

Psalm 119: For The Love Of Scripture!

Psalm 119:169-176

Psalm 119:169

(KJV) TAU. Let my cry come near before thee, O LORD: give me understanding according to thy word.

(NIV) May my cry come before you, LORD; give me understanding according to your word.

Tau. Our final eight verses of Psalm 119 (!) are preceded by the 22nd letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The word literally means “mark” and symbolizes a person setting a goal and achieving it.

Apostle Paul should come to mind when we mention setting goals, as he described his walk with Jesus as a race—and the goal of that race was to see Jesus face to face!

1Corinthians 9:24-27

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

Along with the spiritual discipline and encouragement the Holy Ghost provides to each believer during the lonelier miles, we need to understand that the race ahead will require other runners—our brothers and sisters in Christ—to pick us up when we fall or fail. The race may at times be a solo sprint, but God provides *community* so we can go the distance and learn to be doers of the word (James 1:22) and lovers of the brethren (1 John 3:16). To love our brothers and sisters in Christ means we provide practical help (James 2:15-16); pray (Ephesians 6:18); and speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15a) as we watch one another grow up into Christ, the Head of the church (Ephesians 4:15b).

In Psalm 119:169, the psalmist simultaneously cries out to God as he is being *pursued* by his accusers and mockers, and *pursues* God’s Word. This is the pattern of defence we would do well to imitate.

Be assured, dear one in Christ, that God will accomplish in us that which He initiated (Philippians 1:6) until we see Jesus face to face (Revelation 1:12-18). This, truly, is our goal!

Psalm 119:170

(KJV) Let my supplication come before thee: deliver me according to thy word.

(NIV) May my supplication come before you; deliver me according to your promise.

As God’s children, we cry out to Him in times of trouble. In fact, it is how we are first saved—by confessing that we are sinners and can no longer live apart from Him. We need a Saviour!

Romans 10:9

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

According to thy word. God's promises are "yes" and "amen" (2 Corinthians 1:20) and we can build our very lives upon it! (Matthew 7:24-27).

Psalm 119:171

(KJV) My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes.

(NIV) May my lips overflow with praise, for you teach me your decrees.

God our Father, and the Holy Ghost our Teacher often do not choose to teach us within the confines of a brick and mortar classroom, but rather in the school of everyday life. And it is there we become established in His promises—not by mere intellectual assent but by the testing of our faith as by fire. Our only response to God's divine rescue through Jesus is our praise. As He rescues us from imminent daily peril; as He carries us from the dominion of darkness (Colossians 1:13-14); as He saves us from eternity apart from Him in hell; all we can do is fall face down and worship Him (Revelation 4:10-11).

Psalm 119:172

(KJV) My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.

(NIV) May my tongue sing of your word, for all your commands are righteous.

Penned through the power of the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16), these words speak to our need to hide God's Word in our hearts (Psalm 119:11), and to meditate on it day and night (Psalm 119:11). His eternal Word! What better investment of our time and our mental, emotional and spiritual energy?

Psalm 119:173

(KJV) Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts.

(NIV) May your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts.

This is not a plea bargain, folks! It is relational trust between the psalmist and his trustworthy God.

Psalm 119:174

(KJV) I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law is my delight.

(NIV) I long for your salvation, LORD, and your law gives me delight.

Delight. There it is, beloved. How God blesses a man or woman who delights in His Word. Our trust in His Word translates to our trust in *Him!*

*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: What is the longing of your heart? Do your longings include more of God and His Word?

*STUDY POINT: Search the Psalms for other verses that speak to the intimacy we can have with Jesus through God's Word.

Psalm 119:175

(KJV) Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me.

(NIV) Let me live that I may praise you, and may your laws sustain me.

While we have life and breath upon this earth, we have opportunity to praise our God. And it is His anointed, unchanging Word that sustains us.

Hallelujah!

Psalm 119:176

(KJV) I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.

(NIV) I have strayed like a lost sheep. Seek your servant, for I have not forgotten your commands.

We conclude here. We *all* have come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Therefore, God's invitation and gift of salvation is for *all*! Likewise His Word is a divine gift from our Father of Lights that will never pass away.

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Luke 21:33 *Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.*

Amen.

~ Reverend Darren McClelland