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“Psalm 119: God’s Word Magnified”

by

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About the Author



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Married to Maria Celeste Ba-a Lagapa for the past twenty-seven years, God has blessed them with three children: Theya, Thessa and Jose Trinipil II.

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

PSALM 1

COLOSSIANS 3:16

“...teaching and admonishing
one another in psalms...”

THE BOOK OF PSALMS

This inspired and preserved poetry excels far greater than the world's most well-known poems. God arranged it to be sung and to be read also as food for the hungry soul. This set of divine hymns is known as the balm for the soul of every pilgrim in this temporal world as he journeys towards the heavenly kingdom. It speaks not merely of theoretical theology, but also of the spiritual and practical.

In the Hebrew scripture, it is “Tehillim” (praise). It is translated into Greek as “Psalmoi” (songs of praise). These are songs directed to the God of Israel, and are historical and doctrinal. These are also songs of prayers and supplications. The intentions are to express and excite all the other affections as well as the praise and glory of God. It leads the believer to worship his Maker and Redeemer.

No doubt the author of this book is God who, through the Holy Spirit, inspired the words of the psalmists. Whether by David, Moses or Asaph, they “spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Pet 1:21).

It begins (in Psalm 1) by revealing God's way which leads to heaven, and the enemy's way which leads to destruction. It tells man of the foremost issue he has to choose – the way of the godly that leads to life or the way of the ungodly that leads to death. This captures the theme of the whole Book of Psalms, which is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. No man can tread on the path of life without Christ, and all men are on the path to destruction by their nature of sin. Thus, a man needs the mind of Christ with the indwelling of the Spirit of God to understand and benefit from this book, as it is true also with the rest of the Scriptures.

Dear reader, as we meditate upon Psalm 119 (the longest chapter in the Bible), let me first invite you to reconsecrate your life to Christ. If you have not truly received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, you have to do it now. With your life in Christ and consecrated to Him, the following months of devotional studies will be a blessed and wonderful walk with God. May God refresh your souls as you embark on these devotions.

THOUGHT: Am I serving Christ and ready to give my life to Him?

PRAYER: Father, grant me the grace to obey and follow Thee daily.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

PSALM 119:1-2

PSALM 1

“Blessed is the man...”

THE BLESSEDNESS IN GOD’S WORD

Psalm 119 starts with the word *“blessed”* (Ps 119:1). It means happiness – a joy that is deep within every believer’s heart, not dependent on circumstances. It is blessedness that is internal and eternal. What a tremendous commencement, a wonderful promise for suffering servants. Amid oppression and persecution from the world, the child of God has this assurance of a blessed life!

They walk in the LORD’s way – The blessedness is reserved for those who are undefiled in the way. This refers to those who are sound and complete as they journey on this earth. Sound, because they are spiritually healthy and blameless. The world may accuse them of fraud and misconduct, but it cannot prove its case. They walk according to the law of God! They are not sinlessly perfect, yet daily in their lives, they are cleansed and forgiven because they come to God to seek the forgiveness of their sins.

They keep His testimonies – The believers are doubly blessed. They keep the testimonies of the Lord. They carefully guard and watch over them. They make sure their lives do not smear the holy name of God. They protect the witness of God and keep His solemn charges to live according to them.

They seek Him with the whole heart – These blessed saints resort to the only Potentate God. They frequent His throne to ask for favour and guidance, and worship Him with their whole heart, soul and mind.

Many claim to be the children of God, yet few are blessed. Many professing Christians are defiled, walking in the ways of the world. They live not according to God’s Word. They think what matters most is just believing. How they behave, however, is inconsequential to them. They pattern their lives after the fashion and fads of this world. Their happiness is in the carnal and materialistic satisfaction of men. They would rather think of what they can eat or drink, what cars they desire to drive, and how much money they have in their bank accounts.

Does the above describe you, dear reader?

THOUGHT: Am I truly a blessed person?

PRAYER: Father, I seek Thy blessings through Thy precious Word.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

PSALM 119:3

PSALM 101

*“...he that walketh in a perfect way,
he shall serve me.”*

THE BLESSED IN GOD'S WORD

God's Word will keep a believer from sin, but sin will keep the believer from God's Word. The power of the Holy Spirit to counsel and convict a person depends highly on his closeness to the Holy Scripture. Just as the sheep pastures on green grass to be nourished and to grow, so will the children of God who partake of the milk and meat of His Word be spiritually nurtured and mature. No sheep will find good provisions in the deserted and desolate places of this earth. Likewise, no saint will find heavenly blessedness in this dirty and devilish world. In God's Word, the psalmist shows how blessed men live their lives.

They do no iniquity – They hate the sinful lifestyle of the world. They abhor the lustful and immoral ways of unbelievers. They separate themselves from the subtle influence of worldly pleasures and entertainment. They care for their souls not to offend God. They are well aware that there is no blessedness in the vanities of this world.

They walk in His ways – They desire to follow the straight and narrow way that Jesus prescribes for the believers. This is the only path towards life. They pursue the holy conversation and long to fellowship with fellow believers. They find the company of brethren their comfort and joy. They enjoy the testimonies of men whose lives are guided by the Spirit. They want to tread the ways according to the Scripture.

Those who experience the Lord's blessedness from His Word will love to stay in His ways. They dare not risk their lives in paths untrodden by our Lord and Saviour. The followers of the Lord endure to step on hard and stony grounds, persist in travelling the thorny and steep paths, and continue to go through dark and slippery roads which they know their Master had gone through. The way may be hard and rough, but the end is life eternal with God.

Look not for the wide and broad way. Do not go in thereat. Walk in His ways and do no iniquity. That is the path of great blessedness!

THOUGHT: What path am I following right now, towards life or destruction?

PRAYER: Father, let me not wander away from Thee.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4
PSALM 119:4-6
DEUTERONOMY 6:17-25

*“Ye shall diligently keep the
commandments of the LORD
your God...”*

THE DESIRE FOR GOD’S WORD

Who knows what will happen tomorrow? No man knows what will happen even a minute from now. There are so many surprises in life, and so too with sufferings. We know not when these will come. There are times we wake up well and are in good shape but later at noon, pains and aches may come. We may start our day’s journey under a bright morning sun, but by midday, a storm may suddenly come and the heavy rain with boisterous winds dampens all the good plans we may have already. Yet, we have a secure and safe place. Disasters and calamities may unexpectedly come, but God’s Word promises relief and help through our Lord Jesus.

The Lord directs – The Lord has commanded us to keep His precepts diligently. He has warned the believer that at any time of the hour, testing and trials may come. Satan, in his evil schemes, will distract those who follow Christ. The Lord allows these experiences for our spiritual good. He has sounded the horn that all must be ready. His people must be in haste and keep His instructions with care.

The believer desires – Christians wish to be directed always. They pray in the morning as they wake up for they know everything must be committed into God’s hand. The enemy is tough and tricky. O, that believers seek direction from God through His Word! It is dangerous out there with bows and arrows flying in from different directions. There is warfare out in the world.

The Lord delivers – Yet, the assurance of Christians is the deliverance from God. His Word promises this, and He never lies. His Word is true and faithful, and not one who trusts in Him will be put to shame. Those who regard His Word with pleasure and turn to it for their destination will surely arrive there safely. His commandments point to the right turn and never miss any. He is the perfect Deliverer, and His Word proves that.

Dear reader, do you trust in His Word to guide and lead you? Are you willing to be directed by the Spirit of God, to remind you of His Word? Dig into His Word and learn from it. Desire the Word of God!

THOUGHT: Do I desire to learn the Word of God?

PRAYER: Father, grant me hunger and thirst for Thy Word.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5
PSALM 119:7-8
1 CHRONICLES 29:13-17

*“Now therefore,
our God, we thank thee,
and praise thy glorious name.”*

ON LEARNING GOD’S WORD

There are voluntary and involuntary responses in our bodies. When our hand touches the burning flame, it will immediately withdraw itself. A grain of sand about to reach our eyes cannot get in because of the involuntary response of the eyelids to close and protect the eyeballs. Giving thanks, however, is a voluntary response. Effort is required to give thanks and to praise God for the wonderful things that happen in one’s life. How about us who learn of God’s righteous judgments? How do we react when we know of the good favour that He has granted us?

I will praise the Lord: The word “*praise*” (Ps 119:7) describes an act of reverence and worship. This is to acknowledge the psalmist’s thanksgiving for the lessons learned from the Lord’s righteous judgments. His act, however, is not the physical raising of hands or a shout of praise, but simply an upright heart – a heart right with God’s Word as he learns what is just and morally right in the eyes of the holy Judge. No better instrument plays acceptable music before the presence of God than a heart that meets the standard of the greatest choirmaster.

I will keep His statutes: The praise is not just foundational, but functional. The upright heart that satisfies the ears of the Almighty God equally witnesses the upright life of the believer. He sings the right lyrics and applies the lyrics to his life. It is not an empty song of praise. He walks the talk and keeps the Lord’s statutes. God’s decrees and commandments are statutes worth guarding. To protect them is to shield the body and soul from the spiritual infectious agents around. He puts hedges around God’s statutes, for a believer cannot afford to wander away from His presence. The Lord will not forsake any of His children, but he who departs from Him will find desolation and dejection.

O how believers should learn from God’s Word! Dear reader, give back to God the glory when you have learned much from His righteous judgments!

THOUGHT: How am I responding to God’s lessons from His Word?

PRAYER: Father, let me offer the sacrifices of righteousness as I am taught by Thee all the great lessons of life from Thy Word.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

PSALM 119:9

JAMES 1:21-25

“...receive with meekness
the engrafted word...”

CLEANSING BY GOD’S WORD

There are questions in life that are difficult to answer. Man’s mind is limited and finite. No knowledge can fully give the right answer to many tough questions. Although science tries to answer everything, and people can ask for the help of Artificial Intelligence (AI), no answer has ever solved the questions of life and death, except the Word of God.

The “How”: Indeed, how can a young man, full of vigour and vitality, but born with a default system of sin, be forgiven? “...*Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good...Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one*” (Ps 53:1, 3). So how? The psalmist tells us “*by taking heed.*” To take heed is to observe and obey!

The “What”: Believers must take heed of God’s Word. It shows that “*not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost*” (Titus 3:5). The Word of the Lord will be used by the Spirit of God to reveal man’s sinful and savage way of living.

There is only one way for a young man to be cleansed. The psalmist does not give any other option. He declares that the Word of God is the only instrument; no other! He does not imply there is another aside from the Word. He simply points to the Word of God. Nothing else!

Today’s immoral and indifferent lifestyles cannot be corrected by man’s inventions and discoveries. Dear reader, there is only one way of cleansing and one agent of cleansing: “*taking heed thereto according to thy word.*” Do not try other ways. You will surely fail! A time-tested, perfectly designed, and divine quality control has checked it!

THOUGHT: Am I cleansed pure and white by taking heed of God’s Word?

PRAYER: Father, Thou who knowest the impurities of man, cleanse me white as snow, worthy to be with Thee whenever that may be.

LORD'S DAY, JANUARY 7

PSALM 119:10-11

PSALM 19

“...and I shall be innocent from
the great transgression.”

SEEK GOD'S WORD

Treasure hunters risk their lives to trek and find the most elusive and priceless gems or antiques in dangerous places. The death-defying pathways do not deter them from climbing the steep mountains or even diving into the deep. Not only does nature object to their covetous desires, even beasts also bar these men from getting near those secret caves and tombs. The dream of getting that greatest gem blinds their eyes to the jaws of death waiting for them on the trail. But, there is a far greater treasure that man must get, and it is beyond the valuation of man. Not one in this world can afford to purchase it, not even the combined assets of the world's “trillionaires” (if there are such).

Seek the LORD: The psalmist declares that his frequent pursuit in life is the LORD. He diligently treads the path to inquire of Him. He does it not arbitrarily but with his whole heart. He is conscious to look for God. It is a search for the most desired Being in the universe. Seek the LORD! This is the longing of one who aspires not to wander from His Word. He does not want to stray away from the commandments of God. In other words, the believer does not wish to transgress the Word of God. He cannot seek the LORD if he wanders from His ways.

Hide His Word: The compass toward the LORD is His Word. No one can reach Him without the prescribed route. No one can arrive at the place of the LORD if he bypasses the only way. To hide God's Word is to esteem God's Word very highly. The psalmist is well aware that if he loses the direction along the way, he misses finding the greatest treasure. It is the Word of God that points the believer to the only sure way. Jesus says, “*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me*” (John 14:6). No one can arrive in the Kingdom of Heaven without following Jesus.

Dear reader, do not miss the true riches in heaven. Seek the LORD. If you have Jesus, you will be part of Heaven's Book of Life. Make no mistake about it!

THOUGHT: Am I seeking true and everlasting riches?

PRAYER: Father in heaven, show me the path towards Thee and to Thy Kingdom that I may enter in and live there, forever.

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

PSALM 119:12

PSALM 86:8-17

“Teach me thy way, O LORD;

I will walk in thy truth...”

BLESSED IS THE LORD OF THE WORD

To bless the LORD is to adore or worship Him. It has the basic idea of kneeling before God to acknowledge that He is all-supreme, sovereign, and above all the Saviour of His people. But true acknowledgment of who God is must be seen in how the believer desires to be a partaker of the grace of His attributes. One cannot appreciate the sweetness and juiciness of a fruit without tasting and eating it. True gratefulness is felt when it is experienced.

Praise Him: God’s attributes of power and knowledge can be seen in nature. *“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth his handywork”* (Ps 19:1). His majesty is proven by the wonders of the systems of this earth. The ecosystem and the likes are just a few proofs of His great designs fulfilling His purposes. Yet, far greater evidence of His immeasurable character is His written revelation fulfilled to the jot and tittle. No Bible-believing Christian can deny this truth. His amazing providential hand, which drew history’s timeline thousands of years before, cannot be taken lightly.

Partake of Him: Knowing and understanding these things in nature and the Scriptures are of no use if a man does not have any part in them. To know about the Great Provider but not depend on His loving and generous hand for all his needs would be a malady. To know that there is a merciful Saviour who offers forgiveness of sins but not repent and receive Jesus as his Lord and Saviour is a great tragedy.

Dear reader, do you vainly praise the LORD? As you sing hymns of praise and glory, the truth of the lyrics will comfort your heart when you have truly partaken them in your life. As you adore Him in prayer and supplications, the truth of your requests will assure you of His answers, especially when you experience His helping hand in your needs. As you witness for Him in preaching and testifying, the power of such testimonies will be felt by the hearers if you are truly born-again and have the assurance of eternity in heaven. Praise Him and partake of who He is through His Word!

THOUGHT: Am I a partaker of the attributes of the Lord of the Word?

PRAYER: Father, may I see the reality of Thy nature.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

“...and thy word was unto me

PSALM 119:13-14

the joy and rejoicing

JEREMIAH 15:15-21

of mine heart...”

REJOICING IN GOD’S WORD

When a man rejoices over a newborn child in the family, he cannot but utter words of thanksgiving. When a farmer rejoices over a bountiful harvest from his field, he cannot but share the news with others. When a businessman rejoices over a profitable year, he cannot but broadcast it to his colleagues. Silence is not a response of a thankful heart. A burst of words in gratitude of the favour is the natural response.

With my lips: The psalmist declares God’s judgments with his lips. He just praises and partakes of the goodness of God. He cannot but enumerate them before the Lord. His mouth is busy recollecting the favours he has just received from God. His mind is tallying the provisions and his mouth attests to the count. By saying it out loud, the list is inscribed deeply in the tables of his heart. He will never forget them as they are expressed from the lips of a believer who is mindful of the blessings.

As in all riches: The tally keeps on going. He does not have enough sheets to record them. But he has to pen them as they are as important as all riches. Their value is as much as the bars of gold and bags of pearls. This is how the believer values God’s testimonies. They are the source of peace and comfort for troubled minds. No money can purchase them. They are the counsel that leads to right and just dealings. No treasure can replace them. They are the assurance and security of the eternal life ahead of every believer. No riches can equate to them. These are indeed as much as in all riches and even far greater than all the riches this world can ever offer.

Do you know the real value of the ways of God’s Word? You have not if your lips do not count the divine favours God has given you; if you still wonder whether you have received some; if you still envy others because you think they have it but you have not received any; if you still question whether the things you get are enough for the day or the year ahead. Such ignorance is pathetic, and believers should not be like that, but so many in the churches today are unaware of these things.

THOUGHT: Am I expressing God’s favour?

PRAYER: Father, let me count Thy favour one by one.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

PSALM 119:15-16

1 TIMOTHY 4:6-16

*“Meditate upon these things;
give thyself wholly to them...”*

THE BELIEVER AND THE WORD

The Lord is good to provide each kind of animals its system to survive and procreate. There are animals designed to consume grass. They are provided with enough stomach compartments to digest the grass. Some eat meat and so the Creator supplies them with digestive juices in their single stomach to assimilate the foods into the body. There are also those that can survive in both systems and God marvellously created functional stomachs for them to survive.

He will meditate on God's precepts: As God has provided animals their respective system to be able to survive, He wisely provided man with the wisdom to be able to digest His Word. And this is by way of the illumination from the Spirit of God. To meditate is to ponder the words of God. In other words, a believer is given the heart to study God's Word. This is done by regular communion with the Lord through prayer. God equips those whom He had chosen with the hunger and thirst for His Word. He considers God's ways with pleasure, and he obeys the Word.

He will delight in God's statutes: The believer looks upon God's Word as his delight. This means to look upon the Word of the LORD with favour. A Christian will be pleased with the decrees and commandments of his God. He sees all of them as advantageous to him and therefore must be received. If indeed a delight, then the believer will not forget the Word. Whosoever loves the statutes of the Lord will cherish the Word. There will be a constant rehearsal in his mind to recall the Word of God. He will have God's Word in his memory so that it may not go away.

The Holy Spirit who indwells every believer will produce the hunger and thirst for God's Word! He will plant in the believer's heart the desire to meditate on the Scriptures. Just as the sheep grazes on green pastures, the believer ponders on the Word with the ability to understand and live it out practically. Only by the Spirit of God can the believer delight in God's statutes. Having the mind of Christ, the saints are equipped with the ability to take in spiritual things.

THOUGHT: Do I have the hunger and thirst for God's Word?

PRAYER: Father, help me look into Thy Word to obey them as Thou hast commanded me.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

PSALM 119:17

1 THESSALONIANS 2:13-20

*“...which effectually worketh
also in you that believe.”*

GOD’S WORD IS WORTHY

There are many things that people consider worth living for, eg. their children, their career, their companies, etc. All these, though worthy, are temporary and will soon pass away. The psalmist tells us that the most worthy thing we are to live for and to keep in life is the Word of God. So he seeks the LORD to deal bountifully with him so that he might value the Word in the most special way he can. Without God bestowing His blessings upon him, he cannot give due credit to the worthiness of the Word.

To live for: God’s Word is worth living for. It is his spiritual nourishment every day. It strengthens his life to fulfil the tasks that God has assigned him to accomplish so as to glorify Him and enjoy Him forever. When he is sick, the Word is the balm for his aching soul. It soothes the pains of his heart. It heals the wounds and bruises of his daily struggles. The Word preserves the psalmist in times of danger and threat. The attacks of the enemies may cause him to tremble and faint, but the Word revives the child of God who lives for His Word.

To keep in: He does his best to keep the Word in his life. He puts a hedge around it to keep it safe. He guards it to the best of his ability so nobody can steal it from him. It is so valuable to him that he has to protect his understanding of God’s Word from any addition or subtraction. He must keep it as it is provided for him. Any letter taken away from the Word would destroy the promises he has. So he made himself circumspect to watch and make sure not one jot nor tittle from the Word that he has learned will be removed. He keeps it by observing the Word. He regards it as his daily provision, remembering that he always have it.

Dear reader, let your life focus on glorifying the LORD. Do not waste your life living for what is not worthy. You live your life once only, live it to the fullest!

THOUGHT: What is most worth living for for me?

PRAYER: Father, help me to realise that what is worth living for and what is worth keeping is Thy Word.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

PSALM 119:18

ISAIAH 32:1-8

*“And the eyes of them that see
shall not be dim...”*

WONDROUS THINGS OUT OF GOD’S LAW

What do you want to see? Do you want to go as far north as Siberia to see the wintry beauty of the earth? Man’s eyes are not satisfied with wonderful sights. He even wants to discover the moon and the planets to see what are there. He further desires to explore the next galaxy to discover the unique sights there. Never will man’s eyes see enough. It keeps on looking for more and for greater things. But have you ever wondered what is the greatest sight that man has not seen? This is hidden from all except to him whose eyes are opened. Since birth, man cannot appreciate it. Only when he is born-again, can he see it.

