

PSALM 119 49-64 2023 – Meditations on the Excellencies of the Word of God!

12/2/23 Sat. Morn Prayer - P. Twente, www.ptwente.com 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

PSALM 119: Vs. 49-56: This stanza deals with **the comfort of the word**. It begins by seeking the main consolation, namely, the Lord's fulfilment of His promise, and then it shows how the word sustains us under affliction, and makes us so impervious to ridicule that we are moved by the harsh conduct of the wicked rather to horror of their sin than to any submission to their temptations. We are then shown how the Scripture furnishes songs for pilgrims and memories for night-watchers; and the Psalm concludes by the general statement that the whole of this happiness and comfort arises out of keeping the statutes of the Lord.

Vs. 41-48: In this section the Psalmist seems **to take firm hold upon God Himself**; appropriating Him, crying out for Him, returning to Him, solacing himself in Him, associating with His people and sighing for personal experience of His goodness. Note how the first verse of this octave is linked to the last of the former one, of which indeed it is an expanded repetition. This I had because I kept Thy precepts. **You are my portion, O Lord**. I have said that I would keep Your words.

ZAYIN - Psa 119:49 Remember the word to Your servant, Upon which You have caused me to hope.

- Not only is it our hope, but it is also our comfort. Have you ever found comfort in the word? I do not know how many times. I mean when I have a problem I turn to the word of God and say "Lord minister to me. I need help. I turn to the word of God and before long I come across a scripture that brings me such comfort.
- He asks for no new promise, but to have the old word fulfilled.
- He does not say, "remember my service to You," but "Your word to me." There is a world of meaning in that word "remember," as it is addressed to God; it is used in Scripture in the tenderest sense, and suits the sorrowing and the depressed.
- "Upon which you have caused me to hope. This verse is the prayer of love fearing to be forgotten, of humility conscious of insignificance and anxious not to be overlooked, of penitence trembling lest the evil of its sin should overshadow the promise, of eager desire longing for the blessing, and of holy confidence which feels that all that is wanted is comprehended in the word.

Psa 119:50 This is my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life.

- The man whose hope comes from God feels the life- giving power of the word of the Lord, and he testifies, "this is my comfort."
- Some have comfort and no affliction, others have affliction and no comfort; but the saints have comfort in their affliction.
- Troubles which weigh us down while we are half dead become mere trifles when we are full of life.
- On looking back upon our past life there is one ground of comfort as to our state - the word of God has made us alive, and kept us so. We were dead, but we are dead no longer.

Psa 119:51 The proud have me in great derision, Yet I do not turn aside from Your law.

- Many times, people will make fun of you if they know that you believe the word of God and you are trusting in Jesus Christ. The crowd will have you in derision.
- If David was greatly derided, we may not expect to escape the scorn of the ungodly.
- The godly man, so far from turning aside from the right way, did not even slacken his pace, or in any sense fall off from his holy habits. Many would have declined, many have declined, but David did not do so. Their unhallowed mirth will not harm us if we pay no attention to it, even as the moon suffers nothing from the dogs that bay at her.

Psa 119:52 I remembered Your judgments of old, O LORD, And have comforted myself.

- The one thing about studying the word of God and knowing the word of God is that it does give you comfort. You know that even though things at times look hopeless and bleak God promised His people deliverance and God did deliver His people. If you trust in the Lord the Lord is going to sustain you and the Lord is going to bring you through.
- When we see no present display of the divine power it is wise to fall back upon the records of former ages, since they are just as available as if the transactions were of yesterday, seeing the Lord is always the same.
- If we are advanced in years we have the providences of our early days to review, and these should by no means be forgotten or left out of our thoughts. The argument is good and solid: He who has shown Himself strong on behalf of His believing people is the immutable God, and therefore we may expect deliverance at His hands.

Psa 119:53 Indignation has taken hold of me Because of the wicked, who forsake Your law.

- You read these things that are happening in the world, and you think “No! It cannot be!” Horror just sort of takes hold of you when you read what is going on and you say, “I can’t believe it” the things that the wicked are doing who have forsaken the law of God.
- Those who are the firmest believers in the eternal punishment of the wicked are the most grieved at their doom. Compassion is far better shown in trying to save sinners than in trying to make things pleasant all round. Oh that we were all more distressed as we think of the portion of the ungodly in the lake of fire!

Psa 119:54 Your statutes have been my SONGS In the house of my pilgrimage.

- David knew that he was not at home in this world, but a pilgrim through it, seeking a better country. He did not, however, sigh over this fact, but he sang about it.
- Happy is the heart which finds its joy in the commands of God, and makes obedience its recreation. When we sing in the ways of the Lord it shows that our hearts are in them. Ours are pilgrim Psalms, songs of degrees; but they are such as we may sing throughout eternity; for the statutes of the Lord are the psalmody of heaven itself.
- Since our songs are so very different from those of the proud, we may expect to join a very different choir at the last, and sing in a place far removed from their abode.

Psa 119:55 I remember Your name in the night, O LORD, And I keep Your law.

- In spite of the pressures and in spite of the derision yet I have been faithful and kept the law of God.
- This verse shows not only that the man of God had remembered, but that he still remembered the Lord his God. We are to hallow the name of God, and we cannot do so if it slips from our memory.
- Blessed are the men whose “night-thoughts” are memories of the eternal light; they shall be remembered of their Lord when the night of death comes on.
- “*And I keep Your law.*” He found sanctification through meditation; by the thoughts of the night he ruled the actions of the day. As the actions of the day often create the dreams of the night, so do the thoughts of the night produce the deeds of the day.
- If we do not keep the name of God in our memory we shall not keep the law of God in our conduct. Forgetfulness of minds leads up to forgetfulness of life.

