Thy word.

PSA 119:82 My eyes fail with longing for [the fulfillment of] Thy word, While I say, "When wilt Thou comfort me?"

PSA 119:83 Though I have become like a wineskin [that is blackened and shriveled] in the smoke [in which it hangs], I do not forget Thy statutes.

PSA 119:84 How many are the days of Thy servant? When wilt Thou execute judgment on those who persecute me?

1. He wonders how long it will be before God executes judgment on those who persecute him.
2. God will do so in His own time.

PSA 119:85 The arrogant [godless wicked] have dug pits [pitfalls] for me, Men who are not in accord with Thy law.

PSA 119:86 All Thy commandments are faithful [sure, absolute]; They [the godless] have persecuted me with a lie; help me [Lord]!

**PSA 119:87** They almost destroyed me on earth, But as for me, I did not forsake [abandon] Thy precepts.

1. The attacks of his enemies had nearly destroyed him.
2. Though he had nearly perished, he remained faithful.

PSA 119:88 Revive me according to Thy lovingkindness [tender mercy], So that I may keep the testimony of Thy mouth.

### **Lamedh - 12<sup>th</sup> Letter**

**PSA 119:89** Forever, O Lord, Thy word is settled [fixed, stands firm] in heaven.

1. God's word will never pass away. (Matt. 24:35).
2. Man cannot destroy it, but it will abide unto end of the ages.
3. Psa. 89:2; Matt. 24:34, 35; 1 Pet. 1:25.

PSA 119:90 Thy faithfulness continues throughout all generations [forever]; Thou didst establish the earth, and it stands.

PSA 119:91 They stand this day according to Thine ordinances, For all things are Thy servants.

PSA 119:92 If Thy law had not been my delight [something I love and obey], Then I would have perished in my affliction.

PSA 119:93 I will never forget Thy precepts, For by them Thou hast revived me [granted me life].

PSA 119:94 I am Thine, save me; For I have sought [pursued] Thy precepts.

PSA 119:95 The wicked wait for me [look for every opportunity] to destroy me; I shall diligently consider Thy testimonies.

**PSA 119:96** I have seen a limit to all [human] perfection; Thy commandment is exceedingly broad [boundless].

1. God's word is sufficient for all men in all ages.
  - a. Men previously lived under the laws God gave to all humanity beginning with Adam and Eve.
  - b. Later at Mount Sinai the Israelites were given the Mosaic law. (Deut. 5:15)
  - c. Christians are under the law of Christ, the new Covenant.
2. It equips us for every good work. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).

### **Mem**

**PSA 119:97** O how I love Thy law! It is my meditation all the day.

1. "Day" is used in the sense of day and night - not just where there is the light of day.

PSA 119:55 O Lord, I remember Thy name in the night, And keep Thy law.

PSA 119:148 My eyes anticipate the night watches, That I may meditate on Thy word.

2. Psa. 1:2.

PSA 119:98 Thy commandments make me wiser than my enemies, For they [Your words] are ever mine.

1. One who follows God is wiser than those who deny Him and reject His perfect word.
2. Men will perish following their own wisdom.

**PSA 119:99** I have more insight [understanding, wisdom] than all my teachers, For Thy testimonies are my meditation.

1. This likely has reference to ungodly teachers.
2. They may have had much earthly wisdom, but they did not have the wisdom of God.

**PSA 119:100** I understand more than the aged, Because I have observed Thy precepts.

1. One who grows old without God's word is ignorant no matter what the world thinks of him. (Prov. 1:7).
2. See Prov. 9:10

**PSA 119:101** I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Thy word.

1. The word "every" is key to understanding this verse.
2. It is not enough just to refrain from some sins, and freely practice others.
3. See Psalm 119:104 - "Therefore I hate every false [evil, corrupt] way."

PSA 119:102 I have not turned aside from Thine ordinances, For Thou Thyself hast taught me.