Open Thou mine eyes: The psalmist prays to God for his eyes to be opened. As a believer, he can see it. He can appreciate it and can decipher the beauty of it. But, he is not satisfied with just mere seeing, he wants to discover more. He wants to go deeper and witness the promises of the Word. He asks for God to disclose even more of the graces and mercies of Himself hidden in His Word. He is likened to a gold digger who wants to seek more of the precious metal. He craves for more of it because it is priceless. He does not seek for others to see. He wants to see it for himself. He is not selfish but his love for the Word of God causes him to want to be the first consumer, that he may get the best of it.

That I may behold: The prayer is for him to behold, that he may look intently and consider the goodness of it. With pleasure, he wants to inspect it. He knows that there are still glitters of care and kindness in it. His heart goes for the inner beauty of it and he wants to scan it with his own eyes. To him these are wonderful things, these are marvellous to him, and he does not desire that it be hidden from him. He wants to watch and be pleased with the miraculous accounts in God’s Word. He ascribes to the truth of the testimonies of the characters it describes. How they lived and how they survived. How the saints are delivered and how they are to be raptured to be with God for eternity.

Dear reader, realise the bottomless richness of the Word and its wonders.

THOUGHT: What is my attitude toward the Word of God?

PRAYER: O Father, make me see the great wonders of Thy Word and let me see far more so that I may praise Thee more.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

PSALM 119:19-20

HEBREWS 11:13-16

*“...and confessed that they were
strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”*

GOD’S WORD FOR STRANGERS

The word “*stranger*” describes a sojourner. He counts the place he is staying in as a transient abode for he is aware that he is just a pilgrim.

He is a stranger on earth. He may be a citizen of a certain country, but he knows well he is not to live on this planet that long. Sooner or later, as a stranger, he is ready to move on to a place farther from here. He counts not this earth as his final dwelling place, but that he is an alien on this ball of dust and looks forward to being found in that eternal abode prepared for God’s children. He is a Christian, a citizen of heaven!

Hide it not: He cries for the Word not to be concealed from him. He believes he cannot survive living as a stranger on this earth without the Word. What he needs is for the Word to be kept close to him, he cannot afford to be far from the shield and refuge of his soul. The oppression from the people on this earth is hard and cruel; he requires the Word to assure him that this will not last for long. He will soon be transported to another realm, a place where there are no more tears in his eyes. Read Revelation 21:4. The Word is not to be covered. He wants it opened before his eyes.

Longing for it: His soul longs for the Word. The stranger has no other source of sustenance to strengthen him, the Word is the daily bread for his soul. His longing consumes his spirit as he seeks after the manna for his hungry soul. He knows the Word to be his milk and meat that provides his daily energy as he lives his life that is full of adversity. In the face of the dangers of the enemies lurking in secret places to attack him, the poisonous asps and scorpions awaiting anyone who passes by, the fearsome tempests and violent winds that blow against his ways, only the Word can assure him that there is a Promised Land filled with milk and honey awaiting him. He pursues after the Word to remind him that he is a stranger whose destination is the land of Beulah!

Dear reader, do you consider yourself a stranger on this earth? If so then you have no other need but the Word of God.

THOUGHT: Am I a stranger on this earth?

PRAYER: Father, may I keep the Promised Land in sight.

LORD'S DAY, JANUARY 14

PSALM 119:21-22

JAMES 5:19-20

“Brethren, if any of you

do err from the truth,

and one convert him...”

ERR NOT FROM GOD'S WORD

When mistakes are made in cooking, the adding of a few ingredients may suffice to restore the taste. Taking a wrong turn on the road may cause you to spend some extra time before you are back on the right track. However, to stray from (or to disobey) the Word of God by choice will cost you more and may result in irreparable damage. The psalmist understands the tragedy ahead if he errs from the Word. He makes sure that he is not deceived by others and that he is obeying the Word himself.

Rebuke the proud that are cursed: He pleads for arrogant people to be dealt with according to their folly. They deceive others by propagating lies for they are presumptuous. Many will be led astray by their errors. The Lord must chide them or they will continue to lead others to transgress. They will lead people in the way of destruction. That is why they are cursed. They are bound to perish and they are destined to hell and eternal fires. They will do their utmost to mislead people and cast doubts on God's Word.

Remove from me reproach and contempt: As for the psalmist, he seeks to be cleared. He asks God to remove his disgrace and shame from him. These are for the proud and cursed, not for those who keep the Word. Those who guard and protect the Word are not to be put to shame. They are to be crowned and honoured by God. The Lord will see them as good and faithful servants. God will reward them with the crown of life. They shall have the Tree of Life and will enter the gates of the city. They shall live forever and ever in His presence. Read Romans 8:1.

A person regenerated, by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour, will have a new nature. He loves the Word and keeps His commandment. He no longer desires to err from God's Word. He wants to hide it in his heart so that he may not stray away from the Word. Read 1 John 3:24.

Be warned! When one is presumptuous not to believe in the Word, the eternal destiny is condemnation and torment in the Lake of Fire!

THOUGHT: Do I fear to err from the Word of God?

PRAYER: Father, may I not be proud and cursed.

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

PSALM 119:23-24

2 TIMOTHY 3:15-17

*“All scripture is given by
inspiration of God...”*

GOD’S WORD OVER ME

Who is the authority of your life? Many people submit to their bosses because they decide their tenure in the company. They are scared to offend them, so they become “yes-men” to keep their rice bowl (their job). The words of these managers and CEOs are the compasses directing everything people in the lower echelon do. Not one word of these higher officials must be disobeyed. They become little gods to the ordinary people.

My ruler: When the psalmist is confronted with the words of the princes who are against him, he is confident. Not because he has the power to oppose them, but because he meditates on the Word of God. He ponders and communes with the Word and the Author of it. His trust is in the Giver of the Word whose wisdom is beyond measure. Read Romans 11:33-34.

My counsellor: To the psalmist, his counsellor is the Word of God. He takes advice and counsel from it. He does not seek the wisdom of the world. The words of the most renowned come only from his puny little brain. But the counsel from God’s Word is from the Omniscient God who knows and understands everything from the beginning to the end. Read Isaiah 55:8-9. He trusts in the wisdom of God as the best. There is nothing that can prevent his heart from relying on the Word of the Almighty.

Dear reader, who is your authority and guide? Do you entrust your future to men who do not even know their own future? Do you seek to follow the people who do not even know where they are going? Do you listen to the counsel of people who do not understand even their own feelings and emotions? Lean not on the flesh but cling to the wonder-working power of the Word that transforms a spiritually dead person into one who lives not just temporarily but eternally.

Find comfort in the Word of God which is the truth. Do not be like those men who may appear obedient to God’s Word but their deeds are not according to the truth. Let the Word be the sole, supreme and final authority of your faith and practice.

THOUGHT: What is the authority over my life?

PRAYER: Father, may Thou be the final authority of my life, and let me not listen to the lame counsel of this world.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

PSALM 119:25-27

PSALM 143:7-12

*“Quicken me, O LORD,
for thy name’s sake...”*

MADE ALIVE IN GOD’S WORD

The psalmist experiences a terrible situation in his life. He feels he is to die. His soul cleaveth to the dust. It is as if he is lying on the ground and has no strength to get up. He is about to close his eyes and faint, He has no other hope for no man nor any elixir can revive him. He can only utter a few words and he says with his whispering voice, *“quicken thou me according to thy word”* (Ps 119:25). O what powerful words that bring the heavenly almighty power to grant the simple request of the believer. It is *“thou”* alone who can restore him to life. What he pleads for is the revival according to God’s Word. No amount of life lived outside of His Word will please the psalmist. Only the life prescribed by His precious Word will make him glad.

Teach me Thy statutes: He declares of his ways in prayer and the LORD answers him. There is a detailed description of his paths to take and he is assured that God will guide him through all his journeys. He then seeks the LORD’s appointments and directions. He knows well that he is not able to make it if he is to travel alone. He needs the divine compass to show him where he is going. He asks the LORD to teach him. This means that he is not trusting in his own decisions, but he requires the wisdom of God to discern the right ways of God. He relies on the LORD’s predetermined plan for he knows that is perfect. No one can go through life’s journey using his own plan and purposes.

Make me understand the way of Thy precepts: He does not just want to be taught without understanding. He looks well to the precepts of God to be instructed clearly. He is not just seeking academic comprehension but an applied way of using God’s Word for him to successfully secure the better end of his earthly pilgrim journey, for he is not seeking a trophy nor a crown on this side of the world but an eternal place which is promised to him by the Lord.

Dear reader, let the LORD take charge of your life. When you are about to faint, you have to pray just as the psalmist prayed.

THOUGHT: Do I find pleasure in thinking about lustful things in life?

PRAYER: Father, keep me sensitive to Thy Spirit.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

PSALM 119:28-29

ISAIAH 40:27-31

“...to them that have no might
he increaseth strength.”

GOD’S WORD IN HEAVINESS

This is another hardship that the psalmist faces in his life. As many of us may have experienced, a storm comes which causes us to cry, “Enough Lord, enough.” We think we would not survive the ordeal as it continues to go on. We want troubles to end quickly for we know how frail we are. But is this the solution?

The psalmist does not think that way. He may have experienced a very trying situation where his “*soul melteth*” (Ps 119:28). The word describes a dripping or pouring out of the water and emptying the vessel. It is a description of a soul whose sadness results in continuous weeping and his tears are flowing to the point that he feels he will dry up and nothing be left of him. This is not an ordinary grieving. The pain constantly reminds him of the sorrowful state, making him cry all the time. However, the words of the psalmist should remind those who may feel they are at the end of the rope that there is hope in the Lord through His words.

To strengthen: In his distress, the psalmist does not ask to end the pressure. He does not complain nor question why God allows such things to happen. Instead, he asks for strength so that he may be able to go through such hardships. This source of strength is only through the Word of God. He knows that removing the heavy burden does not solve the problem. What he needs is the strength to carry the burden. That, he believes, can be supplied only through His Word.

To sanctify: The psalmist not only pleads for a supply of strength so that he can continue on in the work of the Lord, but he also realises that he needs to live his life pleasing and acceptable to God. This is the psalmist’s conviction from the Spirit. He needs to be preserved from doing evil or be chastised by God which will be far greater and harder than what he is experiencing presently . Such can also be provided by His Word.

Dear reader, plead for strength and for God’s Spirit to sanctify you so that you may not sin against the Lord.

THOUGHT: How did I respond to past trials in my life?

PRAYER: Father, let me always trust Thee for help.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18
PSALM 119:30-32
DEUTERONOMY 11:18-25

*“Therefore shall ye lay up
these my words in your heart
and in your soul...”*

GOD’S WORD OF TRUTH

Today’s culture of no absolutes erases the idea of truth. Everyone is entitled to his own opinion of what truth is. This idea of no truth has pervaded even Christian churches. The Bible is seen only as a guidebook, no longer the Word of God.

I laid before me: The psalmist has chosen the way of truth. He is convinced that the Word of God is perfectly true. So he says that God’s judgments are laid before him. To lay it is not just to display but to avail of it. He considers it suitable for him and benefits from it. He is not tossed to and fro as to where truth is, but is sure God’s judgment is for him and is the way of truth.

I stuck unto it: Because of its suitability, the psalmist sticks to it. With his obedience to God’s Word, he seeks the Lord’s favour not to put him to shame. He has this trust in the Word to lead him away from disappointments. He trusts the Word will not cause him to be confounded.

I will run the way: This truth is the way he will tread. The way of God’s commandments is his speedy trail to follow. No other path is possible, no other way is feasible. He is sure God’s Word leads him to *“the way, the truth, and the life”* (John 14:6). This he does for God enlarges his heart. The idea of making his heart wide and broad is not that he becomes proud and boastful, but that he gets more understanding of God’s dealing with his life. With the words of truth, he is made strong to run God’s way.

Dear reader, do not be fooled by the foolish who say there is no God and therefore there is no truth. You who are renewed in heart and mind know that there is truth. As Jesus prays, *“Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth”* (John 17:17). You must believe in what God says.

THOUGHT: Do I believe that God’s Word is truth?

PRAYER: O Father, Thou art the only living and true God. There is nothing apart from Thee. Let me trust in Thy Truth.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

PSALM 119:33-34

JAMES 2:8-13

*“...ye fulfill the royal law
according to the scripture...”*

KEEPING GOD’S WORD

The Word of God is not just for a man to know, but above all else to keep.

With the obeying, there is believing. By faith we obey. Satan can quote scriptures, but it never changed him. He never repented. It is the Holy Spirit that does the conviction. Read John 16:7-11.

Unto the end: The psalmist appeals to the LORD to “*teach*” him. The Greek word for “*teach*” means to flow as water, or to shoot as an arrow. This teaching, therefore, is not just about the taking in of facts. He desires the Lord to pour upon him His words. He asks to be directed in the way of His statutes. He describes this in a way whereby he is likened to an arrow, shot with a precise target towards the Word of God. When he hits the bullseye, he surely would remain there until the end. He will be found always in the centre of God’s Word.

With my whole heart: The psalmist’s next appeal is for understanding. His longing is not just to be filled with the Word but to have discernment. This kind of discernment is deep because he seeks the ability to distinguish. This is the ability to divide the truth from the false. He must not allow impurities from the world to seep in at the same time. Thus he keeps the law. The keeping is to protect or to guard, just as a watchman keeps the city safe from the enemies. On top of that, he will observe it. The observing has to do with guarding plus attending to it. The basic idea is of a man who makes an hedge of thorns around his vineyard so that foxes cannot come in to spoil the fruits. This observing is a wholehearted act of taking heed unto God’s Word.

Dear reader, do not be deceived by the secular world into thinking that more knowledge is better than obedience. The opposite is true!

THOUGHT: Do I study God’s Word that I may attend unto it to obedience?

PRAYER: Father, forgive me for the times I read Thy Word routinely, out of habit. May I know Thy Word that I may keep and obey it.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20
PSALM 119:35-36
PSALM 112:1-5

*“...Blessed is the man that
feareth the LORD, that delighteth
greatly in his commandments.”*

DELIGHT IN GOD’S WORD

What delights you? Some are delighted with food, some with arts. Others may be with sports. But most are with money. For believers, the Word must be prominent in their hearts. Although this is not true for all Christians, this must be the norm for born-again children of God. Here, the psalmist describes his pleadings to God as if he struggles with worldly attractions and he needs the Lord to intervene.

Make me go: This appeal expresses the psalmist’s desire not to walk in the path of disobedience before God. The Lord must lead him to march on the right road. Though he can discern what is right and wrong, he knows that his decision-making is still marred by sinful thoughts. The Lord must guide him or he will be easily drawn away by the seduction of this world. How often we think we are right, but on going further we realise we have detoured and ended up far from the presence of God. The Lord must cause us to go in the way of His Word, which should be our delight. The temporal pleasures of this world will soon fade, but the Lord’s are eternal.

Incline my heart: This is another appeal to God to make the psalmist’s heart incline towards God’s Word. How sin has infiltrated all areas of man’s life is unimaginable. Even in the church, people think they can serve God despite their wicked ways that go against their brethren. How they must pray the Lord will cause their hearts to be turned unto what is according to His Word. They have to seek the Lord’s help to seize their backsliding hearts to return to the Lord. They need God! The psalmist knows that the world is so attractive to the flesh. He must always pray to the Lord to bind his heart to Him and not to be entangled by the covetous lifestyles of this world.

It is easy to get into the world, yet it is a hard and long journey to be restored to the Lord. We have to ask God to keep us. Read the warning of Jesus in Matthew 13:22.

Dear reader, seek the Lord’s help to lead you to go in His way and to incline your heart to His Word.

THOUGHT: Is my heart inclined to the things of this world?

PRAYER: Father, Thou must lead me and keep me.

LORD'S DAY, JANUARY 21

PSALM 119:37-38

NUMBERS 15:37-41

“...ye seek not after your own heart
and your own eyes...”

GOD'S WORD KEEPS VANITY AWAY

The word “*vanity*” in Psalm 119:37 speaks of destructive evil things aside from their uselessness. It has also the idea of falsehood and lying. This is of course the work of the devil. This causes many believers to become useless in God's work. They may be saved, but their testimonies as doers of truth are ruined and rendered ineffective. The psalmist prays that he be spared from becoming a victim of the devil.

Turn away my eyes: The literal meaning of “*turn away*” is to cause to pass. The eyes are the gateway to the vain attractions of this world. Through this avenue comes the lust of the eyes that will in turn affect the mind and the heart. If he beholds and continues to look at vanity which magnetises the fleshly desires of man, he will not be able to withstand the pressure and thus succumb to the temptations. He prays that his eyes be moved away from gazing at wicked things.

Quicken Thou me: The psalmist is not satisfied with having his eyes spared from the danger, but continues with another imperative to seek God's favour to quicken him. It seeks God's bolder action which is to preserve him. The word “*quicken*” which means “to live” is used in an intensive tense that renders the word to mean to revive him from the dullness of his life, probably influenced by the vain things that trouble him. He needs the Lord's preservation. He does not want to stray away from God.

Stablish Thy Word: The psalmist continues with his appeal, asking God to set up the Word in his life. He prays that the Lord will establish His Word in him so that he be not tempted to behold vanity and be destroyed. This he prays because he is a man who fears the Lord. He understands well the judgment of God upon those who give in to vanity. It has also the strong element of reverence that acknowledges the thrice holy God! The Word built up in him causes him to stand against the wiles of the evil one.

Dear reader, vain things are temporal. Do not deceive yourself!

THOUGHT: Do my eyes still gaze upon the vain things in this world?

PRAYER: Father, turn my eyes upon Jesus and Thy Word. Let me not fall into the trap of Satan through the vanities of life.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22

PSALM 119:39-40

PSALM 57:1-6

“...save me from the reproach of him
that would swallow me up...”

GOD’S WORD KEEPS REPROACHES AWAY

Reproaches should be a familiar thing for Christians. Disgrace and shame are part and parcel of our lives as we follow the Lord Jesus Christ. He suffered reproaches, so must we who follow Him. There are many forms of disgrace and shame that we meet daily, so we must be prepared. The best way to be ready is to seek the Lord’s help which the psalmist did in these two verses.

Turn away my reproaches: The term “*turn away*” (Ps 119:39) is similar to that in Psalm 119:37. The psalmist seeks the Lord’s moving away of his reproaches which he fears. He is simply afraid and scared when the Lord will examine him face to face concerning how he responds to reproaches. He knows he cannot hide his sins from God. Yet he trusts in the judgments of God, that they are good for him. The words of God that will judge him are the very words also that guide him to a way of escape, for it describes of One who is sent by the Father who fulfils the demands of God’s justice.

Quicken me in Thy righteousness: In yesterday’s reading, the imperative is intensively seeking God’s help to preserve him by revival. However, today the psalmist specifically includes the phrase “*in thy righteousness*” which means his revival is of trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ alone. There is only one way to be established and that is through the Word. The righteousness of Christ is all that we need. The psalmist longs for this righteousness. He agrees with what is said about it. He desires the Lord’s righteousness and pursues it in His Word for he finds it there.

The Lord’s reproach upon man is eternal. It is fearful for it speaks of destruction forever. It destroys not only the body, but also the soul. The only means to be delivered from such disgrace is the grace of God by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Have you truly repented of your sins and believed in Jesus as your Lord and Saviour? Read Romans 10:9-11.

Dear reader, believe today. Do not delay.

THOUGHT: Do I have the assurance to enter heaven and not be ashamed?

PRAYER: Father, I thank Thee for Thine only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ whom Thou has sent to deliver me from eternal reproach.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

PSALM 119:41-42

PSALM 3:1-3

*“But thou, O LORD,
art a shield for me; my glory,
and the lifter up of mine head.”*

GOD’S WORD ANSWERS THE REPROACH

As reproach and shame come from men who reject God, believers of the Lord Jesus Christ are not immune from their reproaches. Satan uses these people to jeopardise the witness of Christians. False accusations and gossip are manufactured to defame the saints and to dampen their spirits in the work for the Lord. It is such a pathetic state that even in Christian churches there are members, even leaders, who allow themselves to be used for the cause of the enemy. How the psalmist responds to the reproaches will be helpful for believers today.

Let Thy mercies come: He beseeches God for His mercies to be brought to him. Not just droplets, but showers of His pity upon him. Mercy will not come from the enemies. They rather pursue him until he is cast to the ground. Even when the saint falls because of the distressing attacks, the workers of iniquity will unleash further their evil deeds to get rid of him. Only in the LORD can he get the good and kind favour that he needs. What a merciful LORD is the God of the psalmist, He always hears the cries of His people and does not fail them in their dire situations.

Let Thy salvation come: The believer does not need a second dose of salvation. He seeks deliverance from the LORD. No power can take him out of such a tragic situation. Only the LORD is his shield and his refuge. The only source of deliverance is the sovereign and almighty God whose power is far above the source of strength of the enemies. He trusts in the LORD for He can set him free from oppression.

