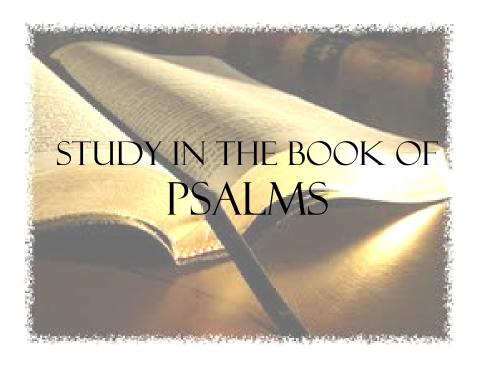


# CHRISTIAN RESOURCES



By: Bishop Warwick Cole-Edwardes

### **INTRODUCTION**

It is impossible to over estimate the importance of the book of Psalms. There is no doubt that it is the best-loved book in the Bible. It gives us a treasury of prayer and of public and private devotion.

We find in Psalms communion with God, sorrow for sin, the search after godliness. Obedience to the Law of God, delight in the worship of God, and a deep reverence for the Word of God.

All of this is contained in this book.

# 1) **AUTHORS**

David	73
Asaph	12
Korah	10
Moses	1
Solomon	2
Ethan	1
Hemon	1
Anonymous	50

<u>NOTE</u>: Almost one-third (12) of the 360 quotations of the O.T. in the N.T. are from Psalms.

# 2) TYPES OF PSALMS

Many different suggestions have been made as to how to divide the Psalms by subject matter or type. There is no consensus although the scholars recognize the following types:

Types	Examples
Hymns of praise(declarative,	Ps. 34; 119; 150
descriptive, didactic)	
Enthronement / royal Psalms	Ps. 2; 89; 110
Collective laments/prayers for help	Ps. 137
Individual laments/prayers for help	Ps. 102
Individual thanksgiving	Ps. 138
Collective thanksgiving	Ps. 100
Messianic Psalms	Ps. 22
Psalms of ascent	Ps. 121

Other people see only two categories

- a) Praise language of joy Thanksgiving and worship
- b) Lament language of suffering / petition for help/salvation

NOTE: The Hebrew has no word for "*to thank*". Praise includes thanks, but focuses on God, not man.

# To PRAISE means to:

Speak	God's glory,	To glorify and exalt God's holy
Tell	God's greatness	name with our life (all that we
Proclaim	God's goodness	do) and our lips (all that we say
magnify		

PRAISE is the proper response to who God is and what He has done.

#### 3) **SUMMARY**

Psalms 1-41	Book 1 – Worship God as Creator

This section may correspond to GENESIS and focuses on God as Creator, Sustainer and Sovereign Ruler of the Universe. The reason for God creating man and what God expects from man is also emphasized along with several key messianic Psalms pointing to Jesus Christ as the perfect man. **PSALM 33** is a good representative Psalm for BOOK 1. God is worthy to be praised because of His work in creation.

Psalms 42-72 Book 2 – Worship God as Deliverer
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This section may correspond to EXODUS and focuses on God as our great deliverer through all the perils, trials and enemies of life. Emphasis is also placed on God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt. **PSALM 66** is a good representative Psalm for BOOK 2.

Psalms 73-89	Book 3 – Worship God in His sanctuary
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This section may correspond to LEVITICUS and focuses on the necessity to worship Holy God in every area of life. **PSALM 84** is a good representative Psalm for BOOK 3.

Psalms 90-106	Book 3 – Worship God in His sanctuary

This section may correspond to NUMBERS and focuses on trusting God in the midst of the difficulties and discipline of life which the Lord brings our way for our own best interest. **PSALM 90** is a good representative Psalm of BOOK 4.

Psalms 107-150	Book 5 – Worship God by obeying His
	law.

This section may correspond to DEUTERONOMY and focuses on the important place in our lives of obedience to the Word of God. **PSALM 119** is a good representative Psalm and ends with "Hallelujah" – Praise the Lord.