**PSA 119:103** How sweet are Thy words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth! See Psa. 19:10; Prov. 9:11.

PSA 19:10 They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.  
PRO 9:11 For by me your days will be multiplied, And years of life will be added to you.

PSA 119:104 From Thy precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false [evil, corrupt] way.

#### Nun - 14<sup>th</sup> Letter

**PSA 119:105** ¶ Thy word is a lamp to my feet, And a light to my path. See Prov. 6:23.

1. God's word shows him the true way.
2. Without God's word one will stumble in the darkness and will go astray.
  - a. John wrote.

1JO 2:10 The one who loves his brother abides in the light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.  
1JO 2:11 But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

- b. This same language is true of the one without God's word.

1JO 2:10 The one who **loves the truth** abides in the light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.  
1JO 2:11 But the one **who despises God's word** is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

3. Without God's word man has no way of knowing God and how to please Him.
4. There is no such thing as right and wrong without God.

**PSA 119:106** I have sworn [an oath], and I will confirm it, That I will keep Thy righteous ordinances.

1. "I have bound myself and solemn vow to keep thy just decrees.." NEB
2. He had steadfastly purpose to keep God's "righteous judgments."

**PSA 119:107** I am exceedingly afflicted; Revive me [give me life], O Lord, according to Thy word.

1. "I am close to death at the hands of my enemies"
2. He desperately needs God's help.

**PSA 119:108** O accept the freewill offerings [the willing tribute] of my mouth [the praises of my lips], O Lord, And teach me Thine ordinances.

HOS 14:2 Take words with you and return to the Lord. Say to Him, "Take away all iniquity, And receive us graciously, That we may present the fruit of our lips.

HEB 13:15 Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

1. He desires to praise God.
2. He needs instructions on how to live and worship.
3. This does not come from our human feelings without God's instructions.

**PSA 119:109** My life is continually in my hand, Yet I do not forget Thy law.

1. He has the freedom, as a free moral agent, to do as he pleases.
2. He uses his freedom to remember and obey God's law.
3. One translation presents a different idea, "My life is continually in danger.." - Ber

**PSA 119:110** The wicked have laid a snare [trap] for me, Yet I have not gone astray from Thy precepts.

1. He has voided the "snare" by staying close to God and His word.
2. Those who pull away from God and His word will fall into the trap.
3. We must respond to the enemy like Jesus did. (Matt. 4:4, 11).

**PSA 119:111** I have inherited Thy testimonies [Your revealed words] forever, For they are the joy of my heart.

- "Thy testimonies have I claimed as mine heritage for ever"
1. God's laws are his joyous treasure forever.
  2. Each of us have a great treasure in our possession that should make us joyful because it gives us guidance and assurance.

**PSA 119:112** I have inclined [fixed, set, resolved] my heart to perform Thy statutes Forever, even to the end [of my life].

1. NIV "My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end"
2. He is resolved to follow God's statutes all his days.

#### Samech - 15<sup>th</sup> Letter

**PSA 119:113** I hate [detest] those who are double-minded [undecided in reference to God], But I love Thy law.

1. He hates the ways of those who have divided and uncertain allegiance.
2. Half-hearted people hurt the cause of righteousness.
3. Jesus demands that we totally submit to Him. (Matt. 16:24; Lk. 6:46).

**PSA 119:114** Thou art my hiding place [refuge] and my shield; I wait for [hope in, have complete confidence in] Thy word. Psa. 32:7; 91:1.

**PSA 119:115** Depart from me, evildoers, That I may observe the commandments of my God.

1. He does not want the close company of the evil, that is those who have their heart set on evil.
2. He knows what they can do to him. (Psa. 1:1; 1 Cor. 15:33).

**PSA 119:116** Sustain [upheld] me according to Thy word, that I may live; And do not let me be ashamed of my hope.

1. A life of sin brings shame on God, others, self.
2. It causes one to realize that God's hope cannot be achieved in a life of sin and this brings shame and disappointment.