Seek mercy and salvation from the LORD. His help is enough and though these may be delayed in our calculations, always bear in mind that His timing is perfect. Hateful and angry answers will do nothing to turn the situation around. But the LORD’s pity and deliverance are perfect responses to the schemes of the devil upon God’s children.

Dear reader, do not take revenge. Let God do it for you.

THOUGHT: Do I trust fully in the Word of the Lord?

PRAYER: Father, help me to remember that in times of persecution, I must rather go to Thee for mercy and salvation than do otherwise.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

PSALM 119:43-45

PSALM 19

*“...sweeter also than honey
and the honeycomb.”*

GOD’S WORD IN MY MOUTH

Why is it important for believers to regularly read the Word of God and meditate upon it day and night? The psalmist explains that it is the Word of Truth that is so essential for him. When he forgets the Word and consequently fails to reflect upon it, the truth will not be at the centre of his words and actions. The psalmist lays down for us the effects of losing the Word from his mouth. He considers a scenario where the LORD may snatch it out of his mouth and he may forget the truth. He prays it will not happen because lies are round the corner, ready to distort his words.

I have hoped in Thy judgments: The Word of Truth is his hope. Through it, he awaits God’s good judgments upon him. Lying and deceitful words will accuse him and cause him to lose hope. There is nothing to expect in lies than the condemnation in hell and the eternal lake of fire. Even on earth, falsehood is the cause of troubles and contentions. Without the Word of Truth, there will be constant strife and divisions, but when it is the centre of the heart of everyone, there is charity and unity. The LORD’s judgments are fair and without respect of men. His truth justifies the saints and sanctifies them. The Word of Truth is his anchor, that he may not be taken by the lies of the enemy so that God will not judge him.

I shall keep Thy law continually: How can a man keep God’s law forever? Well, the psalmist has this trust that when he meditates upon the Word of Truth day and night, he shall be likened to a tree planted by the rivers of water. It shall never lack its needs and will flourish to bear fruit in its season. So it is for him whose mouth keeps the Word of God. He shall abide by it for he never more has the desire to transgress against God’s law in the eternal Kingdom in Heaven. He wishes to keep it forever and ever.

The psalmist describes his walk at liberty, a journey full of walls to keep him free from the falsehood of this wicked world.

THOUGHT: Do I love the Word of Truth as I love the God of truth?

PRAYER: Father, help me to trust in Thy Word.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

PSALM 119:46-48

1 JOHN 5:1-5

*“For this is the love of God,
that we keep his commandments...”*

LOVING GOD’S WORD

Jesus said, *“If ye love me, keep my commandments”* (John 14:15). The psalmist gives us some hints of how he keeps the law because he loves it. May this be the kind of love we have for the Word of God, that we may please our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who has done so much for us that we cannot pay back. At least, we can show Him how grateful we are for His perfect work and great sacrifice on the cross of Calvary, and His resurrection from the dead on the third day for our justification.

I will speak of it: To speak is to commune, that is to give a message. It is clear and comprehensible because it has the sense of declaring something. The psalmist will declare God’s testimonies before kings. He will not be ashamed to open his mouth and utter the wonderful words of life. He is to open up and unveil the plan of God throughout the ages. Like Daniel, he sees the ordained will of God of the coming ages and will declare it truthfully. Like Paul, he will plead for them to have faith in God’s chosen Messiah, the only hope of salvation for everyone who believes.

I will delight in it: The psalmist will rejoice over the commandments of God. He will not find it a burden nor a set of morals of do’s and don’ts. He loves the Word of God and is pleased with reading, studying, meditating, and applying it in his life. The Word of God becomes the joy of his life, so he cannot but declare it to others, even to kings.

I will meditate on it: Such joy causes his hands to lift up unto the commandments. It is also an expression of reverence towards the Word. He loves it and his affection is expressed in an outward manifestation of delight. His love is most revealed in his meditation of the Word continually. There is no other way of showing his fondness towards the Word than to ponder upon and partake it as his daily provision.

May you find the Word worthy of meditation day and night so that you may grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour. Let the Word of God be the love of your life even forever.

THOUGHT: How do I express my love for the Lord and His Word?

PRAYER: Father, may my love for Jesus and His Word not just be lip service but be expressed with acts of delight and reverence.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

PSALM 119:49-50

ROMANS 5:1-5

“...we glory in tribulations also:
knowing that tribulation
worketh patience.”

GOD’S WORD OF COMFORT IN AFFLICTION

The LORD is the covenant-keeping God. We can have hope in no one on earth except the LORD whose words are true and amen! Yet, despite this truth, the psalmist asks the LORD to remember His words toward him. Does he doubt that the LORD will forget or may change his mind? On the contrary, he is strengthening his faith and confidence in the LORD. May this be our attitude toward the Word of God and continue to find comfort in the sure promises of our LORD.

Caused me to hope: The imperative mood of the word “*remember*” seeks God’s fulfilment of His promises. The psalmist does not have any fear that His Word may not come to pass. He just desires this Word to be fulfilled if possible at that moment. He is in misery and he needs the words of the LORD to cause him to hope. He knows well that God will never forget His words of comfort, but he seeks that it be given at that time when he is full of misery. He humbles himself to acknowledge that he is not worthy to request it. He is just a bondman and deserves not the divine ears to hearken to his prayers, but His Word is his only hope. The word “*hope*” has the idea of waiting and anticipating.

Quickened me: He acknowledges that the only source of comfort for him is the Word of God which has the power to quicken him. The promises of the LORD are his consolation. What an assurance that this God who hears him always liberally and immediately provides.

Is the LORD the source of the words of comfort in times that you are in distress and about to give up? The Book of everlasting life with the words that can surely comfort and quicken the fainting believer is near you. Hope in Him and wait upon His perfect timing.

THOUGHT: Am I comforted by the Word of God?

PRAYER: Father, let Thy Holy Spirit use Thy Word to console me in times when people around are full of hatred.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

PSALM 119:51-52

JEREMIAH 20:7-13

*“...I am in derision daily,
every one mocketh me.”*

GOD’S WORD WHEN IN DERISION

There are so many presumptuous and arrogant people around. They spew words that cause others to be down and debilitated. They falsely label people to discredit them so that others may get the wrong impression of them. These people are not only in the executive levels of society and multinational companies, they also creep into the church and cause havoc and confusion inside the house of the LORD.

I decline not: The word “*derision*” in Hebrew means scoffing or scorning. It is not just temporary but a continual act. It is not in secret but openly. Moreover, the psalmist describes the derision as great. It is not just a mild and casual mockery but with great pressure that disorientates the believer of his direction in life. It is so discouraging that it may have caused other people to be depressed. However, the psalmist does not, at any time, surrender to the pressures from the proud. He advances to receive God’s law as perfect and powerful. He bends not to the whims and fancies of the people. He does not yield to the pressures of the proud but continues to trust in the Word of God.

I remember: The psalmist remembers the Word of God. It is the Word that he has heard from his parents. He knows that it is the Word of Everlasting Life. In such a pathetic situation where the proud and the powerful are verbally abusing and demeaning in their acts, the only source of comfort for the psalmist is the Word of God. He has no one to turn to, he is likened to being put inside a well, where he cannot but look upwards and cry for the Lord’s help according to His promises.

O how we must draw closer to the Lord in times of derision. Rather than finding ways to fire back hurtful words, let God’s Word be our comfort to remind us that the Lord knows everything. He sees perfectly and He surely cares for His people. If these Words are recalled, there is a sure hedge around us that keeps us safe in His promises.

Dear reader, the people around us may make us feel lousy and useless, but God’s Word is true! What else is truth except that which is in the Bible?

THOUGHT: Am I a source or a victim of derision?

PRAYER: Father, comfort me with Thy Word.

GOD'S WORD FORSAKEN IS HORRIFYING

Horrible news encompass us every day. Many who have gone through those frightening moments in their lives have more trauma than we who just read or watch the news. Their lives will not be the same again. They will be haunted by the thoughts of those terrible situations they were in. Just reading all these harrowing experiences is already terrifying!

The horrified: The psalmist is horrified. Horror is mixed with the emotion of righteous indignation. It is consuming him to see these terrible acts of men. It takes hold of him and he cannot shy away from this feeling. It bothers him and much more it affrights him. The reason is not so much of temporal and physical consequences, but eternal ones. The psalmist foresees the judgment that these people are up against. He knows well what will be the outcome of those acts which will surely earn God's righteous punishment.

The horrifying: The psalmist describes this horror. It is about the wicked who forsakes the law of God. The wicked refers to a person who is bad and is condemned. But what makes him wicked? He forsakes the law of God. The idea of one who forsakes is he who leaves something. This may imply that this particular man who is now known as wicked, once held on to the promise of God. He relinquished his belief in God's Word. He used to hold on to it but after a while, he loses the grasp and fails to hang on there to keep on believing.

Why is it horrifying? Paul had the same thoughts as the psalmist. Read Hebrews 6:4-6.

Dear reader, if you sense that you have forsaken God's Word, please pray for the Holy Spirit to illumine your mind. Let not the Word depart from you. There is nothing more horrifying than to have tasted what should be heaven but finally be cast into the fire for eternity because you have departed from God's Word.

THOUGHT: Have I forsaken God's Word?

PRAYER: Father, try my thoughts and grant me discernment that I will not forsake Thy law.

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

PSALM 119:54

PROVERBS 6:20-22

“... when thou sleepest,
it shall keep thee; and when thou
awakest, it shall talk with thee.”

GOD’S WORD IS MY SONG

To be a stranger in a foreign land is not easy. Whether we like it or not, there is always a sense of discrimination. In the spiritual sense, this is also true. The Lord Jesus has repeatedly warned that we are not of this world, and therefore this world will hate us even as it hated Him before it hated us (John 15:18). So did the Apostle Peter remind every Christian that we are but just pilgrims and strangers in this world. We have to be mindful that this world is not our home.

Of the pilgrim: As a stranger, most of the time, the psalmist dwells amid a people who are not welcoming. He does not engage with their culture and tradition, so he is probably seen as a transient dweller, a passer-by. This brings loneliness to the life of the believer. He feels unaccepted and unwelcomed which adds sadness to the already isolated person. The Lord Jesus felt this too when He was on earth. Read John 1:10-11. God, however, knows the psalmist’s situation, He provides His Word to comfort him. In fact, to the psalmist, God’s Word has been his song.

In the house of pilgrimage: God’s Word is the song of the psalmist in his house of pilgrimage. The lyrics are divine and come directly by the inspiration of God. His songs are “*profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness*” (2 Tim 3:16). Oh, what a song which comes from God and ascends unto God as lovely and glorious music to the ears of the Omniscient God!

What a wonderful consolation for the lonely travellers. These songs lift our spirits to God, to understand His purposes and the promises He has for us. The notes soothe the painful heart, and the words serve as the antidote to the fainting body.

THOUGHT: Am I a singing Christian or a sinning one?

PRAYER: Father, let me hear the notes of the song from above and grant me the heart to sing them for Thee as they comfort me.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30
PSALM 119:55-56
JOHN 14:18-24

*“He that hath my commandments,
and keepeth them,
he it is that loveth me...”*

REMEMBERING GOD’S NAME

The names of God describe who He is. His name defines His nature and attributes. His name JEHOVAH identifies Him as the covenant-keeping, ever-faithful, and unchanging God. Elohim reminds us of His omnipotence as Creator of the Universe and everything that we have today, even you and me. Adonai represents His sovereignty, the One who reigns supreme and the One who is overall in control of all things. There are many other names appended to these names which further reveal to us who God really is to us.

Therefore, remembering God’s name is also remembering His benefits. These benefits are not just material but also a weightier matter of spiritual blessings. This is where the psalmist draws his motivation and delight to keep God’s law and precepts. He discovers more of the intricate and elaborate graces from the LORD, such that every time he remembers Him, all things in his life will point back to only one source, the God whose names tell of who He is.

Keeping His law: The law describes the first five books of Moses. It can be summarised to refer to the Ten Commandments which the whole law hangs on. The psalmist will not allow other concerns to rob him of the constant meditation of the law in his life.

Keeping His precepts: Precepts are mandates of God that can still refer to the law itself. The difference here is the psalmist focuses on protecting and maintaining the law of God in his life not to be corrupted or mixed with other things that might undermine its authority over his life. It has the idea of preservation from impurities and drosses that will dull and render the law ineffective in his life. Again the psalmist is encouraged when he reminisces about the holy and pure attributes of God which he loves and desires to be manifest in him always.

Dear reader, remember God’s names, and who He is in your life. Then you will realise how gracious He is to you indeed.

THOUGHT: Do I realise the great blessings He has already given to me?

PRAYER: Father, help me to keep Thy law in my life so that no one will take it from me or corrupt it to deceive me.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

PSALM 119:57

LAMENTATIONS 3:21-36

*“The LORD is my portion,
saith my soul;
therefore will I hope in him.”*

GOD’S WORD TO THE KEEPERS

God’s Word is worthy to be guarded and protected. Many desire to take it from every believer’s heart. Remember the parable of the sower? If a believer is not determined to be circumspect in watching over the Word, it will be taken away sooner than he ever thinks. Let us learn the convictions of the psalmist to keep God’s Word.

My portion: Inheritance, which the word “*portion*” here represents, is very important in the lives of the people of Israel. When they arrived in the Promised Land, each tribe was given a lot for their inheritance to keep. They should not sell nor give it to another. Having the LORD as a portion is particularly significant to the Levites since they did not have an allotment as a tribe, but the LORD was their inheritance. They relied on God alone for their sustenance.

My promise: The psalmist keeps God’s Word. His words are a promise to the LORD. It is not frivolously uttered; those are words coming sincerely from his heart. He cannot continue living without the Word. He is already quickened by the Spirit, and everyone who is alive spiritually must partake of the spiritual food that he may grow in grace and the knowledge of Christ. His promise is an indication of the essential need for the Word in his life.

Dear reader, what a high and lofty privilege we have to receive an inheritance from God Himself. Jesus, who redeemed us, makes it possible that aside from the assurance of His kingdom in heaven, we have the assurance of heavenly provisions while here on this earthly sojourn. The psalmist promises to keep the Word of God for he knows that the God of the Word is his only and best option in life.

THOUGHT: Am I grateful for what the Lord has given me as my portion?

PRAYER: Father, grant me the zeal to keep Thy Word for indeed Thou art my inheritance, and let me fulfil my promise to keep it.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

PSALM 119:58

PSALM 86:1-7

*“Be merciful unto me, O Lord:
for I cry unto thee daily.”*

MERCY ACCORDING TO GOD’S WORD

The psalmist’s prayer *“be merciful”* is to seek favour from the LORD, and His pity upon him. This is to entreat God to bestow upon the believer the kindness and grace that he needs. The psalmist seeks it for he knows how he always requires blessings from God. There is no blessing when one is not reconciled with the Lord. He will only receive such when God’s mercy is upon him (who deserves only the wrath of God).

With the LORD’s favour: The psalmist seeks the Lord’s favour in grief and pain. He is not asking for any specific material provision, but he is praying for God to bless him by His very presence. *“Favour”* comes from the Hebrew word for *“face.”* It is as if he is seeking an audience with God. To receive blessings from the Lord is nothing compared to God’s approval of him and acceptance of his person. The psalmist delights to commune with God. He wants to pay tribute to God, and God’s presence is more than all the world can give.

With my whole heart: It is a sincere pursuit to come before God’s presence. It is not half-hearted, but a wholehearted passion. The psalmist knows that the Lord is omniscient. Nothing can be hidden from Him, for the Lord sees the deepest recesses of man’s heart. He understands whether the psalmist means it or not. A whole heart’s entreaty describes a devoted and decisive act of pleading for God’s favour and mercy. He knows that falling short of such will amount to nothing before God’s ears.

We live in an age where there is no conviction of sins in the hearts of professing believers. The psalmist understands that God will not hear, neither will He commune with those who live licentiously in sin. He seeks with determination the Lord’s face to accept him and answer his prayers. This desire to live holy and pure before God is taken by others to be legalistic when this is precisely what the Lord requires.

Dear reader, do not imagine yourself accepted by God when you sin. You must seek His face, and His forgiveness.

THOUGHT: Do I admit that I am guilty of transgressing the laws of God?

PRAYER: Father, I confess my sinfulness, and my guilt.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

PSALM 119:59-60

ECCLESIASTES 9:4-10

*“Whatsoever thy hand findeth
to do, do it with thy might...”*

HUMAN RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD GOD’S WORD

Salvation is of the Lord. When a person becomes a new creature in Christ, he may not be perfect but he has the indwelling Holy Spirit who bears fruit in his new life in Christ. His attitude towards the Word also changes from a rebellious person into a lover of His Word to keep it and preach it.

Turned my feet: Psalm 119:59 describes a born-again, believing heart in the psalmist where he is now able to think on his ways. He has the mind of Christ which can conceive and consider spiritual matters. He can decide to follow the examples of the characters of God-guided men and walk in their ways.

Delayed not: He is no more slothful over these concerns. With eager excitement and joy, he sees that the path of God is blessed, and a blessing for others. He does not hesitate nor question the will of God. He is sure that the ways of the Lord will lead him toward life eternal. He delays no longer in obeying God’s commandments for these are God’s prescribed ways of living for a child of God.

Our human responsibilities as believers start when we are given the abilities. When we are quickened, we have now a new life to work out our salvation (Phil 2:12). That is not to help us in salvation, but to guide us in life after the Lord has saved us. The Lord provides for us in this prescribed way; the strait and narrow way which leads to eternal life.

Dear reader, how much should you be thankful for your salvation which is all of God, and nothing of you? Nevertheless, when you have the assurance of salvation in Christ, you are instructed to live a life turning towards Him without delay and hesitation. A truly born-again believer is most responsible to obey God and keep His Word, in contrast to those who just profess but never experience regeneration in their life by grace through faith in Christ.

THOUGHT: Do I work out my salvation with fear and trembling?

PRAYER: Father, turn my life towards Thy Word and move me to do it with haste as I should.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

PSALM 119:61-62

HOSEA 4:6-11

*“My people are destroyed
for lack of knowledge...”*

GOD’S WORD WHEN ROBBED

While the word “*robbed*” may mean to be caught hold of by the wicked, the idea still describes Satan’s attack against the psalmist either to spoil him or trap him. The devil uses ungodly and active workers of iniquity to perform this. They lay cords to entangle the saint. Companies of evil workers take his possessions. In either case, the enemy wants to destabilise or destroy the child of God.

Will not forget Thy law: The psalmist says that even if he is robbed or caught hold of by the enemy, he has not forgotten God’s law. When the believer recollects in his mind the law, he is reminded of God’s righteous judgment. Judgment will come and when the Lord judges, He is no respecter of persons.

Will rise to give thanks: Instead of complaining and murmuring, the psalmist rises to give thanks. The righteous judgment of God is to be applied and nothing shall be changed. God will implement His laws accordingly and those who remain outside of God’s kingdom, without repentance and faith in Christ, will surely perish for eternity in the Lake of Fire. The psalmist, of course, does not give thanks for this terrible punishment but expresses his deep gratitude that God favours him with His gracious salvation. His sleep does not prevent him from giving thanks to God for the great work of the Lord Jesus Christ done on the cross of Calvary.

Dear reader, you may have had a bad experience when you were robbed, or sadness when wicked people trapped you. Yet think of the judgment that these people will face. They will receive an equitable, just consequence for their evil deeds. You will realise that the situation you are in now as a victim is nothing compared to what they will have in the eternal condemnation because of their sin. Do not be carried away with the evil schemes that they did. Instead, remember God’s law and give thanks to Him. Let not your condition cause you to sin, or God will also chastise you.

THOUGHT: Do I hate because of the people who caused me to suffer?

PRAYER: Father, may I see Thy goodness and have an understanding of Thy judgment that I may not do wicked things in return.

LORD'S DAY, FEBRUARY 4
PSALM 119:63-64
MALACHI 3:16-18

*"...they that feared the LORD
spake often one to another:
and the LORD hearkened..."*

STUDENTS OF GOD'S WORD

Children of God are hated by the world, and the tendency is growing these days. Colleagues in the workplace may exclude you from their parties and outings. Your classmates in school plan their gimmicks behind your back. Even your close relatives may avoid choosing you to be the hosts of family gatherings. These instances may cause us to be isolated and left alone. To whom should we go? Who will be our friends? Let us learn from the psalmist those whom we should be in company with.

Them that fear God: As students of God's Word, they are mindful to choose companions who truly fear God. To fear God is not just having a reverential and worshipful attitude towards Him, but there must also be trembling and fear because of His righteous judgment. They are those who know the Word and keep it with sincerity and integrity. They are the companions of the Bible-believing child of God. Their fear is sown with the grace and mercy they have received from God.