# 4) THEME AND PURPOSE / APPLICATION MESSAGE

Theme/Purpose

Psalms discloses how to worship and praise God in a manner that is fitting to His character, for God is great and God is good.

# Application message

God is worthy of our worship, praise and obedience because of who He is and what He has done for us.

### **AN ANTHEM OF WORSHIP - PSALM 33**

# **BACKGROUND**

We see how the Book of Psalms is divided into 5 books; Psalm 33 would be a wonderful Psalm to summarize. Book 1. It is a song of praise, which is intended to excite and express the confidence we can have in the Lord – an anthem of worship.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION(v 1-3)

In this opening section we notice how there are six separate calls for us to worship the Lord. E.g. sing joyfully; make music to Him; shout for joy .... all exhorting us in worship.

#### a. God deserves our very best praise

These opening verses remind us that God is at all times deserving our very best praise.

#### b. Instruments enlisted

In Jewish worship they used many instruments; harp, lyre, etc.

### c. It is fitting

Once a sinner has been converted by the grace of God, there is a deep longing to bring praise to our God. This is right and it is fitting.

We also noticed how the main theme of book, is a creation, and that brings us to point two.

### 2. GOD AND CREATION (v 4-9)

#### a. His Word is true v 4

v 4 reminds us that His word is true; whatever is written in the Bible is true. We can trust it completely.

#### b. He is faithful in all He does (v 4)

Day by day in the lives of his children, God is faithful.

### c. <u>Unfailing love</u> (v 5)

#### d. Creative Power (v 6-9)

"By the Word of the Lord were the heavens made, their story host by the breath of His mouth. For He spoke and it came to be". In Gen 1 where we have a record of creation we see how creation took place by the Word of God, and Psalm 33 highlights that same thought.

"The doctrine of God is of the utmost importance for it controls the whole of life.

What we believe about God is the most important thing about us. Sadly, many have a very shallow view of God; and so in v 4-9 the psalmist is fascinated by the whole process of creation.

God is faithful, loving, and powerful. Therefore, we are caught up in the worship of Him.

#### 3. GOD AND HISTORY

In v 4-9, the emphasis was more on the power of God, but now in v 10-19 the emphasis is on the providence of God.

# a. Over the Nations (v 10-15)

"The Lord foils the plans of the nations, and He the purpose of the people".

ie. God's providence is in control of history. God's sovereign over the nations of the world.

#### b. Universal Knowledge (12-15)

In these verses we are reminded how the Lord looks down upon the nations (v 13). He watches over them (v 14). He considers everything (v 15).

#### c. Particular knowledge (v 16-19)

The psalmist reminds us in v 16, 17 that a nation is not saved by the size of their army.

But v 18 says, "the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear Him".

#### CONCLUSION

Because our God is the God of Creation (v 1-9) and the God of History (v10-19), we are exhorted to worship Him, to trust Him, to love Him, it truly is an anthem of praise.

#### **TELL WHAT YOU KNOW - PSALM 66**

#### INTRODUCTION

The author of the occasion of this Psalm we not known. The suggestion is that it was written by King Hezekiah after the defeat of Sennacherib.

Isaiah 37:20 – "Now, O Lord our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all kingdoms on earth may know that you alone, O Lord, are God".

Isaiah 38:1 – "In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amos went to him and said "This is what the Lord says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover".

It therefore is a Psalm of thanksgiving. It begins with corporate praise but then narrows down to the praise of one individual.

# 1) THE HAPPY MAN

The revelation of God's acts calls for response.

# a) Gods deliverance (v1-2)

The nation had been delivered from the power of Assyria. And the "happy man" described here is full of joy!

v 1 "Shout with Joy!"

v 2 "Sing with Joy!"

# b) Gods Might (v 3)

"So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you".

And the psalmist is again lost in praise for God's might.