PSA 119:117 Uphold me that I may be safe, That I may have regard for Thy statutes continually.

**PSA 119:118** Thou hast rejected all those who wander from Thy statutes, For their deceitfulness is useless.

1. The wicked cannot deceive God.
2. God knows all, and He will not be mocked. (Prov. 15:3; Gal. 6:7,8; Heb. 4:12).

PSA 119:119 Thou hast removed [put an end to] all the wicked of the earth like dross [scum you skim off and throw away]; Therefore I love Thy testimonies.

- “The wicked are the scum you skim off and throw away; no wonder I love to obey your laws” - Tay.

**PSA 119:120** My flesh [whole being] trembles for fear [awe, reverence] of Thee, And I am afraid of Thy judgments.

1. God can be very severe in His punishments.
2. The wicked must live in constant dread of His punishments. (Heb. 10:31; Rom. 11:22; Matt. 25:41,46).

### Ayin - 16<sup>th</sup> Letter

PSA 119:121 I have done justice [what is just] and righteousness [what is right]; Do not leave [abandon] me to my oppressors.

PSA 119:122 Be surety for [Ensure] Thy servant for good [well-being]; Do not let the arrogant oppress me.

- “Ensure your servant’s well being” - NIV

PSA 119:123 My eyes fail with longing for Thy salvation [deliverance, saving help], And for Thy righteous word.

PSA 119:124 Deal with Thy servant according to Thy lovingkindness [mercy], And teach me Thy statutes.

PSA 119:125 I am Thy servant; give me understanding, That I may know Thy testimonies.

**PSA 119:126** It is time for the Lord to act, For they have broken [and keep breaking] Thy law.

1. He wants God to punish evildoers.
2. He feels the wicked have been given enough time to repent and have not.
3. He is angered by their sinfulness and rejection of God.

**PSA 119:127** Therefore I love Thy commandments Above gold, yes, above fine [the finest, perfectly refined] gold.

**PSA 119:128** Therefore I esteem right all Thy precepts concerning everything, I hate every false [sinful, deceptive, dishonest] way.

1. God’s precepts are always right - never wrong.
2. He hates (despises) “every false way.”
3. He hates “every false way” because God’s word condemns it.
4. He cannot love what God hates.
5. It is vital that we learn what pleases God and what He hates. (Prov. 6:16-19; Mic. 6:8).

**PSA 119:129** Thy testimonies [instructions, revealed words] are wonderful; Therefore my soul [I, penitent self, inner man] observes them.

1. God's testimonies exceed anything conceived by man.
2. They are perfect, wonderful, life-giving.

**PSA 119:130** The unfolding [revealing and understanding] of Thy words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple [the humble untaught].

1. God's words make "the simple wise."
2. God's word enlightens us, and saves us.
3. Most of the saved will be ordinary people who have the humility to accept God's wisdom rather than their own or the wisdom of those deemed wise. (1 Cor. 1:26-28).

1CO 1:26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;

1CO 1:27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,

1CO 1:28 and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are,

PSA 119:131 I opened my mouth wide and panted [with eager desire], For I longed for Thy commandments.

- "with open mouth I pant"

PSA 119:132 Turn to me and be gracious to me, After Thy manner [as Your manner is] with those who love Thy name.

**PSA 119:133** Establish [direct, order, guide] my footsteps in [by] Thy word, And do not let any iniquity [sin] have dominion [rule] over me.

1. As humans, we cannot avoid sin.
2. We must not, however, let it rule over us.
3. We must turn from sin and once again pursue God's word.
4. We must be careful that we avoid most sins, and then let one or more sins enslave us.

PSA 119:134 Redeem [deliver] me from the oppression [persecutions] of man [sinful humanity], That I may keep Thy precepts.