Those that keep God's precepts: Having the fear of God, they observe the Word of God. They keep it so that the world will not take it from them. They guard the Word so that it will always be available to them. Once there is disobedience and unbelief, the Word of God is no more a precept to many, and slowly, they keep it no more. Those who keep God's Word are worthy to be called companions of the students of God's Word.

How hard it is to live in a hostile world. Yet the Lord is pleased to preserve a remnant who will continue to serve Him and glorify Him. We have to be sure that we are standing with those who truly have their doctrines squarely fitted to the Bible's teaching. These must include the people who hunger and thirst for God's Word. They are willing students of the Word and desire to manifest in their lives a testimony of God's unfailing love, both for the psalmist and all those who are His.

Dear reader, always keep yourself on the side of the Lord.

THOUGHT: Do I belong to a companion of Bible believers?

PRAYER: Father, give me discernment to know Thy people that I may identify with them.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5
PSALM 119:65-66
PROVERBS 2:1-9

“...*thou incline thine ear unto
wisdom, and apply
thine heart to understanding.*”

GOD’S WORD BELIEVED

When a dish is excellent, many would love to taste it. What reactions should we see from those who truly believe God’s Word? The psalmist displays this in two ways: he appreciates it and he wants more of it.

Thou has dealt well: The psalmist admires the appointments God has for him. He appreciates everything that God bestows on him. He is thankful for the Lord’s provision and care for him. All these dealings are according to the Word of God. He associates all these procurements with the promises of God in His Word. He considers it the best because it is the performance of what is laid out in His plan as it is written. There is nothing better than what has been drawn in the blueprint of God’s redemptive plan. The precise measures are so good for him and he says, “*Thou has dealt well with thy servant...*” (Ps 119:65).

Teach me well: Having tasted every good thing from the Lord, the psalmist seeks to learn more of God’s good judgment and knowledge. The word “*judgment*” is also translated in other parts of the Old Testament as “*taste*.” This refers to intelligence that will appreciate God’s goodness based on His Word, that he may have the appetite to partake of the Word, and a discretion to receive and apply it in his life. Then, he couples it with his longing to be taught of God’s knowledge to perceive what is holy and righteous. He wants to learn the ways of God as instructed in His Word.

The psalmist appreciates God’s dealing with Him for he believes the Spirit of God will use the commandments to guide him through. No other direction can navigate him toward achieving God’s commission. He is thrilled to follow it for it is the will of God for him. What advantage can a child of God receive from God’s Word? It is a walk safe and secure. A journey that will never lose its way for the end is already determined.

Dear reader, what else do you crave from the Lord when He has dealt well with thee? As you have believed in His Word, seek to be taught good taste and perception that your hunger for the Word will never be satiated.

THOUGHT: What do I mean when I say I believe God’s commandments?
PRAYER: Father, create in me the longing to be taught by Thy Spirit that I may learn good judgment and knowledge.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

PSALM 119:67-68

JAMES 4:7-10

*“Be afflicted, and mourn,
and weep: let your laughter
be turned to mourning...”*

AFFLICTIONS AND GOD’S WORD

The word “*afflicted*” describes someone who is bowed down because of some frustrating events in life. However, to the psalmist, this does not deter him from having a right view of who God is. On the contrary, the Lord reveals that it is essential for him to realise God’s perfect arrangements for him to draw closer to the Lord.

Before affliction: He goes astray. This means he commits sin and error inadvertently. He is not aware he is straying from the Word. He ignorantly pursues what is contrary to the will of God. Yes, there are times, the believer becomes gullible and naïve to embrace even the erroneous teachings introduced. Then, the Lord intervenes for the good of the believer and the glory of His name.

After affliction: He keeps God’s Word. When he is brought down in the damps, there is a moment of silence, to pause for meditation and to commune with God reflecting upon His good dealings. The psalmist’s affliction brings him to silence, the fast pace suddenly stops and rests. He has to stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. He cannot dictate, he has to listen and let things go on in God’s way. Then, he notices that what he has been doing goes against the plan of God. The Lord is good, the afflictions make him pause and examine his life that he may make a detour to the right way.

Thank God it does not take too long. He appreciates God’s timing. He complains not of his afflictions. It is very good for the psalmist that his life is directed back into faithfulness and blessedness that exalt the Lord for His glory and honour. Great and wonderful is the Lord our God who allows us not to wander from His commandments. He knows our frailties and He kindly assists us so that we may glorify Him and His Word. Such is God’s love and care for His children; He never leaves them nor forsake them.

THOUGHT: Am I thankful for my afflictions?

PRAYER: Father, help me to see Thy goodness in times when I am cast down, and let me submit unto Thy Word.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7
PSALM 119:69-70
PSALM 35:11-16

*“False witnesses did rise up;
they laid to my charge things
that I knew not.”*

PRIDE AGAINST GOD’S WORD

The proud or presumptuous are mentioned six times in Psalm 119. In Psalm 119:69, they are against the psalmist. God permits them to unleash their devilish acts for the good of God’s people. They do not deserve any form of gratitude although their acts are used by God to strengthen His children. The Lord shall also punish them accordingly as their evil deeds are done against His people.

They have forged a lie: They trump up some false claims and accusations against the psalmist. They make up and manufacture lies and deceits to discredit the believer. Every believer must realise this fact or else he will always be caught unawares by their grievous words.

Their heart is as fat as grease: The word “*fat*” means stupid and the word “*grease*” means the richest part. This describes our hearts that are “stupidly rich.” This, of course, unveils the hearts of the proud people. Their hearts are gross like fat. They are therefore untameable and hard to control. They pursue their evil ways of forging lies and they cannot be slowed down. They are determined to go their devious ways against the psalmist.

But what does the psalmist do? Will he fight them with falsehoods or stop them with violent moves? No, the believer will rather watch over God’s Word that it be not falsified by the proud. With all sincerity, he protects God’s Word from any intruder who defiles it. His motivation is his delight in God’s Word. He receives so much encouragement from the Word. He is pleased with it. In fact, without it, he cannot have believed in the coming Messiah. His knowledge of the Word bestows on him the guarantee of eternal life with God in His kingdom in heaven.

Dear reader, let the Word be the joy of your life, and look only at the heavenly treasure as promised in His Word.

THOUGHT: Do I delight in the Word of God?

PRAYER: Father, grant me the joy of keeping Thy Word.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

PSALM 119:71-72

HEBREWS 12:10-11

*“...but he for our profit,
that we might be
partakers of his holiness.”*

THE GOODNESS OF AFFLICTION AND GOD’S WORD

We have learned what it means to be afflicted. To be seen as successful and to surpass others is what the world aims for. To be brought down to the dust and considered useless and unable can be likened to the end-time apocalypse. It is as if everything is bleak, dark, and hopeless. But why is it good for the believer? Listen to the psalmist!

I learn Thy Word: It is good for him to have been afflicted. He is pleased and finds the affliction favourable to him. Of course, the ordeal of the affliction is not easy or pleasurable. But after he has gone through the ordeal, he sees the completed jigsaw puzzle of that affliction, put up to show why it is the best for him. It is because throughout that nightmare, he learns God’s Word. This is the greatest thing that has happened to him. To understand the Word and to be secured of life eternal with God.

I treasure Thy Word: His reaction to the joy of learning God’s Word is incomparable. He portrays the law of God as better than thousands of gold and silver. The psalmist exclaims that even if he has all those, the thrill of learning God’s Word is the superlative! It is as if the psalmist is saying, give me the Word of God instead of those thousands of gold and silver.

It is as if the psalmist finds in the mud and dirt of afflictions precious gems of priceless value. His days of mockery and scoffing are ended and the reward of not departing from the LORD is exceedingly great! The feeling of being cast down into the dust is replaced with happiness about the outcomes which exceeds his expectations.

How sweet to know what our God has in store for us after the gruelling infirmities in life. This should move us to rejoice in the Lord’s promises amid afflictions. We should look forward to what the Lord has prepared for us even under great duress and exhaustion. The psalmist’s experiences should remind us to learn more of His Word and to value it far greater than any material treasure in the world.

THOUGHT: Is my faith dead or alive?

PRAYER: Father, I thank Thee for Thy Word that guides me in doing the work that Thou hast assigned me to do.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

PSALM 119:73

PSALM 111:6-10

*“...a good understanding have all
they that do his commandments...”*

UNDERSTANDING TO LEARN GOD’S WORD

Makers of phones, cars, and airplanes have their engineers or experts to come up with unique designs. Each maker has its distinct programmes and patterns, and its staff have the expertise to repair and refurbish. Others may attempt to copy the designs, but they will not be as perfect and proper as the designer’s. This is not only true for gadgets and machines. The only One who knows man’s physical makeup, as well as his spiritual makeup, is the Creator alone. The Creator can fix and furnish, He can manage and maintain, upgrade and upscale, all according to His pleasure.

From the One who makes: The psalmist desires to have the mental ability to learn God’s commandments. The Lord alone, who formed him according to His image, is perfectly able to grant him more understanding. Not one can add a cubit to his stature. The sophisticated sequence of DNA in a body that intricately encodes every cell of man’s body is wonderfully God-arranged. Not a single-amino acid is accidentally bonded there without the permission of the perfect God who is the Author of life. What a tremendous creature man is! He is wholly made by the heavenly hands of the perfect and wise God!

From the One who fashioned: The psalmist also pleads for understanding before the God who fashions the man. The Lord who creates also knows where to attach and to add on the essential matters required of man. The man of God does not have to follow the fashion and fads of this world. Our hidden worth is the fashion acceptable by the Lord. All the rest of the add-ons are nothing compared to what the Lord can fashion us both internally and outwardly. Both, however, require the man to humbly acknowledge that he needs God’s hands to keep him and encourage him to bear fruits.

We must praise and thank the Lord for how wonderfully He has created and designed. When we behold His glorious creation, no one can ever dare question the astonishing arrangements which no human mind can ever imagine.

THOUGHT: Do I see myself as God’s creation?

PRAYER: Father, help me to recognise Thee as my Maker and Designer so that whatever problems I have will redound to Thy glory and honour.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

PSALM 119:74-75

DEUTERONOMY 32:1-6

*“...all his ways are judgment:
a God of truth and without
iniquity, just and right is he.”*

THE WORD OF GOD IS RIGHT

The LORD God of the Bible is righteous. Hence, everything He does is right. Every word He inspires to be written is right. Every event that happens in our lives is always right. Whatever is done according to His Word is always right. The psalmist recognises this and every born-again believer must realise this. If indeed God is right, then whatever goes against His ways must be wrong. Our God is right and true, always.

I have hoped in Thy Word: The psalmist has patiently waited for the Word of God. He sees nothing to help him except what God has promised, which is always right. This is illustrated by how others who have hope in God are glad to see him. They rejoice with him because they are one in their trust in God's Word. They are discerning and do only what God says. They fear the Lord's wrath which He will have towards the children of disobedience.

I know Thy Word: He has hope in God's Word because he knows it well. He perceives it as always right. Knowledge of the perfection of God's Word must lead the believer to keep on trusting it. God's judicial pronouncements are just so that he is thankful for all situations in life. He is aware that although it may appear as afflictions or depressions in life, all things will work together for what is right in the eyes of the Lord. Since what is right in God is best, why should he desire other things? His afflictions are faithfulness, for He is a friend who inflicts only with tender loving compassion.

We cannot doubt our righteous Lord. His ways are trustworthy and everyone who believes in Him must look up to Him in hope and faith that when He does things, it will always be right. What less burden we have if we have hope in Him whom we know well as our God, who always does that which is right. He cannot make mistakes.

Dear reader, wait upon the Lord who does things perfectly. Let us trust in the Lord with all our hearts, always knowing that He does only what is right.

THOUGHT: Do I patiently wait upon the Lord?

PRAYER: Father, let me hope in Thee.

MERCY IN GOD'S WORD

Mercy is always associated with the idea that man deserves God's just punishment because of his sins, yet God withholds such wrath and instead sent His only begotten Son of God to live and die for us, to rise again, and who promised to return for us. While this is apparent in the use of the word “*mercy*,” the psalmist wants to indicate the Lord's compassion and kindness expressed towards him. These are not material or emotional expressions but practical and experiential expressions.

Thy merciful kindness be for my comfort: The Lord's good deed towards the psalmist is His comfort. There are consolations upon the psalmist's heart as he prays for the Lord's merciful kindness to be applied to his life. He is well aware he is just a servant. But before the throne of the most High God whose words are full of mercy, he is reassured. He comes before the throne with nothing to convince the Lord to earn his favour. Yet, our God is mercifully kind to all, especially to all whom He has redeemed as His own.

Thy tender mercies come unto me: The psalmist continues to pray for God's tender mercies to come unto him that he may live. This is the Lord's compassion towards him, an act of God typified by a mother's womb nourishing a foetus. This baby cannot do anything for himself. He is not even aware of where he is and what is happening to him. He just keeps on receiving all the nutrients from the mother, by whom he is sustained. He enjoys the best protection and provision inside the mother's womb. This is the wonderful picture of the psalmist's desire for the Lord's tender mercies that he may live. Such is his delight in God's compassion.

Is God's Word a comfort to us? What a rejoicing it will be for a soul who is kept in the Lord Himself. From the lowest echelon of society as a bondservant to the highest position in this present hierarchy, comfort from the Lord is most coveted.

Dear reader, have you found comfort in God's Word? Is your daily spiritual need fully supplied by it?

THOUGHT: Am I comforted by the Word of God?

PRAYER: Father, may I be comforted by Thy Word.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

PSALM 119:78-80

PSALM 35:17-28

*“Let them be ashamed and
brought to confusion together
that rejoice at mine hurt...”*

GOD’S WORD WHEN DEALT PERVERSELY

Proud and arrogant people deal perversely with the saints. Their perverseness lies in how they wrest words and facts to defame the child of God. They falsify and subvert the truth, turning the lives of Christians upside down. They cause many believers to stumble. Their false accusations cause the witness of the saints to be rejected.

Let the proud be ashamed: In this situation, it is tempting to retaliate. Yet, the psalmist did not ask for opportunities to get even. He lifts it to the Lord. He prays that they be put to shame for their temperament. They are against the man of God without any cause. Their evil works block the Gospel work. They must be stopped and so he prays. He ponders on the Word and meditates upon it.

Let the godly turn unto me: Those who reverentially serve the Lord desire to join him. Their lives are good examples of how to follow God. The psalmist longs to cooperate with them. They can encourage one another to further advance the Kingdom of God. The godly is not proud to promote himself but the name of Christ, his master, and his leader.

Let my heart be sound: The psalmist begs God to grant him a sound heart. This refers to a morally perfect heart without blemish and defilement. He wants to be pure in life. He wants his heart to be sound in God’s statutes. He knows that once he sins and transgresses against God, he is also guilty before Him and deserves the shame of the proud. He desires only for his heart to be right with the Lord.

Dear reader, let not a proud heart dwell in you. Instead, cultivate a reverential heart for the Lord. Let the Lord do His justice and accomplish His righteous ways. They who pervert the Word will have to be judged. God will not hold them guiltless who cause others to doubt and even leave their faith. On the side of the saints, they must keep themselves uncontaminated from the poisons and corruptions of this world. Let us remain faithful unto our God.

THOUGHT: Am I dealing perversely with God’s Word and His people?

PRAYER: Father, let my heart be free from any ill will or hatred against the proud but commit them unto Thee for fair judgment.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

PSALM 119:81-82

PSALM 39:7-13

*“And now, Lord, what wait I for?
my hope is in thee.”*

COMFORTING HOPE IN GOD’S WORD

There are many times in the life of the believer that the enemy seems to triumph. These tough times may cause God’s army to retreat and retire. In such a dire situation, the captain of the host must speak to lift the morale of his people or to order them to return to their camps. There must be words from the higher ups or the army will faint and fail their mission.

For my soul faints: The psalmist feels such draining and debilitating pressure from the enemy. He needs to be rescued. His strength melts like wax and he cannot even move his feet to hide himself. His mind is almost turned off due to the fatigue and famine he is going through after days of fighting. He is about to collapse and cannot hang on to stay alive. He needs assurance from his captain. That is his only hope. He wants to hear at least once again that it is all over and the victory is already secured. He inclines his ears to hear such a whisper. He may faint and die but for the comforting hope of God’s Word, the word of everlasting life.

For mine eyes fail: The psalmist describes an almost dying moment of his life. His eyes fail to see the comforting hope of God’s Word. He loses sight of any light at the end of the dark tunnel. He is about to close his eyes and leave his agonies. Yet, in this last moment of his breath, the saint is still expecting favour and consolation from God’s Word. He awaits the comfort from the Lord’s mouth which shall grant him peace, even gladness in his heart that though there are earthly defeats, at the end of the day, there is victory in Christ Jesus our Lord!

How daunting and distressing is the battle that every Christian has to fight? It is beyond measure for the forces of evil and the fierce enemies are relentlessly stretching their bows to shoot their arrows. Their endless advances will surely weary the frail soldiers. Soon, some will faint and others fail. Yet, the psalmist proves to us that the battle is of the Lord and the strength is from God. The victory is secured already.

THOUGHT: Do I trust the victorious revelation of God in the end?

PRAYER: Father, may I not faint or fail Thee.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

PSALM 119:83-84

MATTHEW 5:10-12

*“Blessed are they which are
persecuted for
righteousness’ sake...”*

GOD’S WORD TO THE PERSECUTED

Being persecuted is not a light matter. The heartless pounding and deafening screams of the hunter will confuse and confound the victim. Sooner or later, he will be cornered, and shredded to pieces. Such a feeling is demoralising and may cause the victim to be mentally deranged due to the pressure from the persecutor.

I have become like a bottle in the smoke: The psalmist describes this condition vividly in Psalm 119:83. He is like a bottle in the smoke. In the Old Testament, bottles were not made of glass or plastic, but of animal skins. You can imagine skin being placed over a smoking furnace. This is the kind of torture he gets from the persecutor. Soon, the skin will be hardened. It will easily break and will never be restored to be a bottle again. It is irreparable. Only the power of God’s Word through the Holy Spirit can restore and revive the persecuted.

Yet I do not forget Thy statutes: The only way by which the persecuted can continue to endure is the everlasting power of God through His Word. His only trust is in the unchanging words of God that will guide him in his pilgrim journey amid persecutors. He wants to be attentive always to the Word, for it is his only hope of reviving from the miry clay of discouragements and humiliation. He has the statutes of God in the Scriptures, and they must not be lost from his heart and mind.

The psalmist asks God a question, pleading for His immediate action. How many are the days of Thy servant? It is like a vapour, it will soon pass away. Then, he follows on to inquire as to when God will execute His righteous judgment. This of course is not for man to know. God has His perfect timing. From this, however, we can feel the strength of the psalmist (who is pounded daily by the enemy’s persistent attacks) draining.

Dear reader, be like the psalmist who, when he is left brittle and breaking, does not in any way forget God’s promises to him. Surely, the God of the Bible is the righteous judge.

THOUGHT: Must God’s justice on the persecutor be executed on earth?

PRAYER: Father, may Thy Word dwell in me richly that I may not forget the sure promise of deliverance Thou hast for Thy children.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15
PSALM 119:85-88
MATTHEW 10:16-26

*“Fear them not therefore:
for there is nothing covered,
that shall not be revealed...”*

GOD’S WORD FOR THE PERSECUTORS

Why are there persecutors? Well, the original instigator is Satan. He persecutes the people of God. He hates the work of evangelism for this brings people to Christ. Every ministry which is of God will surely bear the brunt of the devil. He cannot stay put to allow the children of God to be the light and salt of this earth. This enemy will always put up a fight to go against Christians, resulting in opposition and persecution.

You dig pits: These persecutors dig pits for the active believers. They are referred to as proud because they are presumptuous. Their desire is for the witnessing Christian to shut his mouth, and the best way is to stop him from speaking. What better way is there than to kill and destroy the children of God? They are lawless and have no desire to keep God’s law.

You persecute wrongfully: In contrast to God’s faithfulness through His commandments, the wicked men pursue after the psalmist on a wrong-footing. Without a cause and with their false accusations, they oppress the child of God. In vain do they defame the Christians and with feigned purposes, they destroy the testimony of the believers. These untruths floating around will prevent the people from attending godly fellowships, and from growing spiritually.

You almost consume: To “*consume*” carries the idea that the wicked will get rid of the saint. They strive hard to stop and cease whatever is godly and what is of God.

Dear reader, persecutors are emissaries of the devil. Above all, they pursue the souls of men. Yet, with all their power unleashed, the Scriptures tell us they “*had almost consumed*” (Ps 119:87) only. That is the best they can do, just “*almost*”! They are the ones who will be completely and eternally destroyed, the originator and his minions. These followers have not tasted the goodness of God in their lives. They are short of God’s wisdom to defeat God’s purposes. The best they can achieve is “*almost*.”

THOUGHT: Do I know the end of the persecutors?