Psa 119:56 This has become mine, Because I kept Your precepts.

- The victory, my ultimate victory because of keeping His precepts.
- He had this comfort, this remembrance of God, this power to sing, this courage to face the enemy, this hope in the promise, because he had earnestly observed the commands of God, and desired to walk in them.
- We are not rewarded for our works, but there is a reward in them. God first works in us good works, and then rewards us for them.

HETH - Psa 119:57 You are my portion, O LORD; I have said that I would keep Your words.

- “My portion, O Lord!” The poet is lost in wonder while he sees that the great and glorious God is all his own! Well might he be so, for there is no possession like Jehovah himself.
- Here he rejoices as one who seizes his share of the spoil; he chooses the Lord to be his part of the treasure. He deliberately turns from all the treasures of the world, and declares that the Lord, even Jehovah, is his portion.
- He preferred the word of God to the wealth of worldlings. It was his firm resolve to keep - that is, treasure up and observe - the words of his God. Jesus said, “If a man love Me, he will keep My words,”
- When the heart is determined to keep these words, and has registered its purpose in the court of heaven, it is prepared for all the temptations and trials that may befall it; for, with God as its heritage, it is always in good case.

Psa 119:58 I entreated Your favor with my whole heart; Be merciful to me according to Your word.

- Begging for God’s favors with your whole heart. Such eager pleadings are sure of success; that which comes from our heart will certainly go to God’s heart. The whole of God’s favors are ready for those who seek them with their whole hearts.
- “Be merciful to me according to Your word.” He most needs it is that of mercy, for he is more a sinner than anything else. He asks nothing beyond the promise, he only begs for such mercy as the word reveals. And what more could he want or wish for?
- See how the Psalmist dwells upon favor and mercy, he never dreams of merit. He does not demand, but entreats; for he feels his own unworthiness.
- Here we have his “Be merciful to me” rising with as much intensity of humble pleading as if he still remained among the most trembling of penitents. The confidence of faith makes us bold in prayer, but it never teaches us to live without prayer, or justifies us in being other than humble beggars at mercy’s gate.

Psa 119:59 I thought about my ways, And turned my feet to Your testimonies.

- I thought about life, and I thought about the way things are going. There are two directions I can take, I can take my own path, or I can turn towards the path of God. Thinking about the ways, the paths, I turned my feet toward the testimonies of God.
- He turned and returned, he sought the testimonies of the Lord, and hastened to enjoy once more the conscious favour of his heavenly friend.
- If we can get our feet right as to holy walking, we shall soon get our hearts right as to happy living. God will turn to His saints when they turn to Him; yea, He has already favored them with the light of His face when they begin to think and turn.

Psa 119:60 I made haste, and did not delay To keep Your commandments.

- I rushed into that path of obedience keeping the commandments.
- Speed in repentance and speed in obedience are two excellent things. We are too often in haste to sin;
- O that we may be in a greater hurry to obey. Delay in sin is increase of sin. To be slow to keep the commands is really to break them.

Psa 119:61 The cords of the wicked have bound me, But I have not forgotten Your law.

- They derided him, and now they have defrauded him. Ungodly men grow worse, and become more and more daring, so that they go from ridicule to robbery.
- “But I have not forgotten Your law.” This was well. Neither his sense of injustice, nor his sorrow at his losses, nor his attempts at defense diverted him from the ways of God.
- The cords of the wicked had not robbed him of his choicest treasure, since they had left him His holiness and His happiness.

Psa 119:62 At midnight I will rise to give thanks to You, Because of Your righteous judgments.

- It is glorious in the night hours when you are awakened and find difficulty in going back to sleep, it is just a great time to spend in fellowship with the Lord!
- He was not afraid of the robbers; he rose, not to watch his house, but to praise his God. He thought not of thieves, but of thanks; not of what they would steal, but of what he would give to his God.
- At the turn of the night he turned to his God. He had thanks to give for mercies which God had given.
- He could not find time enough by day to study the words of divine wisdom, or to bless God for them, and so he gave up his sleep that he might tell out his gratitude for such a law and such a Law-giver.

Psa 119:63 I am a companion of all who fear You, And of those who keep Your precepts.

- The idea is keeping the words of God, keeping the commandments and I will surround myself, which is very wise. I will be a companion to those that keep Your precepts.
- The holy man spent his nights with God and his days with God's people. Those who fear God love those who fear him, and they make small choice in their company so long as the men are truly God-fearing. David was a king, and yet he consorted with “all” who feared the Lord, whether they were obscure or famous, poor or rich.
- Be this our comfort, that when we are let go by death we shall go to our own company, and those who loved the saints on earth shall be numbered with them in heaven.

Psa 119:64 The earth, O LORD, is full of Your mercy; Teach me Your statutes.

- David had been exiled, but he had never been driven beyond the range of mercy. He had wandered in deserts and hidden in caves, and there he had seen and felt the lovingkindness of the Lord.
- How sweet it is to us to know that not only is there mercy all over the world, but there is such an abundance of it that the earth is “full” of it.

THE LORD'S PRAYER- Andrea Bocelli (3:31)

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE OFFICERS/MILITARY; ISRAEL:

PRAY FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD LEADERS: - Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation!

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