**PSA 119:135** Make Thy face shine [with pleasurable approval] upon Thy servant, And teach me Thy statutes. See 1 Pet. 3:10-12.

**PSA 119:136** My eyes shed streams of water [tears], Because they do not keep Thy law.

1. He is sadden that men disobey God's law.
2. He does not rejoice in the unrighteousness of others - when evil triumphs. (1 Cor. 13:6).
3. He wishes they would hear it, receive it into their hearts, and love and obey it.

4. We should have the same attitude toward sin and sinners.

### **Tzaddi - 18<sup>th</sup> Letter**

PSA 119:137 Righteous [Holy and Just] art Thou, O Lord, And upright [fair, just, perfect, faithful] are Thy judgments.

**PSA 119:138** Thou hast commanded Thy testimonies in righteousness And exceeding faithfulness.

1. God's "testimonies" [commandments] come from His "righteousness."
2. God's faithfulness demands that He reveal to man what pleases Him.

**PSA 119:139** My zeal has consumed me [worn me out], Because my adversaries have forgotten Thy words.

1. This may have idea that he is worn out seeking to teach the wicked to remember and do God's word.
2. Some do receive the truth, but the masses ignore and disobey God's words.
3. This can be frustrating and overwhelming to the righteous who, like God, want all men to be saved.
4. Jesus taught we should not be surprised by this rejection of men. (Matt. 7:13, 14).

**PSA 119:140** Thy word is very pure [flawless and thoroughly tested], Therefore Thy servant loves it.

**PSA 119:141** I am small [puny, lowly] and despised [regarded with contempt by men], Yet I do not forget Thy precepts.

1. He did not let what others thought about him cause him to be unfaithful.
2. Our faithfulness should not depend on how others [even those close to us] view and feel about us.

**PSA 119:142** Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Thy law is truth. Psa. 19:9; Jn. 17:17.

"Thy righteousness is right forever, And Thy law is truth" - DeW

**PSA 119:143** Trouble and anguish have come upon me; Yet Thy commandments are my delight.

1. He had trouble because of his obedience to God's word.
2. This does not keep him from **continually delighting** in God's word.

**PSA 119:144** Thy testimonies are righteous forever [forever right]; Give me understanding [discernment, wisdom] that I may live.

1. God will give us wisdom. (Jas. 1:5,6).
2. We must ask in faith. (Jas. 1:5,6; Heb. 11:6).

### **Koph - 19<sup>th</sup> Letter**

PSA 119:145 I cried with all my heart; answer me [my request for help, guidance, deliverance], O Lord! I will observe Thy statutes. "Lord" is "Yahweh."

**PSA 119:146** I cried to [invoke] Thee [My God]; save me, And I shall keep [obey forever] Thy testimonies.

1. He recognizes that God alone can save man.
2. Man is saved by accepting God's grace. (Eph. 2:8; Rom. 6:23).

3. As a saved man, he promises to keep God's word forever.

**PSA 119:147** I rise [am up] before dawn and cry [beg] for help [Your assistance]; I wait for [trust in the fulfilment of] Thy words.

- He rises very early to seek God's assistance.
- He wants to begin and end the day with the help and guidance of the Almighty God.

1. KJV "I prevented the dawning of the morning"

2. "Prevented" is an old word for "preceded."

3. "Prevented" is used in 1 Thessalonians 4:15 with the idea of "precede." Gk. "ph $\theta$ ano]

**PSA 119:148** My eyes anticipate [look forward to] the night watches, That I may meditate on [ponder]Thy word.

1. He looks forward to night and uses this time to mediate on God's word.
2. Night is often the best time to meditate on God's word due to the peace and quiet.

PSA 119:149 Hear my voice [cry, plea] according to Thy lovingkindness [mercy]; Revive me [give me life], O Lord, according to Thine ordinances. KJV renders "ordinances" "judgments."