PRAYER: Father, grant me discernment not to take sides with the enemy.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16
PSALM 119:89-91
MATTHEW 5:17-20

*“Till heaven and earth pass, one jot
or one tittle shall in no wise pass
from the law, till all be fulfilled.”*

GOD’S WORD IS FOREVER

The attack against the Word of God is worse today than ever before. Satan is using people not only outside the church but even insiders to destroy the authority of God’s Word. The faith of many believers is at stake as the rule of their faith and practice is put in a bad light. Slowly, but surely, there are Christians who turn away from the faith because of the false belief that God’s Word has mistakes and is therefore untrustworthy.

Settled in heaven: To be settled can be likened to a pillar erected upon a boulder of rock, established and fixed. The psalmist says this of God’s Word as not standing on this temporal planet earth but in heaven. The Word of the LORD is forever fixed even from before the beginning till after the end of this world. It is eternal. This is the psalmist’s trust in the Word of his God, which can never change even from everlasting to everlasting.

Unto all generations: Since heaven is eternal, so also the Word settled on it will remain forever. The faithful promises of God in His Word will continue without end. All generations have heard and will hear it because it will abide forever and ever. Even so, here on earth, the Word is also fixed and preserved, with no errors and no mistakes. What was given to Moses, the prophets and the apostles is to the jot and tittle available today as true copies without additions nor deletions.

They continue to this day: That is the psalmist’s reason for saying it continues until now. As it will endure for eternity, it will also remain unchanged while here in this brief time on earth. For what is this temporal sojourn compared to eternity? If it will last forever, surely no change will happen to it on earth.

The words of man keep changing. There is no fixed truth, for their truth is relative. Only the Word of the LORD is trustworthy and absolute, even from generation to generation. The Bible is the only source of wisdom. We trust in God rather than in man. So, dear reader, what will you trust in?

THOUGHT: Am I trusting in the Bible as God’s eternal Word?

PRAYER: Father, help me to see the truth of Thy Word.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

PSALM 119:92

ROMANS 7:14-25

*“For I delight in the law of God
after the inward man...”*

WITHOUT GOD’S LAW, I HAVE PERISHED

Misery and trouble are part and parcel of man’s life on earth. God in His great love and mercy towards man has lovingly ordained such to remind us of our sins and the greater misery that will come in hell and eternal fire. Through these distressing experiences, we realise how we have transgressed against God and how we need a Saviour. But, without the God’s Word, misery and trouble will continue. We will never see from these miseries and troubles, the loving hand of God that points us to Jesus. We will instead be hardened and will perish without God’s Word, the Spirit’s instrument to show God’s truth.

The Law a delight: If the psalmist does not have pleasure in God’s Word, he will continue in his afflictions until death. This is the experience of many. Since birth, they face war and famine. Yet, their delight in God’s Word makes them see the reality that only Jesus is their hope. This can be understood only by those who enjoy reading and studying the Bible as the perfect Word of God.

In affliction, have perished: Such troubles and miseries will cause the psalmist to perish. Those who are under such adversities will just be triggered to complain and murmur. Sooner or later they will rebel against the Word of God and the God of the Word. When these people despise and reject God, especially Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, they will surely perish. That destruction is not just temporarily on earth but eternally in the Lake of Fire.

Only the delight in God’s Word will open the eyes of man to know the truth. It is the working of the Spirit of God to open man’s understanding to discern that these afflictions are God’s calling for sinners to come to Him. Rejoice over this goodness of God upon man. Afflictions are very stressful and distressing, but from the perspective of a man whose delight is in the Word of the Lord, these represent God’s care upon him.

Dear reader, when you have pleasure in God’s Word, you will see a clearer picture of reality.

THOUGHT: Do I delight in reading and meditating on God’s Word?

PRAYER: Father, grant me a heart and mind that rejoices in Thy Word.

LORD'S DAY, FEBRUARY 18
PSALM 119:93
JOHN 6:60-66

“...the words that I speak
unto you, they are spirit,
and they are life.”

GOD'S WORD QUICKENS

To quicken is to make alive or to revive. Some eloquent men have the gift of the gab. They can move men, rousing them into action. Their words can command and deceive people to believe their lies. But God's Word is far more powerful. This Word can raise a dead person to life, not just physical life but life everlasting. The testimony of the psalmist proves that he has never forgotten God's Word for that is what makes him alive.

Never forget the Word: An event that is very important sticks with us and we continue to remember it. The most important time of my life which I will never forget is the day I received the Christ of the Bible as my Lord and Saviour. It was unforgettable because it was the day when I was made alive spiritually. It is made possible by the Word preached to me. The Spirit of God used the Word to convict me of my sins and to cause me to realise I needed a Saviour in the person of the God-man, Jesus Christ. Without the Word, I would never have seen myself as hell-bound and under the great wrath of God. That is a day I will never forget.

Quickened by the Word: The Word, the Gospel of Christ, “*is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek*” (Rom 1:16). “*It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life*” (John 6:63). The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to make alive a spiritually dead person. Take note of the importance of the Word. Charismatics today despise and rely, instead, on what they think is the spirit, but it is not of God, for it contradicts the Word.

Dear reader, you will never forget the Word which made you alive. Love the Word which says that you might have life and have it more abundantly. How can you not remember what caused you to know there is life eternal? How can you neglect the words that brought you to the feet of your Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ? The words which assure you of salvation that never will be lost. Forget not the Word of Life!

THOUGHT: Am I made alive by the Holy Spirit through God's Word?

PRAYER: Father, let me not forget Thy Word which gives me life, not only on this earth but even forever more.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19
PSALM 119:94-96
DEUTERONOMY 4:1-8

*“...what nation is there so great,
that hath statutes and judgments
so righteous as all this law...”*

GOD’S WORD IN DELIVERANCE

God’s people are vulnerable to the attacks of the enemy. Read 2 Timothy 3:12-13. We need God’s help to deliver us from these evil and wicked men who attempt to deceive believers. What can protect us from seducers and deceivers?

Enabled to pray: The psalmist is truly a believer as he acknowledges that he belongs to the LORD. To write this is to declare himself a child of God, a born-again believer of Christ. He pursues the Word of God for he knows this is what teaches him to trust in the Messiah alone. He continues to keep the Word of God because he relies on the deliverance of the God of the Word. This constant drawing near to the Word makes him pray, knowing his God shall deliver him.

Enabled to watch: The psalmist observes the wicked waiting for him. He knows well they are going to destroy him. The enemy is real and they want to destroy the saint. But instead of preparing to fight back, he prays to God and considers God’s testimonies. The Lord’s nature and attributes unveil what God can do for him so he keeps on trusting while being alert to the enemies’ acts. So many of the people of God recorded in the Book have experienced His deliverance.

Enabled to discern: The psalmist has been in this world for quite a while and has seen perfection and completion of many things. Yet, he wonders about the many works of God. They are far beyond his comprehension. Even though God’s dealings are great, the psalmist knows all these prove the marvellous work of God to deliver him from the wicked. He may still be under threat but he is assured that God is able to deliver.

Dear reader, how can you trust God to deliver you? Read His Word! The more you read the Bible, the more secure you are in His tender and loving care.

THOUGHT: Am I truly trusting in God’s deliverance?

PRAYER: Father, the wonders recorded in the Old and New Testaments are more than enough proof of how able Thou art to deliver me.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

PSALM 119:97

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-16

“...*thou shalt love the LORD thy God
with all thine heart, and with
all thy soul, and with all thy might.*”

LOVE GOD’S WORD

The interrogative expression “*How*” expresses the greatness of the psalmist’s love for God’s Law. A true believer will have to agree with him, for out of the Law is God’s grace given. Without God’s commandments, which are beyond the ability of man to fulfil, there is no grace given except in the Lord Jesus Christ! “*Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith*” (Gal 3:24). O, how thankful we must be for God’s Law that shows us how wretched and sinful we are before God, that points us to the way, the truth, and the life!

My meditation: But how should we love God’s Law? The psalmist answers: by meditating upon the Word. In Hebrew, it describes the study of God’s Word. We love the Word when we think about and ponder its meaning, and desire to apply it in our lives. We pray and devote our time to understanding what the LORD wants us to do. We reflect upon how it is teaching, reproving, redirecting, and leading us in our lives. Because we love His Word, it takes priority over other matters of our life. We value the Word more than anything else on this earth. It becomes our sole, supreme authority over our faith and actions.

All the day: Our meditation of the Word is not just a portion of the day, but the whole day and all the days. This Word occupies our hearts and minds more often than the cares of this world. We spend days remembering what He has for us daily in our walk with Him. We do not take a step without His Word prescribing us what to do. We make it part of our daily lives and we do all things in accordance to His instructions.

Dear reader, the whole counsel of God is the complete guide for pilgrims who are bound for heaven. How you must treasure the Word of God, to serve the Lord fully and faithfully. By the Word you are told of the dangerous paths which you are to stay away from, and the blessed way that you must abide in. Oh, how you must love His Word! Are you loving the Word that tells you of the love of God through our Lord Jesus Christ? All who love the Living Word love also the Written Word!

THOUGHT: Do I love the Law by meditating upon it all day?

PRAYER: Father, I thank Thee for Jesus, the Living Word, who is revealed to me through the Written Word, the Bible.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21
PSALM 119:98-100
PROVERBS 8:1-11

“They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.”

GOD’S WORD MAKES ONE WISER

Today, parents work hard and spend much on their children’s education, including tuition classes. Children, in response, strive hard to earn their degrees. They may learn more and know more than others who have not gone through such a rigorous system of studies. However, this does not mean they are wiser. A wise man is not measured by how much of the world’s knowledge he accumulates, but his knowledge of God and His will for him on this planet Earth.

Than mine enemies: The psalmist knows his enemies are trying to boast of their wide knowledge and understanding. Yet, he is far wiser than them. His enemies are foolish for they say in their hearts that there is no God. So the psalmist knows for sure that he is far wiser than them because he believes in God who created the universe and this earth, including all things that are therein.

Than all my teachers: His teachers may have introduced him to all the knowledge about the stars and moons, the animals and plants, and even the ethics and morality of life. Nevertheless, the psalmist is wiser than them for he knows who God is. Not only does he know God, he also has a personal relationship with Him! When he reads the Word of his God, he is well aware that those things he has studied will guide him in his life.

Than the ancients: The ancients are the aged or the elderly. They have many experiences of life and they can say that they have eaten more salt than the young people have eaten rice. Although they have more experiences, they are nothing compared to the wisdom of a Christian who has the mind of Christ. Many ancients may argue against the record of God’s creation in the Book of Genesis, but we (who believe in it to the jot and tittle) know better.

Be wiser than the world! Keep your eyes on His Word, for through it, we are made wiser. And we can encourage and strengthen the saints to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.

THOUGHT: Am I wiser because of the Word of God?

PRAYER: Father, grant me the love to meditate upon Thy Word that I may be wiser in following and serving Thee.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

PSALM 119:101-102

JOHN 7:14-24

*“If any man will do his will,
he shall know of the doctrine...”*

TEACHINGS OF GOD’S WORD

God’s Word, when taught, must bring out practical responses that accompany the learning. No one can say they have learned from God’s Word when their lives are not changed, or when God’s Word is not obeyed. When the Spirit of God brings the Word into the heart, there must be observable practices that others will notice.

Refrain my feet from evil: To refrain is to withhold. A Christian convicted of God’s Word will keep himself out of the ways of evil. He restrains his heart to the things that would puff him up with the pride of life. He is not doing all these because of a holier-than-thou attitude, but because he knows that he is a new creature, and the Word is teaching him not to go back to his evil ways of the past. A believer is a follower of Christ, no longer a follower of Satan.

Depart not from God’s judgments: He does not put away the Ten Commandments as if it is an obsolete set of judgments. He does not observe it to be saved, but he obeys it in order not to depart from God’s judgments. He does not want to leave undone the good works that Christ wants him to do. He loves the Lord, and the Word instructs him never to eschew from the right path. He must enter into the strait and narrow way, and turn not away from the righteous judgments of God.

When a born-again believer, regenerated and indwelt by the Spirit of God, hears God’s Word, he wants to obey it. He may not be able to do it perfectly, but he has the burden in his heart to obey the teachings. There are times when he may fail, but he will soon confess the transgression and repent before God. He wants to please his Lord who gave Himself by living a perfect life and died a very painful and shameful death on the cross. Yes, the Lord rose from the dead, and He is coming again.

Dear reader, holiness must be characteristic of a believer’s life. Never will he wallow again in the mud after he is washed and cleansed. You are a sheep, not a pig. A sheep hears the voice of its shepherd and follows him. You must not return to the way of evil nor depart from God’s judgments.

THOUGHT: Am I truly learning from God when I read God’s Word?

PRAYER: Father, help me to depart not from Thy Word.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23
PSALM 119:103-104
PROVERBS 24:13-14

“...the honeycomb, which is sweet
to thy taste: So shall the knowledge
of wisdom be unto thy soul...”

GOD’S WORD IS SWEETER THAN HONEY

Honey is a sweet juice from flowers or plants. The word “sweet” in Psalm 119:103 describes a smooth or pleasant taste. It can also mean the sweetness of honey. However, the psalmist tastes the Word of God, and finds it sweeter than honey. The context suggests that he finds the smoothness of the Word is more than that of honey in his mouth. Why does the psalmist say this? What are his reasons?

Because I get understanding: His appreciation of the Word is not just of mere taste but the benefits he gets. Spiritually speaking, the Word grants him far greater flavour and favour because he is not partaking of something for his physical body, but for his spiritual life which has eternal importance. The understanding of the Word will give him a deeper understanding of who God is, which will increase his faith and enable him to face the spiritual challenges of life.

Therefore I hate every false way: Honey will protect the physical body from infection. So the Word once understood will change the heart of man to hate the way of destruction. His eyes will be opened to see the Kingdom of God ahead, and he will not enter into the broad gate and the wide way because he knows where it will lead him. God’s Word is indeed more pleasant because it keeps the psalmist from troubles and temptations. The Word will revitalise his spiritual strength to ward off the lies and deceptions of the enemy. These are falsehoods that will entangle the believer, and he will have many sorrows in life.

Dear reader, the Word of God is sweet because it grants the believer the heart to love his Lord. It is smoother because it is spiritually advantageous for believers to strengthen their lives in God’s service. It is pleasant because it preserves the Christian from the enemies’ snares to live a life peaceful and pleasing unto the Lord. Read Psalm 19:10.

THOUGHT: Do I find the taste of the Word of God more pleasant than honey?

PRAYER: Father, may Thy Word be sweeter than honey to me.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

PSALM 119:105

2 PETER 1:19-21

“...a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.”

GOD’S WORD IS MY LAMP

We are living in a very dark and sinful world, a world that is under the dominion of Satan. Especially, in these last days, the archenemy of God is working double time to put out the light of the Gospel of Christ. Today, we need the Word of God as a lamp unto our feet more than ever before.

Unto my feet: In times of war, when the city gates are shut, the people inside the city would need to go through a dark tunnel in order to get water from outside the city. They need to carry their lamps with them. When they return carrying the jars full of water, their hands would be full and they would not be able to hold their lamps. Thus they would bind their lamps to their feet to light the way. The feet can then take the steps safely and surely with the light.

Unto my path: So, with the Word of God, the psalmist sees it as the lamp that will give light to his feet in a very dark and lonely path. Without the light, it is impossible to tread the dark path. He will stumble and fall and not reach his destination. The path is not only dark, but narrow too. Without the light, he cannot move on, and the work is jeopardised.

The Word of God is a necessary lamp unto the believer’s feet. There is not one who is traversing his way to heaven who does not need this lamp. God’s Word will be his guide every step of the way. The light of God’s Word is essential in the believer’s life. Without the light, you can easily be taken in by spiritual scammers who will adversely affect your testimony. You will be fed poisonous and harmful doctrines which you cannot discern without the light of God’s Word.

Dear reader, take the Word of God as the lamp unto your feet to give light unto your path. Remember, we are living in a very dark age where there are many dangers around. Do not risk your Christian testimony by walking without the Word of God.

THOUGHT: Do I always consider the Word of God as a lamp unto my feet?

PRAYER: Father, help me to realise that I am walking in a very dark world under the dominion of the enemy, and that I need Thy Word to be my light.

LORD'S DAY, FEBRUARY 25

PSALM 119:106-108

PSALM 66:13-20

*"I will go into thy house
with burnt offerings:
I will pay thee my vows..."*

GOD'S WORD AT ALL TIMES

The Word of God is very much needed at all times in our lives. Whether you are healthy, sick, or rejoicing, the Word must be the basis of your every action. The psalmist shows us that the Word of God is important in every situation of his life. Most Christians only come to the Word in times of difficult decisions or fearful situations. May we learn that in joy or sorrow, we must come to God's Word for praise or help.

In vows: The psalmist swears to perform that which he vows to keep. He promises to fulfil the righteous judgments of God. In oaths and promises, the Word of God is necessary. Without the Word, there is no reminder nor guide to perform the vow. The Word is also important to help one abide by the oath. Oaths can be taken at a certain time, but it requires God's Word to motivate the believer so that the oath will endure.

In needs: Particularly in afflictions, the Word is highly regarded. The Word of God comforts and consoles. The Word gives hope and assurance of the Lord's faithfulness. God's Word is also the secured promise of God's care and protection. Whether in recovery or death, the Word shows that God is so good to prepare everyone with His tender and loving care.

In gratitude: God's Word is equally important in times of thanksgiving and praise. Careless thanksgiving that pays only lip service does not ascend unto God to truly honour Him. Some show their gratitude with pride in their hearts and rob the glory of God. Freewill offering from the mouth of the Christian must not be mixed with self-exaltation. God's Word is full of reminders of what a true testimony of praise is, and not a mere ritualistic ceremony without doing it heartily.

Dear reader, when we take oaths and make vows before the Lord, let us remember that these must be guided by the righteous judgment of God. O how essential is the Word of God to every believer's life. Make the Word highly important in every part of your life.

THOUGHT: Do I think scripturally in every aspect of my life?

PRAYER: Father, may Thy Word influence every part of my life.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

PSALM 119:109-110

PSALM 140:1-7

*“The proud have hid a snare
for me, and cords; they have
spread a net by the wayside...”*

GOD’S WORD AGAINST SNARES

Snares in this context are spring nets and are spread to trap birds or other animals. Spiritually speaking, this refers to the enemy’s trap to catch the undiscerning believers. When they are caught, they become demoralised and useless. They are no more functional in the work of the Lord. These snares can be in different forms, with baits to make them very attractive and seductive that any simple man will be caught.

Forget not: So in times when snares are laid, believers must keep a lookout for their souls, and not be lured into the bait and the trap. The best is for the Holy Spirit to use the Word to remind and convict His people. When that happens, the believer must take note, be more alert and keep abiding in the Word. He must always remember that only God’s Word is able to lead him away from the snare and be safe.

Err not: To err is to commit a mistake and the believer strays away from the faith. We are prone to wander away from God when we commit errors. This will lead to distancing ourselves from brethren, and gradually deviating from the strait and narrow way. Those who are truly saved by God are saved to the uttermost. However, when a truly born-again believer loses his witness, he fails the Lord. He will not lose his salvation, but many are stumbled by him. And many still outside of God’s Kingdom will be hindered by him.

God’s Word must always be remembered especially when we realise there are snares set up around us. Only God’s Word is used by the Spirit of God to convict us and show us where these snares are. Be alert and watchful in prayer and supplication that the Word of God will reveal the truth. Read Peter’s warning in 1 Peter 5:8-9.

My dear reader, the Word of God is the best warning against snares in life. Satan is doubling his effort, knowing that his end is very near. Once you forget the Word and trust in your strength, you will fall captive and be immobilised by the enemy!

THOUGHT: Am I aware of the snares set up by the enemy?

PRAYER: Father, help me to be discerning to see the snares of the evil ones, and not be naïve.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

PSALM 119:111-112

DEUTERONOMY 33:1-5

*“Moses commanded us a law,
even the inheritance of the
congregation of Jacob.”*

GOD’S WORD, AN INHERITANCE

An inheritance is something “derived from an ancestor to an heir by succession or in course of law; or an estate which the law casts on a child or other person, as the representative of the deceased ancestor” (Webster). Since it is inherited, it is free. The heir does not need to pay or give anything for it. As born-again believers who are now children of God by grace through faith in Christ, we have an inheritance of eternal life in heaven. While here on earth, we have a priceless inheritance that is our perfect provision as we journey towards our final state in His Kingdom.

The rejoicing of my heart: God’s Word is our valuable inheritance on earth. It has all the promises that we shall hold on to as we travel this earthly sojourn. It has all the guides we need as to how we can have a fruitful stay on earth. It also has all the blessings that we can rejoice in as we face trials and tribulations in our pilgrim walk in this temporal world. God’s Word is a precious inheritance that all children of God must rejoice in. It is a whole package containing all that we need to arrive safely and successfully at our final destination. Every believer must be thankful to the Lord that we are given such a great privilege to be an heir of this wonderful Book. Nothing on earth can be compared with this inheritance. The psalmist’s heart rejoices, and his mouth expresses thanksgiving to God for this wonderful inheritance.

The inclination of my heart: When believers acknowledge this blessed inheritance, they incline their hearts toward it. The psalmist does that. He bends his heart towards it. He worships the God of the Scripture for He is his Lord and Saviour. He prepares his heart for it. He opens it up to receive and believe what the Word tells him to know and perceive. This is the response of the psalmist who sees the favour of becoming an heir of this incalculable inheritance.

Dear reader, do you treasure God’s Word as God’s great inheritance for you? Only those who realise this will rejoice over this heritage and incline their hearts to read and meditate upon it and to obey it.

THOUGHT: Do I consider the Bible a priceless inheritance?

PRAYER: Father, may I observe to do according to Thy Word.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

PSALM 119:113-114

PSALM 130:5-8

*"I wait for the LORD,
my soul doth wait,
and in his word do I hope."*

HOPE IN GOD'S WORD

If we look around, we see desperate movements trying to preserve this dying earth. Gas emissions are discouraged, and recycling is encouraged, to sustain and lengthen the lifespan of our planet. But can we have hope? The psalmist rightly expresses his hope in the Word of God. Therefore, he hates the vain thoughts of men and testifies that God the Almighty is his only hiding place and shield as declared in His Word.

Hate vain thoughts: Man's thoughts are far lower than God's thoughts. Man imagine vain things. He thinks he can manipulate the course of nature and dictate the direction of this world. He believes he has the power to lengthen the years of this earth with his wisdom and knowledge. He tries to invent and manufacture things to provide for the needs of the people. He makes himself as God, controlling everything according to his perspective. Yet all these things are vain thoughts. Man can do nothing to prevent this world from burning up when God says it is time for heaven and earth to pass away. Man's thoughts are vain because man is trying to solve the problems of this planet without consulting God as to what His will is according to His Word. Only if man submits to the blueprint of the Lord for this earth, then what man will do will not be in vain.

Hide in God: The psalmist sees that man's thoughts are vain. He trusts the Lord as his shield against the disasters plaguing the earth today. No amount of man's power can change the destructive course of this world. Only on God can man depend. The Word of God is good enough to be followed for safety and security. It is his protection against the calamities of this earth. It is his defence against the maladies of this soon-to-end world.

Man's thoughts are opposed to the divine plan of God. Thus, his worldview is different from those who are believers of Christ. Man is not created by God only to suffer on this earth. God has prepared everything for our needs.

THOUGHT: Do I hate man's thoughts that oppose God's plan?

PRAYER: Father, may I always be drawn nearer to Thee.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

PSALM 119:115

MATTHEW 7:21-27

*“...then will I profess unto them,
I never knew you: depart from me,
ye that work iniquity.”*

GOD’S WORD TO WARD OFF EVILDOERS

Who are the evildoers? They are the minions of Satan who cause trouble and disturb the believers. They try to afflict and harm the followers of Christ so that they fail to live their lives to the glory of God. They attempt to destroy their testimony by influencing Christians to do wicked things that offend and stumble the people around, thus preventing them from believing in and receiving Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.

Let them depart: The psalmist commands the believer who is troubled by an evildoer to depart from the evildoer. The Word of God teaches us to let the evildoer be removed from our way. Do not attempt to fight back and never desire to appease the evildoer. Satan, who has been in this world deceiving and destroying the testimonies of Christians, is more cunning than we can ever think. God’s Word counsels us to let the evildoer turn away. Do not attempt to argue or debate with him. If you do, you may end up being deceived. Letting him depart is to leave him and put away the things he uses to bait you.

Keep God’s commandments: The psalmist desires to guard and protect the Word of God in his life. Evildoers will try to take this away from him by creating doubt and unbelief, but the psalmist holds on to obey the Word. To ward off evildoers, the believer must be careful to watch over the Word, that it be not replaced by the wicked devices of men. He must know that God delights in preserving His people, and the only way is through His precious Word.

THOUGHT: Am I aware that evildoers are around?

PRAYER: Father, help me to trust in Thy perfectly inspired and preserved Word of everlasting life, and not the vain words of men.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1
PSALM 119:116-117
ISAIAH 41:10-14

*“Fear thou not; for I am with thee:
be not dismayed;
for I am thy God...”*

GOD’S WORD KEEPS YOU FROM BEING ASHAMED

Disappointments are constant appointments in life. Christians also get confounded and confused. Believers are ridiculed for their beliefs and practices. In such a troublous case, the psalmist cries to God to let him not be ashamed of his hope. He seeks God’s help and strength before the eyes of the unbelievers.

It upholds: This is pleading for God to bear him up while he faces taunting accusations. He desires to be established according to God’s Word. The psalmist begs the Lord to cause him to be steadfast in his faith and service to God, to sustain and maintain his witness as a servant of God. He leans on God and takes hold of His promises. Indeed only God can uphold him, no one else can. The psalmist relies on the faithfulness of God and seeks for His support for all of life’s troubles.

It holds up: Here the psalmist pursues the comfort of God. No one can refresh him from all the mockery of the unbelievers and even professing Christians. His strength is in the Lord and he beseeches the Almighty God to hold him up as he continues to serve Him. To be upheld is his greatest need in times of disappointment when people think that God has failed.

We need God’s upholding and holding us up. The psalmist understands that he needs strength as well as comfort. We can face disappointments with courage and boldness, but we also need peace and consolation when we are put to shame falsely. God allows disappointments to test our faith in His Word. It is also through His Word that we can have hope when things go wrong.

Dear reader, the Lord’s upholding of man is for Him to be glorified. It should not make man proud and self-reliant. The power and basis of our consolation is God’s Word. Let us draw near to Him to be strengthened and comforted, to the glory of His name!

THOUGHT: Am I trusting God fully in disappointing circumstances?

PRAYER: O Father, may I run to Thee for help always.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2
PSALM 119:118-120
MALACHI 3:1-6

“...who shall stand when he appeareth?
for he is like a refiner’s fire,
and like fullers’ soap...”

GOD’S WORD AGAINST THE WICKED

The wicked are condemned. They continue to reject Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. They hear the Gospel but they do not open their hearts to believe in the truth. They injure and destroy God’s followers. The wicked deserve the punishment of God and await the final judgment in the eternal lake of fire. They have no hope of entering God’s heaven.

They are trodden down: The wicked are tossed aside because they have erred from God’s Word. They are shaken off like unwanted rotten fruits because they are bad fruits. They are trodden down because they deceive with their lies. The Lord will surely take them out from among His people. They may be found living amid saints on earth, but they are to perish forever. They have no place in God’s Kingdom. They can never rise to be with the holy.

They are put away like dross: The wicked while here on earth are to be destroyed. They have no part in the holy congregation. They will not stand before the righteous judgment of God. They have no righteousness, and they are to be cast away. They are like refuse that must be removed. Their sins and transgression stink. They are to be burned so that the pure and genuine people of God will remain unstained by their errors. God’s children will be separated from them.

The Word of God has complete instructions on how to discern the wise and the wicked. The Bible is the saint’s perfect guide in living a life safe from the evil influences of the wicked. The Word will show Christians the characters of the wicked that they can be identified. In response, believers have the responsibility to keep themselves away from the wicked. They must not walk with them, stand with them or sit with them. This means that believers must not agree with the wicked’s error, support them or plan wicked things with them.

Dear reader, tremble before the Lord and fear Him. Understand how God will condemn and punish the wicked. Be afraid of His judgments.

THOUGHT: Do I have the wisdom to know who the wicked are?

PRAYER: Father, keep me away from the error of the wicked that I may be a useful vessel for Thy glory and honour.

LORD'S DAY, MARCH 3
PSALM 119:121-122
PSALM 27:7-14

“...*thou hast been my help;
leave me not, neither forsake me,
O God of my salvation.*”

GOD'S WORD AGAINST THE PROUD

The proud oppress by defrauding others. They are deceitful, and they corrupt the simple and the meek. They do violence if things do not go their way. They are abusers of people's rights and property. Authorities cannot prevent them for they are powerful. They hold positions that rule and overrule what is just and righteous in order to achieve their ungodly desires. They are proud and they oppress the servants of God, for they serve their bellies and lust after power and authority.

Leave me not: In the eyes of the world, the people of God are powerless. They do not fight back or oppose their oppressors. They remain meek and silent like their Lord and Saviour. Yet, they have a shield and protector that is mighty. Nothing can challenge their Refuge, so believers run to Him and seek His help and deliverance. The psalmist knows this very well. He cries to his God to “*leave me not to mine oppressors*” (Ps 119:121). He is aware that God allows him to experience such oppression that he may know he cannot do anything against the proud. But he has the Lord of hosts who can intervene. He has to ask for help from Him alone, for no one can keep him in safety except God who is Almighty.

Be my surety: The psalmist trusts God's security. God will be his surety. He humbly acknowledges he is God's servant. Should the proud continue to oppress him, his service unto the Lord will be hindered. So he seeks the Lord's deliverance not for him to be at ease and live in pleasure, but to delight in serving God fully and faithfully.

The proud are energised by the enemy to demoralise God's servants. The works of the Lord will be despised. They are arrogant to claim that they have achieved success with their wisdom and strength. They underestimate the labour of God's labourers as having no fruit at all.

Dear reader, we cannot do anything without God. Seek God's help to keep us humble and serve Him with the assurance that He will say to us, “*Well done, thou good and faithful servant...*” (Matt 25:21).

THOUGHT: Where do I go when oppressed by proud people?

PRAYER: Father, grant me the longing to be in Thy presence always so that when the proud oppress, Thou indeed will be my surety.

MONDAY, MARCH 4

PSALM 119:123

PSALM 40:11-17

“...let such as love thy salvation

say continually,

The LORD be magnified.”

GOD'S WORD OF MY SALVATION

When trials seem unbearable, there is always a temptation to turn away from the faith. There are also times when the battle is too fierce, and fear grips the heart, wanting to surrender and give up. These are just some reasons why God's children are tempted to leave the faith.

Mine eyes fail for God's salvation: The psalmist does not give up on his faith. He continues to trust in his God and Saviour. Although he can no more see any chance of help or any probability of rescue, he is not deterred to look forward to God's strong and mighty arms to succour him. This is the conviction every genuinely born-again believer has whose faith is given by the grace of God. His eyes may fail to see God's salvation and he may be unable to appreciate any of God's interference, but this will not change his view of the God he believes in.

Mine eyes fail for Thy righteousnesses: His eyes also fail to see the Word. The deceptions and lies flood the church and sweep away the truth of God's Word. Everyone will talk of the things of this world and the pleasures and entertainments of their flesh. The righteousness of God's Word is nowhere to be found. No silver lining is seen, yet he knows the Word is eternal. It has been there from before the beginning of this universe and will last even when this world passes away.

Do not let your faith be dependent on the circumstances around you. Dark clouds may cover the skies, but be sure the sun is right there over the clouds. The dark clouds may prevent the light of the sun from being seen, but it does not have the power to remove the sun or stop it from shining. Clouds are temporary; sooner or later they will be gone. They have no power of their own to stay put. But the sun will continue to be there until the time of the Lord's ordained will to destroy the heaven and the earth so that He can make a new heaven and a new earth.

Dear reader, your salvation is decided by the things above. So keep on looking up for His deliverance, and surely He will come.

THOUGHT: Am I enduring in my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?

PRAYER: Father, make me see, beyond my immediate environment, the magnificent truth of Thy righteousness.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

PSALM 119:124-125

PSALM 116: 10-19

“O LORD, truly I am thy servant;

I am thy servant,

and the son of thine handmaid...”

GOD’S WORD FOR HIS SERVANTS

In the days of the psalmist, the word translated as servant is also the word for “slave,” meaning a household slave. When the psalmist humbles himself to this lowly position, his life is under the sovereign rule of the master. He owns no properties and neither does he have any rights. But, he is under the care of a loving and gracious Father in heaven. So, in times of hardships in life, he submits himself to his Lord and King.

Dealing according to His mercy: The word “*deal*” has a wide range of meaning which does not only mean “to do” but also “to bestow or commit,” i.e. to grant with a purpose that is based on God’s pity upon His lowly servant. The servant does not deserve any attention. Slaves are to obey and do what the master wants. Here, the lowly psalmist continues to seek God’s favour in the light of His mercy and grace. He asks for the Lord to teach him so that he can do that which is right in the eyes of his master. He delights not in doing what is against the will of God. He wants to learn from the Lord His will and purpose.

Giving him understanding: He prays for God’s discernment. Nothing can satisfy him except that which is understood from God’s perspective. Anything outside of the Lord’s blueprint is not desirable to him. This is the reason he wants understanding from the Lord. Foes and enemies assail him with false claims, he wants to know the truth for he desires to fulfil what is pleasing to his Lord. A slave does not want to do any thing that will displease his master. Everything he does is under the guidance of His Word. This is the longing of God’s servant who desires only the pleasure of his Maker and Provider.

Dear reader, are you a servant of God? Do you pray for God’s bestowment upon you according to His mercy and grace? Do you have a heart that recognises your failures, and a desire for God’s pitiful dealing so that you can continue to serve the Lord? Do not remain a servant just because of the “ricebowl.” Serve Him and desire to know more of who He is.

THOUGHT: Am I truly a servant of God?

PRAYER: Father, grant me the grace to learn more from Thee according to Thy mercy that I may know Thy testimonies.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6
PSALM 119:126-128
HABAKKUK 1:1-4

*“...judgment doth never go forth:
for the wicked doth
compass about the righteous...”*

GOD'S WORD FOR THE LAWLESS

The psalmist sees that many are making void God's law. They break every commandment of God and do what is right in their own eyes. They violate his laws to pursue their immoral and sinful ways. They are full of iniquity for they disregard the precepts of God. They frustrate many because their actions are contrary to God's purposes. They are lawless and they are to be judged under the very law that they ridicule.

Love God's commandments: The psalmist resolves that though many are lawless, he must not be. He instead should love the commandments of God. To love is to cherish with affection. You devote time to the reading of God's law if indeed you love it. Not just reading, but understanding and doing it. The psalmist knows to love God's commandment is not an ordinary love. It is love that is greater than how a man values gold, even fine gold. People are ready to sell everything they have to buy fine gold. But how about the Word, in which God's commandments are found?

Esteem all His precepts: To esteem is to consider all of God's law as wholly right and to value it highly. To regard God's Word highly would also mean a man must hate false ways. He must reject the wrong and erroneous ways to consider the law as right and truthful. The psalmist sees that the lawless invalidate the law and do not highly esteem God's Word. But the psalmist lifts up the law as high as he can to magnify the Word of God, and glorify the God of the Word.

In these last days, false teachings and doctrines are plaguing the churches and seminaries, overwhelming many so that their love for the Word will wax cold. Therefore, the Word must be loved more than anything else in this world. The Word must be esteemed so highly by the believers that they will not be influenced by the false ways of the world.

Dear reader, keep yourself under God's hand, and be found a worthy follower of Jesus. The lawful, righteous saint of God must love the commandments of God above all else. He must also highly esteem the Word. The Word must dominate the people.

THOUGHT: Am I lawless?

PRAYER: Father, may I esteem Thy Word very highly.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

PSALM 119:129-131

1 PETER 2:1-3

*“As newborn babes, desire the
sincere milk of the word,
that ye may grow thereby...”*

LONGING FOR GOD’S WORD

Moses told the people of Israel in Deuteronomy 8:3, *“And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.”* Every child of God hungers for spiritual food. He longs for the Word to be fed and filled.

For it is wonderful: The testimonies of God’s Word are wonderful. Consider the life of Abraham, how miraculous it was that Isaac was given to Abraham! In the life of Moses, we see the great miracles that he performed. Not to mention the lives of Joshua, of David, and many good kings, and even more so, the prophets like Elijah and Elisha. Their lives as recorded in the Old Testament are worth longing for. The New Testament also tells us of our great Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ. Believers, young and old, must have the hunger and thirst for the Word. Its testimonies warm the heart of the psalmist to keep them.

For it giveth light: Light is very important. One can imagine walking on a very dark path during the night. Without any light, it is very difficult. It is easy to stumble and crash into objects. Life is impossible without light. Plants will not grow, and the whole ecological cycle is broken. No one can survive without light. Likewise for the spiritual life. It is equated with light, and therefore there is no spiritual life without light, and vice versa. This spiritual light refers to the truth of God’s Word. This brings us to the conclusion that there is no spiritual life without the Word of God. Thus, every spiritually born-again believer essentially requires the Word. It gives him understanding to fulfil the will of God in his life.

Dear reader, do you long for the Word of God? Do you sense the need to read and meditate on the Word of God daily in your life? Do you hunger and thirst after the Word even when the busyness of life takes up most of your time? Have you noticed that you are prone to wander from God when you have not opened your Bible to feed upon God’s Word?

THOUGHT: Do I long to read and meditate upon God’s Word daily?

PRAYER: Father, create in me the hunger and thirst for Thy Word.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8
PSALM 119:132-134
ISAIAH 63:7-14

*"I will mention the
lovingkindness of the LORD,
and the praises of the LORD..."*

GOD'S WORD FOR THE GOD-LOVING

The psalmist asks God to look upon him. He knows he comes short of the glory of God. He cannot cleanse himself from the stains of his sins. But he needs to serve the Lord with holy hands and a pure heart. God must look upon him with mercy and he must be washed by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus. Those who love God have this cry in their hearts. As He has promised that He will forgive, He continues to be a forgiving God. The psalmist prays that he will constantly abide with his God whom he loves.

Order my steps: The psalmist prays to God for his steps to be set right all the time. His desire is to walk according to God's Word. He has no intention of living a life contrary to the Word. Nonetheless, he cannot do so perfectly. He needs the Lord to prosper his way in His prepared path. He knows that if God appoints him to be on the road, though rugged and rough, he will abide there faithfully. And God must be there to direct his feet to tread the pathway that leads to life. This is his love for the God who has saved him, the God whom he loves because this God loved him first. God puts in him a new heart that beats for His glory and honour.

Deliver me from oppression: He requests that he be delivered from the distress of life because of the oppressors. The injuries and harm he suffers are so painful and vexing. There are times that the psalmist thinks of severing himself from the holy congregation. So furious and fierce are the oppressors that the psalmist is tempted to retaliate and take revenge. But instead of exacting vengeance, he prays to God for deliverance from the oppression. He does not want to sin against God, he wants to keep God's Word. He wants to remain pure and holy before God. He would rather plead to be out of their unjust treatment than fight back against them. Loving God is longing to be a good testimony for Him.

Dear reader, do you love the Lord? A believer who truly loves his God pursues God's way. He keeps himself holy as a good testimony for others. He knows that the God whom he loves will not be pleased when he does wrong and misrepresents Him. His love is manifested by his actions, and he seeks God's help to be able to do it right and well.

THOUGHT: Is my love for God seen in my life?

PRAYER: Father, help me to love Thee with genuine love in action.

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

PSALM 119:135

NUMBERS 6:23-27

*“The LORD make his face shine
upon thee, and be gracious
unto thee...”*

GOD’S WORD CAUSES US TO SHINE

The psalmist knows that only God can light up his life. The Lord is the Light of the world! He alone can shine forth brightness on his path. God has the power to illumine his mind so that he may do the work of God rightly and faithfully. A plant, out in the open, receives sunlight. It will grow and glow to the blessing of man. So, a believer needs God’s shining power so that he may also be a light for others. This light is shed through the Word of God unto His people.

Upon His servants: Servants of the Lord work hard to glorify God. Their work must be guided by the light of His Word, or else their service will be found futile. The service should be according to the demands of God as prescribed in His Word. There is therefore the need for a light to direct His servants. A servant working in the dark cannot do things well. They will be found lacking in many things for he cannot see what he is doing. Light is essential, light is important and the light of God’s Word matters most for God’s servants.

Upon His students: The psalmist learns the Word through the statutes in His Word. These are like a curriculum set for the students to finish a course. The psalmist knows that he needs God’s wisdom and understanding to learn the Word. This is the light of God which He sheds on all who desire to be taught of Him. Knowledge can be obtained and kept when the light of God’s Word is received. Only those who study will seek the light and those who study His Word will be given light.

We can only hope for God’s light when the light is used for the glory and honour of the Father. Light is necessary to further shed brightness on this dark and sinful world. Light is important to discern between true and false teachings. When we do not ask for the light, we are actually in darkness. People in the light appreciate the light, those who are in darkness despise the light.

Dear reader, what do you pursue? Light or darkness? Those who serve God will pursue and seek the light.

THOUGHT: Am I seeking the light?

PRAYER: Father, shine upon us that we may be taught of Thee.