PSA 119:150 Those who follow after [practice and pursue] wickedness draw near [to persecute me]; They are far from [reject, spurn] Thy law.

**PSA 119:151** Thou art near [to comfort and help], O Lord, And all Thy commandments are truth.

1. God is always near those seeking to obey His commandments. (Psa. 46:1).
2. Every one of His commandments is truth - not even one is false.

**PSA 119:152** Of old [for a long time or long ago] I have known from Thy testimonies, That Thou hast founded [ordained, revealed and made binding] them forever.

1. It is important that we instill God's word in our children. (Deut. 6:4-9; Prov. 22:6).
2. We need parents who follow the instructions of Paul. (Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21).

### Resh - 20<sup>th</sup> Letter

PSA 119:153 Look upon [consider, take note of] my affliction and rescue [deliver, defend] me, For I do not forget Thy law.

PSA 119:154 Plead [take up] my cause and redeem [rescue, defend] me; Revive me [give me life, save me] according to Thy word.

**PSA 119:155** Salvation is far from the wicked, For they do not seek [care about, hunger and thirst or obey] Thy statutes.

- "Salvation is far from the wicked" because they are "far" from God's laws. (Psa. 119:50).
  - God will not even listen to the prayers of those who spurn Him. (Prov. 28:9; 15:8,9).
1. Universalism is false.

- a. It is a lie of the devil.
  - b. It is a lie that the wicked who have some kind of faith want to believe.
  - c. It is a lie that many religious people wish to believe because of a misconception of God's love, and a desire to see most or all saved.
2. See Matt. 7:13,14, 21; 2 Thess. 1:8, 9; Heb. 5:9.

PSA 119:156 Great are Thy mercies, O Lord; Revive me [give me life] according to Thine ordinances.

**PSA 119:157** Many are my persecutors and my adversaries, Yet I do not turn aside [swerve] from Thy testimonies.

1. He had great opposition.
2. Even great opposition did not drive him away from God and His word.
3. He did not yield to the pressure of society to conform to the sinful ways of the world. See Rom. 12:1,2.

PSA 119:158 I behold the treacherous [the faithless, the wicked] and loathe them, Because they do not keep [obey] Thy word.

PSA 119:159 Consider how I love Thy precepts; Revive me [give me life], O Lord, according to Thy lovingkindness [mercy].

**PSA 119:160** The sum of Thy word is truth, And every one of Thy righteous ordinances is everlasting.

1. God's word must be studied in its totality, and must be rightly divided. (2 Tim. 2:15).
2. We arrive at the truth by considering all of God's truth on a subject.
3. If one emphasizes one of these verses to the exclusion of the others he will come to a false conclusion on the subject of salvation. (Tit. 2:11; Lk. 13:3; 1 Pet. 3:21; Jn. 3:16; Rom. 10:10; Matt. 16:24).
4. We will come to false conclusions by studying only some of God's teaching or revelation on a subject.

### **Shin - 21<sup>st</sup> Letter**

PSA 119:161 Princes [rulers, powers to be] persecute me without cause, But my heart stands in awe [fear, reverence] of Thy words.

**PSA 119:162** I rejoice at [over] Thy word, As one who finds great spoil [a great treasure].

1. Men get excited when they find or win or inherit or earn wealth.
2. How much more should we rejoice over the treasures of God's word!
3. It reveals how to please God and have the abundant life now and in eternity.
4. **How blessed we are to possess the revelation and saving message of the God of the universe.**

PSA 119:163 I hate [detest] and despise [abhor] falsehood [lies, evils of all kinds], But I love Thy law.

**PSA 119:164** Seven [many, numerous] times a day [all through the day] I praise Thee, Because of Thy righteous ordinances [rulings, regulations].

1. Praise should be an important part of our daily lives.
2. Praise pleases God, and it strengthens us.
3. We are blessed and strengthen when in gratitude we praise God for His greatness and His blessings.