LORD'S DAY, MARCH 10

PSALM 119:136

JEREMIAH 9:1-11

“...and mine eyes
a fountain of tears, that
I might weep day and night...”

GOD'S WORD IN TIMES OF SADNESS

Sadness is the state of emotion when the person is sorrowful. It may be due to the loss of someone dear to us. It can be grieving over some afflictions or persecutions. However, the context does not suggest these kinds of sadness. It is more than these.

The reason: Taking into consideration the previous verses and the current one, it seems the situation is far worse than what we can imagine. Nonetheless, it can be due to the oppressors that attempt to destroy the work of the Lord. The psalmist sees that they impact the preaching of the Gospel. This results in the disruption of the work of the Lord in the harvest field. He knows well that this means many are deprived of the preaching of the Word because of these oppressors.

The situation: The psalmist is crying! But the sadness is extraordinary. He grieves until he sheds tears like rivers of water. This hyperbole represents the internal sadness that he has. Nothing can hold back his tears. His sorrow is intense because it is not just losing material things but souls to hell. Many are marching to their destiny in eternal condemnation all because of the hindrance that is caused by people who do not keep the law of God. The weeping appears unending. It would stop should God intervene to console his mourning heart over the souls of many who are to perish. Such is the effect of selfish people who think they have no responsibility over the salvation of others. They are deceived to think salvation is theirs but they have no duty towards others.

Dear reader, be not one of those who have no qualms entertaining and pursuing pleasure for themselves without any thought of the souls of the unsaved. Live not for yourself because you think your life and resources are all yours. Without the Lord granting you the grace to believe, you are left to perish forever in hell. God, who is great in love and bountiful in mercy, has given us the perfect way of salvation in the Lord Jesus. If He has done this for us, why can't we extend such to the rest of the people in this world who are without hope and future because they are in darkness? Are we not grieving for their souls?

THOUGHT: Am I grieving over the souls of many?

PRAYER: Father, may I love Thee, and love my brethren as myself.

MONDAY, MARCH 11
PSALM 119:137-138
DANIEL 9:4-19

*“O Lord, righteousness
belongeth unto thee,
but unto us confusion of faces...”*

GOD’S WORD IS RIGHTEOUS

The Lord is righteous. There is neither sin nor stain of iniquity in Him. This righteousness of God is displayed as a backdrop to man’s wickedness. His righteousness is magnified when compared to the sinfulness of man. Read what the prophet Daniel said in Daniel 9:7.

Upright: As the Author of Scriptures is righteous, surely His words are righteous and just. His words are upright. It befits the character of the source. Being upright means it is “straight.” In today’s world, to be straight is strangely abhorred. This reveals the kind of world we are in: it likes the crooked more than the straight. Many prefer “alternative” lifestyles, and not the straight and upright that the Word of God teaches. To be straight, as the righteousness of God, is hated by the world, but to go against righteousness by deceit is hailed by many.

Faithful: To be faithful is to be firm, to be fixed in one’s conviction and unmovable in one’s belief. However, this must be aligned with the Word of God for it is faithful, very faithful. It is the Word of the immutable God. He is unchanging and is the same yesterday, today, and forever. This faithfulness is in His promises which can neither be altered nor added to. God’s Word is final, no additional vision nor special revelation can be added to, or subtracted from, it. It is forever true and amen! This Word is with us today, perfectly preserved in the Hebrew Masoretic Text and the Greek Textus Receptus. This is available for us in the English language through the King James Version (or The Authorised Version).

Dear reader, there is no other basis of righteousness throughout the ages except God, and this is revealed to man through His Word. “The Bible is none other than the Voice of Him that sitteth upon the Throne! Every book of it, every chapter of it, every verse of it, every word of it, every syllable of it, every letter of it, is the direct utterance of the most High! The Bible is none other than the Word of God: not some part of it more, not some part of it less, but all alike, the utterance of Him who sitteth upon the Throne; faultless, unerring, supreme” (Dean Burgon).

THOUGHT: Do I believe the Bible, God’s Word, is righteous?

PRAYER: Father, open my eyes to see the uprightness and faithfulness of Thy Word just as the Author of this Book is.

TUESDAY, MARCH 12
PSALM 119:139-140
PROVERBS 30:1-6

*“Every word of God is pure:
he is a shield unto them
that put their trust in him.”*

GOD’S WORD IS VERY PURE

God’s Word is pure, i.e. like a metal that is refined or free from any dross. It has the idea of people testing and trying to prove the item. So is God’s Word. It contains no mistake, and it is purely divine, without man’s addition. It is proven without corruption for many centuries because, as God’s inspired truth, perfectly preserved copies of the originally written Scriptures are still available today. This is the reason the psalmist can say that it is “*very*” pure.

The enemies forget it: However, the enemies of the psalmist forget God’s Word. They may still have the Word in their minds, but they have left it. To them, it is not worth mentioning or applying in their lives. They find the Word a stumbling block to their evil ways. They want the Word to be out of their minds. Even though they hear it, they do not want the Word in their hearts. This causes the psalmist to be weary, and unable to continue to live because of his sorrow, seeing his enemies rejecting God’s Word. His passion and burden to labour for his God are quenched by the intentional neglect of the Word in the enemies’ lives. The words are near their ears but they never hear them; near their mouths but they never say them.

Thy servant loves it: Despite this, the psalmist cannot deny the truth of the purity of the Word. It is very precious to him. How can he forget the Word? The enemies may discourage him, but the truthfulness of the Word enlivens him to continue receiving and applying the Word in his life. He loves it, and he wants to live according to it. He wants to share it with others that many would come to believe in the Word of God.

Every saint is overwhelmed by the fact that the enemies’ rejection of the Word cannot corrupt it. The enemies of God are making themselves more corrupt and wicked when they continue in the way of the dark valley of unbelief and apostasy. God’s Word in the pulpit is replaced with man’s vain philosophies. Pastors and preachers are preaching about the world, not the Word. God’s glory has departed in many congregations today because they have forgotten the Word.

THOUGHT: Am I constantly remembering the Word?

PRAYER: Father, may Thy Word always be a part of my life.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

PSALM 119:141-142

JOHN 17:17-19

*“Sanctify them through thy truth:
thy word is truth.”*

GOD’S WORD IS THE TRUTH

Christians throughout the centuries have been despised and considered insignificant. They are never welcomed by the world because their lives are lived in accordance to God’s Word. The Word and the world oppose each other because the God of the Word and the god of this world are archenemies. Read James 4:4.

It is unforgettable: Our families and relatives may despise us as we come to believe in Christ. They may say all manner of demeaning words to us. They falsely accuse us to cause us to depart from the faith. Many a time Christians feel lonely in their walk with God. When you stand for Christ, those who stood with you in the past may strongly oppose you now. But would believers exchange the affection of family members and friends for that of Christ? The psalmist, amid ridicule and disdain, cannot forget God’s Word because it is the truth. The words of those who are hated are false and fake. He must forget about them.

It is everlasting: Distressing and unkind words from people are false and will never last. God’s Word, on the other hand, is everlasting. It comes from the righteous God, and His Word will remain forever and ever. Believers cling to this truth which is eternal. The words of despisers hold no water and do not last. The truth is eternal, and the only everlasting truth is the Word of God. This is the basis of the psalmist’s conviction so as not to forget the Word.

Dear reader, have you realised that the false words of those who despise you are nothing? Yes, their words hurt but they are lies and they are never a reality. Do not dwell on them. Concentrate rather on what will remain and stay on forever. The more you think of these evil accusations, the more you are weakened. Soon you faint because of these empty words. Draw near to God and hear His forever infallible and inerrant Word. His Word is encouraging and will cause you to do more good and glorious works. Would you rather be productive than be distracted?

THOUGHT: Do I hold on to the truth of God’s Word?

PRAYER: Father, place in my heart that wonderful truth of Thy Word which is beneficial and eternal.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14
PSALM 119:143-144
JOB 23:8-12

*“...I have esteemed the words
of his mouth more than
my necessary food.”*

DELIGHT IN THE WORD OF GOD

To be falsely accused brings trouble and anguish, especially when we hear the lies from people who are supposed to have known us better. They purposely twist the truth. They demoralise us and put us down so as to stop God's work. Satan has this scheme to prevent the preaching of God's Word. Let us hear the response of the psalmist under distress!

It is righteous: The words that trouble the psalmist are unrighteous and wicked. He would rather meditate on God's righteous words. The Word directs him to do the right things which will glorify God. He is also made righteous by the Word which sanctifies him. He is constantly convicted of his sins and transgressions, causing him to confess them before God. The just and faithful God is ever ready to cleanse him and wash away his sins. What a righteous Word and what a right choice to delight in rather than the confusing words of men.

It is life: The psalmist delights in the Word, for it is life to him. Not only does it give joy and pleasure to his troubled soul, it is also life to his soul. It is the balm that soothes the heartaches. It is the cure for the wounds caused by the backstabbing of our good old friends. The lies of the enemies are poisonous words that lead to death. The righteous words of God are living, and will give life, forever and ever. Is it not foolish to linger in the falsehoods of man when there is truth in God's Word that gives understanding and life?

Facing anguish in life because of false accusations, the psalmist finds pleasure in the counsels of God's Word. He finds the Word a joy to his heart and longs to hear the voice of God through the Scriptures.

Dear reader, are you down and depressed because of the lies thrown at you? Delight in God's Word. It is full of wonderful promises that will surely be fulfilled, not temporarily, but eternally. Read God's Word daily. It is the most satisfying meat for our soul, a portion of food that fits our daily spiritual needs. It nourishes our hungry souls and causes us to grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

THOUGHT: Do I delight in reading the Bible?

PRAYER: Father, humble me to receive Thy Word to my heart's content.

KEEPING GOD’S WORD

The word “keep” (Ps 119:145-146) can be from different Hebrew words. One of these words refers to guarding which, in a good sense, means to protect and maintain the Word by obedience. The second Hebrew word for “keep” also has a sense of guarding, by putting a hedge around something precious. The psalmist is like a watchman who must protect the Word, here treated like a precious material.

A cry with my whole heart: To cry is to call out. It is also the word translated “to preach” which means it is not an act of a sorrowing person. Nevertheless, no one can deny this call of distress! The psalmist does not express his cry haphazardly. It is not a trivial thing for which he needs God’s action. That is why we can sense the urgency in his request. It is a prayer for a speedy solution. The call is uttered from his heart, full of anticipation of God’s provision and resolution over his pressing need.

A cry to the LORD: The psalmist cries not to his loved ones, or superiors, for none can solve his grave concern. He calls upon the LORD who is always willing to answer His children based on His promises. He knows the solution is in the mercy and grace of the LORD. The psalmist knows that there is an Almighty God who can do the impossible. He would rather cry to this LORD than to the most powerful men of this world. The LORD’s hand is not slack nor shortened that He cannot fulfill His Word. The psalmist has experienced this in the past, not once but many times. The LORD is the only proven help for him.

Dear reader, do you not want to be delivered out of the great disasters in life? In fact, as a believer, you can testify that you have been delivered out of the greatest problem on earth, i.e. sin. You know also that you have been delivered out of the eternal condemnation because of your faith in Christ. Is your concern now greater than these things? If God did that which was deemed so impossible, is He not able to solve the problem that you are going through now? Cry unto the LORD heartily, and look forward to experiencing His goodness and pleasure. Be assured for He is your Father who is in heaven.

THOUGHT: Do I pray sincerely to the LORD?

PRAYER: Father, may I cry before Thee always from my heart.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

PSALM 119:147-148

HEBREW 6:9-20

*“Which hope we have
as an anchor of the soul,
both sure and steadfast...”*

HOPING IN GOD’S WORD

Hope in the Scriptures is not the worldly hope where you wish it would become true. The Bible tells us that hope in God will turn to reality. The One who gives the promise and assurance is our sovereign and faithful God. He is an immutable God which means He is unchanging. He knows from before the beginning of this world and even until the end. He has laid out all plans from the start according to His wisdom and will.

Hastening the dawn: The psalmist is so familiar with God’s dealing in his life that when adversities come, his hope is in the Lord. When he puts his hope in God’s Word, he knows it will not fail. God’s Word shall surely be established. He hastens the dawning of the morning. The idea is that of looking forward with excitement to a new day. It is said that the darkest part of the night is just before the sun rises and brightens everything. So the psalmist anticipates with eagerness the morning light. He is very sure after the darkest moment of his life comes the light. It will not be dark forever, God has said that in His Word. The psalmist believes it and he is eager to go through the dawn, the gloomiest season, for he is sure, the next phase is the promised illumination of the brightness ordained of God.

Hastening the night: Not only is he hastening for the morning, but while it is yet night, he is already anticipating. His excitement does not come only when it is dawn. While going through the most arduous journey during the night, he is already expectant of God’s working. The watches he is referring to are the changing of guards on the city wall to keep them safe, especially during the night. To hasten the watches means to delight, even in the darkness of the night, in the Word of God. The blackness of the night cannot keep him away from meditating on the Word. He continues to desire to understand the Word no matter how dark the night is.

Dear reader, have you invested your life well by doing that which is right according to God’s Word? There is a final morning that every believer looks forward to and that is the brightness of the Kingdom of heaven. However, that morning is forever and there is no night there. We shall be under the brightness of our eternal God!

THOUGHT: Do I have hope in the promise of God’s Word?

PRAYER: Father, grant me belief in Thy inspired and preserved Word.

LORD'S DAY, MARCH 17
PSALM 119:149-151
PSALM 22:11-21

*"Be not far from me;
for trouble is near;
for there is none to help."*

GOD'S WORD PRESERVES

The psalmist seeks God's listening ears. The context suggests that there are mischievous people who attempt to turn him away from the faith. As a child of God, he knows he can always depend on His Father in heaven, so he cries before the LORD to lend a loving ear to his matter. He seems to be tired and down, and he needs the LORD's intervention badly. He beseeches the LORD to preserve his life.

When the mischievous draw near: When the mischievous are advancing and ready to crush the psalmist, he has no one to turn to except the LORD. They, fearless and merciless, are ready to shed blood. They want only to make God's children suffer and be exterminated. All they have in their minds are bad thoughts toward others. They devise wicked and lewd acts against the LORD's people. Far from the truth, they do not know God's law. They may have learned about it but they never believe in God's righteous decrees. They are lawless, doers of iniquity, and servants of the enemy. All they have in mind is to go against the will of God.

When the LORD is near: The nearness of the enemy is countered by the intimate closeness of the psalmist to his LORD. He is in every believer's heart and His children are indwelt by His Spirit. No one can separate him from God's love which is in Christ Jesus. He thinks of the LORD all the days of his life, and he partakes of His spiritual provision daily. This great union with the LORD through Christ and His Word is inseparable. It is eternally bound to remain together for eternity. Read John 10:28.

God's Word will preserve the people of the LORD for it reminds them of the truth that He is truly near and one with them. The Word by God's Spirit will lead him to understand the truth of God's presence in his life. The Bible, when read always, will bring to mind the verity of the Lord's promise that He is with the elect always, even unto the end of the world.

Dear reader, preservation through God's Word is communing and partaking of it all the days of your earthly life. Make it a part of your daily practice to remind yourself how God is so near you.

THOUGHT: Am I near to God through His Word?

PRAYER: Father, remind me that Thou art near me.

MONDAY, MARCH 18
PSALM 119:152
ECCLESIASTES 3:11-15

*“... whatsoever God doeth, it shall
be for ever: nothing can be put to it,
nor any thing taken from it...”*

THE WITNESS OF GOD’S WORD

God’s Word is the witness of the living and true God. Without it, we cannot know who created us and where we are going after life on this earth. It tells us of the fall of man that resulted in the total depravity of mankind. It presents to us the grace of God through and in Jesus Christ, who is our Saviour and Lord. It unveils to us the glorious hope of eternity in God’s Kingdom in heaven. All these and much more are God’s testimonies of His good plan for His children.

Known of old: These are not new revelations out of modern-day visions and dreams. Adam and Eve knew this well even before the Scriptures were written. His Word was given clearly. Immediately after our first parents sinned, the LORD promised them the “seed of the woman.” Job, Abraham, and the other patriarchs were aware of the coming of the Messiah. God’s plan for mankind was revealed to every generation, although progressively. Read John 8:56.

Founded forever: The psalmist confidently says of his knowledge of God’s Word that it has been of old. He is the recipient of it because he is aware that it has been present since the time of Creation. God’s Word will stand strong forever and ever. Whatever storm may endeavour to take it away, there is no probability that it will take away even a jot or a tittle of the Word. God’s Word is set to last forever.

Thus, it is most trustworthy because of how it is established. No authority has taken it away from the hearts of God’s people. The LORD sets it according to His good pleasure and will. His holy witness through the Word is our life’s anchor in times of disaster. It is the rock that is our refuge in times of hardship. It is the comfort of lives that are heavily burdened by this world’s problems. Its design and purposes are eternally programmed and will never change or end.

Do you trust God’s Word? Is your trust based on the truth that it has been known and founded from of old? Never doubt God or His Word.

THOUGHT: Is God’s Word an eternal witness for me?

PRAYER: Father, remind me always of the eternity of Thy Word that I may not seek after the vain and temporality of man’s words.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

PSALM 119:153-155

MICAH 7:7-13

*“...he will bring me forth to the light,
and I shall behold his righteousness.”*

DELIVERANCE IN GOD'S WORD

The depression suffered by believers can be answered by God through His Word. There is no need for professional counsellors, and psychologists who have limited knowledge of man's mind and heart. We have our Divine Counsellor who tells us of the truth. Most of the miseries and troubles that plague many believers have the antidote in the very Word of God. It has perfect knowledge and understanding of man's youthful days and will continue to guide man through his evening years. It is the only deliverance. It has already delivered many from hell and the eternal wrath to come. What else can it not defeat?

For His people: The psalmist used the personal pronoun to identify himself as needing the deliverance. God alone can clear the false allegations filed against him. He believes in God's laws as just and fair. God is no respecter of man. He will not clear the guilty, but truthfully punish those who have committed the wrong. God will give His sentence based on equity and honesty. The psalmist trusts this character of God, and God is his Judge.

Far from the wicked: Deliverance is far from the wicked. God, who is in control of everything, will not allow anyone to go scot-free. The Judge of all the earth will condemn those who have done evil. God will see to it that such a judgment will be implemented most reasonably. The consequence of facing the wrath of God is too scary. No one will appear before God unfairly treated. Without repentance, eternal condemnation will be upon the wicked. The destiny of the unrepentant will be in hell and the eternal lake of fire. It is a fair ending, for they have rejected and blasphemed the God who loves them so much that He gave His only begotten Son to be their Lord and Saviour.

Dear reader, trust in the deliverance from the God of the Word. We just have to believe in what He has vowed through His Word. If you are a believer who has Jesus, you will surely be delivered. It may not be granted exactly at the time as you have hoped for, but a sure deliverance can be anticipated.

THOUGHT: Is my deliverance an assurance?

PRAYER: Father, I thank Thee for the deliverance that Thou hast promised.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20
PSALM 119:156-157
1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

*“...be ye stedfast, unmoveable,
always abounding
in the work of the Lord...”*

WREST NOT GOD’S WORD

The word “*decline*” (Ps 119:157) means “to wrest,” i.e. to twist the meaning of a word, or to deflect so as to give a different interpretation to favour the reader. Peter says that the unlearned and unstable will “*wrest*” (2 Pet 3:16) to their harm.

Great are His tender mercies: Some readers force a meaning which departs from the nuance of the word to suit their understanding. This must be avoided. God’s tender loving care should prevent the believer from an unfaithful interpretation of His words. The psalmist acknowledges how God cherishes him with such care (like a foetus in the mother’s womb) that he dares not misrepresent His Word. The believer must plead to be preserved and strengthened to fulfil and do God’s bidding rather than change the meanings of God’s words.

Many are the persecutors and enemies: These are the reasons why the psalmist promises not to decline from God’s Word. The persecutors are after him in a very hostile manner. They hunt him down, putting him to flight to seek a safer place. He flees from them because he is full of anguish and distressed by their wiles which are of the devil. They are not few, but many. They search for him as if they are after a criminal. They are backed up by armies ready to destroy him. Yet, the psalmist fears God the most. He would rather be under his enemies’ hands than wrest with God’s Word which will cost him more. The destruction that he will suffer from God’s wrath if he wrests with His Word is eternal, and far greater than his sufferings under human persecutors.

There are Christians today who fear man rather than God. They wrest God’s Word to please people and to avoid persecution. Be aware that the consequence from God is far worse than the sufferings caused by man.

Dear reader, God has already shown you tender mercy and loving care. Do not abuse His goodness. More fearful is the mighty hand of God than the cruelest persecutor on earth.

THOUGHT: Do I wrest God’s Word to please man?

PRAYER: Father, help me to be faithful in the interpretation of Thy Word and declare it without compromise.

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

PSALM 119:158-159

2 PETER 2:7-9

*“...to reserve the unjust
unto the day of judgment
to be punished...”*

TRANSGRESSORS OF GOD’S WORD

Transgressors (who may even be professing believers) are those who deal with God’s Word deceitfully. They offend others by their actions, and they deal unfaithfully with God’s Word. They may be piously saying that they are for God and wish to cleanse the church of leaders and church members who they think are against God. Yet, their actions are against the Word. They use God’s Word for their evil intentions to destroy others because of their personal vendetta.

Grieve over them: There should be no support for them. They are against the God of the Bible. The psalmist is grieving over them. His grief is not about weeping and mourning, but of detesting and cutting off from those transgressors. He resolves not to have any fellowship with them because they are against God. They deserve not to be befriended for they fight against our Master and our Lord. Even pet dogs defend their owners if someone threatens to harm them. We must be more sensible to stand on the Lord’s side if He is maligned by the enemies. Read Ephesians 5:12.

Love God’s Word: The psalmist pursues the Word with love and loyalty. He is not like the transgressors who disobey God’s Word to take vengeance. He must leave that to his Lord to judge them for He is fair and just. He has to devote himself to loving His God, to show others what it means to worship and adore the God of his salvation. People around must see the genuine Christian’s way of life. He must manifest what it means to keep the Word, and not to transgress it. The believer aims to please the Lord, and when judgment comes, he will be spared from the wrath of God’s chastising hand, and he will be welcomed into God’s glorious Kingdom.

Dear reader, be not taken in by the wiles of the wicked, tempting us to be like them. God is sovereign and is more powerful. Learn to entrust everything to the LORD so that when things are resolved, He will be glorified. You must endure and abhor that which is evil. Look forward to your Lord and Saviour’s soon return. Transgressors will see God’s wrath during the Great Tribulation.

THOUGHT: Do I withdraw fellowship from transgressors?

PRAYER: Father, grant me discernment to identify the transgressors.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22
PSALM 119:160
PSALM 12

*“Thou shalt keep them, O LORD,
thou shalt preserve them
from this generation for ever.”*

GOD’S WORD ENDURES FOREVER

The Hebrew word for “*endure*” is not in the original. The KJV translators are faithful to italicise this word to highlight that it is added to give the complete meaning. The psalmist declares that the Word will endure even into eternity.

From the beginning: The trustworthiness of God’s Word is from the beginning. It did not become established only after the last word was written in the book of Revelation. It has been a complete set of revelations planned by God to be given to man, even before it was given by the inspiration of God. Every jot and tittle is of God, and the Spirit moved the holy men to write the words of God. And God has promised to preserve His words throughout the ages, even forever.

Every one of them: Yes, all of God’s words will endure forever. Not a jot or a tittle will be lost. The words are of God, how can it be lost? Man may purposely tear pages of the Bible out and remove words and phrases, even verses and chapters, but the Word of God is settled already even at the beginning. How we praise Him for the verity of His words. Not one of them is a mistake, and not one of them is erroneous. Not one of them will be lost, and nothing can be added. This is the reason we can fully trust in His Word because it has been preserved until everyone gathers before the very presence of God.

The doctrine of Verbal Plenary Preservation is not man-made, but the LORD’s doing. It is not by the greatness of man’s intelligence, but by God’s omnipotence that His Word endures forever and ever.

Dear reader, do you believe in the perfect Word of God in its original texts? If you doubt the perfection of God’s Word, it is tantamount to doubting God’s power to preserve. If you do not believe He can do it with His Word, do you think He can do it for your soul? How sure are you that you will be kept enduring until you enter heaven? Are you able to do it yourself? Of course not! It is impossible! Only God can do it. But if your God is unable, then your destiny is also in doubt!

THOUGHT: Do I believe in the perfect preservation of the Word of God?
PRAYER: Father, help my soul to endure even until eternity with Thee.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

PSALM 119:161

PSALM 4:1-5

*“Stand in awe, and sin not:
commune with your own heart
upon your bed, and be still.”*

STAND IN AWE OF GOD’S WORD

To stand in awe is to shake because of godly fear. It is the right attitude before the holy and terrible God, whose words are equally holy and terrible. God’s children have this reverence towards the Word because they value it as much as the Source of the Word. When saints tremble before God, they tremble also at His Word. When they love the LORD their God they also love the Word of their God. They are one. No one can claim that they love God, and yet transgress His Word.

When great men persecute: Princes represent great men who have power and authority. They can command to harm and bring false allegations against the psalmist. It is tempting in such distressing situations to bow down to them, and to transgress against God’s Word. But the psalmist knows that he must fear God more than the powers on earth.

When without cause they persecute: When persecuted because we have done wrong, we can say that God allows it because of our transgressions. However, when the psalmist is persecuted without a cause, it is daunting. It is indeed disheartening to think that though we have not done any wrong, yet we are wrongfully labelled. They put into our mouths words that we have not uttered. They falsely assume things of us and we are portrayed as sinners by their words. Under such situations, it is easy to justify that exacting vengeance is right. It is easy to explain that fighting against them is just and fair. We may be quick to say that we can feel righteous indignation accompanied by such actions.

The psalmist is right to stand in awe of God’s Word instead. To fear God and to submit to His Word is more important for him than to exact vengeance against the persecutors. Read Matthew 10:28.

Dear reader, are you more afraid of the earthly authorities than the Lord? Do you want to please your bosses and CEOs rather than please the LORD and His Word? Weigh the matters and consider what is more fearsome: the temporal persecution or the eternal damnation that awaits those who transgress the Word of God.

THOUGHT: Do I fear the Word of God most?

PRAYER: Father, help me to fear Thee and Thy Word rather than men.

LORD'S DAY, MARCH 24
PSALM 119:162-163
ISAIAH 9:1-7

*“...according to the joy in harvest,
and as men rejoice
when they divide the spoil.”*

GREAT WEALTH IN GOD'S WORD

Do you consider the things of this earth (eg. gold, silver, treasures, etc.) as wealth? Or are things spiritual (which will last forever) the riches of your life? Genuinely born-again believers can see the Kingdom of God. Their wealth consists of the heavenly things that are laid up for eternity. They love not the things of this world and they labour for the things that are not corruptible.

Rejoice at His Word: To the psalmist, God's Word is a wealth worth rejoicing in. He considers it as a great spoil, i.e. the booty gathered by the victorious army over the defeated city. All possessions in the besieged city are for the conquerors. They can gather to their hearts' content. Nothing can prevent them from taking what they desire as long as they are found inside the conquered city.

God's Word is freely available, without prohibition, to all and everyone who wishes to read, hear and ponder. The array of wise counsels and comforting thoughts can be received without limit. God's Word is far richer than the great spoil. The value of the Word is infinite.

Hate and abhor lying: But the unbelieving ones have an opposite view. They love the things of this world. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life delight their hearts. To attain worldly things, they will reject biblical ethics and morality. They rather hate and lie to prosper in the world. They will do anything to destroy their competitors and resort to lying to get gain. They will sabotage their business rivals, and bribe to get the upper hand. The ways of God are not in their philosophy. Whatever it takes to get the wealth of this earthly life, they will pursue it. They do not look forward to a life hereafter. They are myopic in their view, thus they “eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die.”

Dear reader, what do you consider as your great wealth? Do you value the Word of God as a treasure far greater than the riches of this world? How do you treat the Word in comparison to the material enjoyments of this earth?

THOUGHT: Do I love the Word more than the world?

PRAYER: Father, help me to see Thy Word as great wealth.

MONDAY, MARCH 25

PSALM 119:164-165

PROVERBS 3:1-6

“...length of days, and long life,
and peace, shall they add to thee.”

PEACE IN GOD’S WORD

The greeting “shalom” is very familiar to Christians. In this context, it refers to a situation that is well and there is safety. There are also happiness and prosperity. True peace, however, is measured in man’s reconciliation with his God. This is the peace attained when the sinner is justified in the Lord Jesus and there is no condemnation of the one saved by His grace. The psalmist expresses what it takes and what it means to have the Word in his life.

Always praise: God’s Word gives him the motivation to praise the LORD. How can he not praise God for the righteous judgments spoken in the Word? He may be oppressed and falsely accused, yet the truth is that peace with God is most important. This moves him to praise the LORD seven times a day! This is not routine prayer. This is figuratively saying that he prays always and without ceasing. It is his communion with God that flows out of heartfelt thanksgiving for His Word. He is justified by grace through faith in Christ as revealed in the Word. He who is continually cleansed daily by His Word, and has the promise of life eternal as promised in the Word, how can he not utter continual praise to the LORD? There is a free-flowing expression of praise and thanksgiving through prayer for the great blessings from God’s Word.

No offence: The men in God’s Word are assured of peace. Nothing shall offend them. The psalmist observes the believers of the Word to be free from stumbling blocks. The enemies will put obstacles to trip them, but the Word is there to warn them. The oppressors will place thorns along their way to injure them but God’s Word shields them. The wicked will put barriers to stop their service for the Lord, but God’s Word will show them His way so that they may continue to labour for Him. They are destined to succeed unto eternity. They constantly return to the Word to find God’s direction daily as they journey toward the celestial city.

Dear reader, do you have peace amid this troubled world? Are you reading the Word and experiencing the peace promised to you? Remember, there is the assurance of peace when you love God’s Word.

THOUGHT: Am I constantly praising God for His promises in the Word?

PRAYER: Father, grant me Thy peace as I serve Thee.

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

PSALM 119:166-168

1 THESSALONIANS 5:6-10

*“...putting on the breastplate of faith
and love; and for a helmet,
the hope of salvation.”*

HOPE OF SALVATION IN GOD'S WORD

The idea of hope here is to wait for God's salvation. Waiting is not often easy especially if it is taking longer. Many of us can lose our patience and proceed to do what we think is right and proper when we cannot see God's hand working on our side. We simply cannot wait upon the LORD. We want instant results and we want them quickly. Waiting, for many, is just a waste of time and we would rather act right away, even in the absence of God's direction.

In my soul: The psalmist is different, he can wait upon the LORD. It is most proper that he states first the covenantal name of God, “LORD.” He begins by addressing God by the name that will clear it all. Since He is the faithful God, He is worth waiting upon for. Many a times, we may find that His timing is different from ours, but knowing Him as a promise keeper, we can wait. He will not fail because His promises are true. The believer's soul continues to hope in God. He would rather wait than doubt and question the LORD. For who he is to argue with God? What is a man before the Creator of the universe that he dares to tell Him what to do? The psalmist knows his place. He is only a recipient of a speck of God's wisdom; he has no right to even suggest to the LORD what He must do.

In my ways: Instead of finding his way, the psalmist resolves to follow the LORD in His ways. He keeps God's precepts and testimonies in the Word. He dares not decide his ways. He knows the faithful LORD already has the blueprint for his life, so he better wait upon Him to be his guide. Surely, he who trusts in the LORD's work will reach His destined place for him. No turning back and no turning to another way, for the LORD's way is the only way that he can hope for his salvation. Why should we look for another way? All ways apart from the way of God are false ways, ways that will lead man to destruction.

Dear reader, is your soul able to wait upon the LORD of your salvation? Do you obey God's Word and wait upon Him to direct you? Do you wait upon the LORD for the salvation of loved ones and friends? Learn to hope in the LORD and you can do that when you are always in His Word.

THOUGHT: Do I hope in God in everything I do?

PRAYER: Father, in everything may I wait upon Thy perfect timing.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

PSALM 119:169-170

1 CHRONICLES 22:6-16

*“Only the LORD give thee wisdom
and understanding...”*

COME BEFORE GOD IN HIS WORD

The best place where a believer should be is in the very presence of God. However, approaching God is a no-nonsense act. We must come before His presence in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We have no worthiness at all to come before the very presence of God the Almighty, the LORD of all and Ruler of everything. We are given access to Him only because of what the Lord Jesus has done for us. In coming to God, we have to use the Word of God that we may commune with Him in Jesus' name. We do not approach Him using the filthy and abominable language of the world.

Let my cry: This cry refers to a shout of either joy or grief. It is the psalmist's proclamation from inside his heart and mind. But he is not heard by God if he talks rubbish. This is not making prayer difficult, rather, this makes it the easiest to pray. When we cry to the LORD, we cannot just murmur and complain, or throw tantrums when He does not answer. Here, the psalmist seeks understanding according to God's Word so that he can come before His presence in reverence and love. He knows who God is and what He has desired for the believer. His shout of praise or pain is an acknowledgment of God's dealing in his life.

Let my supplication: When he entreats God, the psalmist is careful not to ask that which is against God's will. He seeks deliverance not according to his wisdom, but the LORD's. He is careful to submit his petitions to God according to God's prescribed will in His Word. Be careful, there are vain requests that may invoke God's anger upon His people rather than blessings. Lustful supplications and the vanities of this world are unacceptable before the holy throne of God. Knowledge of what is right and pleasing before Him is in His Word. The psalmist is wise to seek the LORD according to His Word.

Dear reader, how do you approach God in prayer and worship? Do you frivolously come before Him without due reverence for who He is? Examine your heart for you may incur wrath rather than blessings.

THOUGHT: Do I seek the Lord always?

PRAYER: Father, create in me that desire to seek after Thee that I may behold Thee every moment of my life.

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

PSALM 119:171-172

PSALM 71:14-24

*“My tongue also shall talk
of thy righteousness
all the day long...”*

MY MOUTH FOR GOD’S WORD

The mouth is associated more as an organ of speech. Although it is important as the member responsible for taking in food to nourish man’s physical body, it is important to our spiritual life as the organ used to commune with God. Read Psalm 5:9 for the psalmist’s description of the mouth of his enemies. The mouth of a child of God is different. The LORD has renewed it to praise and speak of Him. The source of such praises and speeches is of course the Word of God.

My lips shall utter praise: The psalmist is taught God’s Word. What he learns from it moves him to utter praises to God. Who cannot show forth praises for His wonderful creation? Who cannot utter praises for His marvellous grace in a great plan of redemption? Who cannot sing praises for His infinite mercy of forgiving our sins past, present, and future? Only the heartless professing believer who is too lazy to say a word of praise. Of course, the unbelievers cannot appreciate all of God’s awesome work! They utter complaints and murmurings, not praise. They curse God and defy His laws without thanksgiving. They say all manner of evil and wicked words but never a word to praise Him.

My tongue shall speak of Thy Word: The mouth that praises God is the mouth that speaks God’s Word. The mouth of the believer (who constantly reads and meditates on the Word) will express the good words. He cannot keep it inside, it is like a river of water that continues to flow. God’s Word is the fountain of these good words of praise and thanksgiving. Once a believer is constantly reading God’s Word, kind words will come out of his mouth.

Dear reader, what is the condition of your mouth? Does it utter words of praise to glorify and honour the LORD? Do you speak forth the words of God to others who need the Gospel of salvation in the Lord Jesus? Have you shared the Gospel with anyone? Use your mouth to praise the LORD and speak for HIM.

THOUGHT: Is my mouth characterised by praise and God’s Word?

PRAYER: Father, help me to use my mouth all for Thy glory and honour, and keep it away from all vices and curses.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

PSALM 119:173-174

JOSHUA 24:14-28

“...choose you this day
whom ye will serve...”

GOD’S WORD, MY CHOICE

Daily, we have to make choices. What time to wake up, what kind of food for breakfast, what clothes to wear for school or work, what route to take, and many other things. Have you chosen the best part of the day for God and His Word? Do you choose to spend time with God alone and meditate upon His wise counsel? The psalmist chooses God’s Word because he needs God’s hand to help him. His first choice is the Word of God for he knows his need of the God of the Word.

For God’s help: God is a spirit. Scripture helps us to understand God’s ability by telling us about His hand. He can perform, hold, and dispense. He can do many things and this is described as God having a hand. When the prophet Isaiah said, “*Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save...*” (Isa 59:1), he expressed God’s all-powerful ability to save His people. No one can prevent His hands from doing His will and pleasure. When He does that, it is indeed a soothing touch upon the believer’s head, it is a healing touch upon a wounded soldier of the Most High, it is a loving arm that assures a suffering saint of His abiding presence. It is a complete help for it never lacks and the result gives a full resolution. The help is encompassing for it helps in many various ways. God helps the weak and weary to strengthen them. He helps those who are struggling to provide for their needs and sustenance.

For God’s salvation: The LORD delivers His people and shows how faithful He is. God saves them who are His from all the attacks of the enemy and the wiles of the devil. He saves them to the uttermost, and He will not fail them while they are on their pilgrim journey. The psalmist has this longing for God’s deliverance, not from the hand of men, but from the mighty hand of his redeemer. He waits upon His salvation for there is not one like His. He cannot find genuine deliverance from this world. It is God alone who can do it for him and he trusts His care.

O, how we long for the LORD’s hand to help us! He is able to extend His loving arms and provide His help. Why seek man to help when God can do it perfectly? When you choose His Word, the promises in it are all yours.

THOUGHT: Is the Word of God my choice?

PRAYER: Father, I thank Thee for Thy loving, helping hand.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

PSALM 119:175

PSALM 9:11-20

*“...thou that liftest me up
from the gates of death...”*

GOD’S WORD FOR MY LIFE

We have learned how important the Word of God is for our lives. No Christian can go on living without the Word sustaining, guiding, and comforting him. The Word is so vital to the believer’s soul that without it, the soul will faint. It does not mean just having the physical presence of the Bible at his side, but having the Word in the heart and mind of the one who professes to be a child of God.

Life for the soul: When God created man, He breathed into his nostrils and man became a living soul. However, when man disobeyed God, he died spiritually in trespasses and sins. Upon salvation, man is born of the Spirit and he then requires sustenance to live for the Lord. God’s Word is the daily bread for his soul. He is nourished, strengthened, and energised by the Spirit of God through the Word. He has a sound spiritual life if he regularly feeds on the Word. He is kept from spiritually infectious agents that will debilitate him. He is given the vitality that he requires to be productive in the work of the Lord. He is granted wisdom to discern his way so he will not be taken by the baits and traps of the enemy.

Help for the soul: God’s help for the soul is all-encompassing. Facing a fierce battle, God’s Word is the Sword that will fight against Satan’s armies. Without this Sword, he is handicapped. He must sharpen his knowledge in handling God’s Word by learning more of it. God’s judgments and precepts must be honed in the believer’s mind. He must be able to rightly divide God’s Word so that it will be efficient and effective in defeating God’s enemies and in protecting His people.

Dear reader, God’s Word is essential to your life. It helps you to be a good witness for others, that they may come to the saving grace of God. Once you enlist as a believer, you are already in the battleground. You have put on the whole armour of God and taken the Sword of the Spirit to contend for the faith. Make sure you keep and sharpen the Sword of the Spirit that is made available to you. You can do it by constantly studying and applying the Word in your life. Start today, tomorrow may be too late.

THOUGHT: Have I enlisted into the army of Christ?

PRAYER: Father, help me see that I need to rise and be counted as one of Thy soldiers equipped with the Sword of the Spirit.

LORD'S DAY, MARCH 31
PSALM 119:176
ISAIAH 53:4-9

"...we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

FORGET NOT THE WORD OF GOD

We may have gone through over ninety devotionals about God's Word, but it is disheartening to think that after this we may forget it. The psalmist ends this longest Psalm with a word of caution to believers. Without God's Word as his guide and compass, he is lost.

When gone astray: Many times in the believer's life, he leaves his path and goes out of the way. We must be humble to acknowledge that we have gone astray at some point in our life. We know that we easily wander away and we become prayerful that God will keep us. Those who think they are okay, are never okay. God's Word is our compass to determine how we have departed from His path. We need God's Word to measure how we have been living for the Lord.

When lost: The believer may wander, but being lost is quite scary. A lost sheep does not know how to return to the flock. He needs the shepherd to come and fetch him. When lost, he is in danger of the wild animals that are ready to devour him. When lost, he is bound to perish. So, the psalmist humbly acknowledges that he has gone astray, and likens himself to a lost sheep. He needs the Shepherd. His faithful Shepherd goes to look for him. He is the Master to all the sheep. So he trusts Him and never forgets the voice of his Shepherd.

May we never forget God's Word. Otherwise, we will not even realise we are lost, and we will not call for help. We will not remember we have a Shepherd. We will just be mesmerised with the new situation, though lost. This is the danger of forgetting the Word!

Dear reader, may the LORD impress upon your heart the great danger of forgetting God's Word. Let His Word be magnified in your life. Read it regularly, humbly, and devotionally. Pray for the Holy Spirit to grant you wisdom and understanding to know the right interpretation. Seek the help of your Pastor and preachers if you find it difficult to understand God's Word.

THOUGHT: Are there days when I forget to read the Word of God?

PRAYER: Father, our Almighty God, empower my heart and mind to always remember Thy Word, to read and meditate upon it.

Notes

Notes

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