**PSA 119:165** Those who love Thy law have great peace, And nothing causes them to stumble.

1. The Christian has an inner peace that surpasses understanding. (Phil. 4:6).
2. The one walking in the light and confessing sins stands approved of God. (1 Jn. 1:7, 9).
3. He may fall, but he does not stay down because of love for God and His word.
4. The Christian may have many enemies who hate him and seek to harm him. See Matt. 10:16-21; Jn. 15:18-20.

PSA 119:166 I hope for [eagerly await] Thy salvation, O Lord, And do [seek and obey] Thy commandments.

PSA 119:167 My soul [heart, inner person] keeps Thy testimonies, And I love [cherish] them exceedingly.

**PSA 119:168** I keep Thy precepts and Thy testimonies, For all my ways are before [fully known by] Thee.

1. Nothing is hidden from God. (Prov. 15:3; Heb. 4:12).
2. It is foolish to think we can deceive God. (Gal. 6:7, 8).

#### **Tau or Taw - 22<sup>nd</sup> Letter**

**PSA 119:169** Let my [mournful] cry [entreaty] come before [reach] Thee, O Lord; Give me understanding [wisdom, discernment, comprehension] according to Thy word.

1. He recognizes nothing is more important than understanding and obeying God's word. See Prov. 1:7; 9:10.
2. God's wisdom is essential to salvation.

PSA 119:170 Let my supplication [fervent prayer, entreaty] come before [reach, be heard by] Thee; Deliver me according to Thy word.

**PSA 119:171** Let my lips utter [pour forth songs of] praise [for Your greatness and Your blessings and words], For Thou dost teach me Thy statutes.

1. God is worthy of all our praise because of who He is.
2. He is worthy of all praise because He has revealed His will [all saving truth] to us. (Jn. 16:13; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 2 Pet. 1:3).
3. He is worthy of all praise because of His blessings. (Jas. 1:17). See Psalms 100 & 103.

**PSA 119:172** Let my tongue sing [praise and rejoice over the fulfillment] of Thy word, For all Thy commandments are righteousness [right]. Psa. 119:72.

1. This verse reveals that every one of God's commandments are absolutely right.
2. This verse give us insight into the meaning of Matthew 5:6 and Matthew 3:13-17.

3. "Righteousness" denotes God's word, what is right.

**PSA 119:173** Let Thy [Mighty, Merciful] hand be ready to help me, For I have chosen Thy precepts.

1. He recognizes a dire need for God's help.
2. He desperately needs God's help, and knows he will fail to walk uprightly by seeking to live life alone without God.
3. It is essential that we draw near to God by obeying His words and asking for His help.

**PSA 119:174** I long for [have an intense desire for] Thy salvation, O Lord, And Thy law is my [constant] delight [joy].

1. See Matt. 5:6.
2. Psa. 42:1.

**PSA 119:175** Let my soul [me] live that it may praise [extol, worship, obey] Thee, And let Thine ordinances help me [live for You].

1. "Let me live that I praise Thee" is what he is saying.
2. He did not want to live for selfish reasons, but to praise and honor and obey God.

**PSA 119:176** I have gone astray [strayed, gotten lost] like a lost sheep; seek [come and look for] Thy servant, For I do not forget [turn away from] Thy commandments.

1. "gone astray" is a confession of sin.
2. He had sinned, but he still remembered God's words.
3. Even those seeking to follow God's word sometimes go astray.
4. He pleads for God to seek him when he goes astray.
  - a. God is the Shepherd. (Psa. 23:1).
  - b. The writer sees himself a sheep (a servant) who has gone astray.
5. God does not force us to return to Him, but he attempts to bring us back by:

a. His word	d. His discipline	g. Because our withdrawal from Him creates loneliness and helplessness.
b. His blessings	e. By giving us a conscience and working on it.	h. By the promise of heaven.
c. Through His faithful servants	f. By the example of His children.	i. By His warnings.

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