#### c) God's future glory (v 4)

Not only has God brought deliverance through His might, but there also is the promise that in the future, even God's enemies will praise Him.

Therefore, v 1-4 is a picture of the happy man.

#### 2) THE HUMBLED MAN (v 5-12)

#### a) By the mighty works of God (v5-7)

#### i) Invitation (v6)

"He turned the sea into dry land" (the red sea) and the other illustration was he went through the river on foot (@ the crossing of the river Jordan).

### ii) Implication (v7)

"He rules forever by His power".

God's hand rules over the world. His eye observes what happens in the world, therefore we are humbled.

# b) By the marvelous ways of God (v 8-12)

# i) Protection (v 8-9)

"He preserved our lives".

# ii) <u>Proved</u> (v 10-12a)

"You refined us like silver".

God in His grace sometimes tests us.

# iii) Prospering (v 12b)

"But you brought us into a place of abundance".

# 3) THE HOLY MAN (v 13-20)

The now is a change in the Psalm. An individual now comes to the front, and he makes his way to the house of God in order to bring his promises to God.

# a) His Trustworthiness (v 13-15)

"I will come to your temple with burnt offerings and fulfill my names to you".

#### ı) <u>Resolve</u>

His resolve is not just to praise God, but to offer Himself to God.

#### ii) Recollection

He remembers how gracious God has been to him.

#### iii) Reckoning

"I will sacrifice fat animals to you".

# b) His Testimony (v 16-20)

This beautiful Psalm closes with his testimony.

### i) What he declared (v 16)

"Let me tell you what He has done for me".

# ii) What he did (v 17)

When Hezekiah cried out to God, God heard him.

### iii) What he discovered (v 18-20)

"Praise be to God who has not rejected my prayer or withhold His love from me".

# Conclusion

For anyone who walks with Jesus, and has experienced God's deliverance, there is a song of praise.

Psalm 66 is a beautiful summary of section 2 of Psalms, which deals with God the Deliverer.

Psalm 33 – deals with God the Creator

#### **PSALM 84 – LORD I'M COMING HOME**

#### INTRODUCTION

The psalm would have been written at a time when the temple and its services were established and when the pilgrimages were a part of national life.

It is a psalm full of delight and expectation. This particular Psalm also will deal with Section 3 of the book of Psalms, which covers the title "Worship God in His Sanctuary".

Philips – "let us see what this song has to say to us, pilgrims and strangers in the world, but we are heading for home.

### 1) DWELLING IN THE SANCTUARY OF GOD (v 1-4)

This Psalm is directed to the director of music, for singing in the sanctuary.

# a) OUR LOVE (v 1)

"How lovely is Your dwelling place Oh Lord Almighty".

The Psalmist reminds us that for the believer the dwelling place of God is a place we love to go. It is there where we meet with God and listen to His Word, and together with believers we are caught up in the worship of God.

### b) OUR LONGINGS (v 2)

"My soul yearns even faints for the courts of the Lord".

These words further explain the relationship between a believer and the sanctuary of God. We faint for it. We long for it.

#### c) OUR LOOKS (v 3)

"Even the sparrow has found a home near your alter oh Lord Almighty".

The psalmist directs us even to nature.

#### d) OUR LIFE (v 4)

"Blessed are those who dwell in your house, they are ever praising you".

From the verses, we can see the place, which the sanctuary holds in the life of a believer.

# 2) DRAWING STRENGTH FROM GOD (v 5-8)

As we go into the sanctuary of God, we are strengthened for life.

#### a) Our heart is right (v 5)

"Blessed are those whose strength is in You, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage".

The believer is greatly strengthened and encouraged as we go into the sanctuary.

#### b) Our Highway Is Rough (v 6-7)

There are times as believers when we go through some rough difficult periods, and to cope with these times we gain strength in the sanctuary.

### c) Our hope is real (v 8)

"Hear my prayer oh Lord God Almighty".

For a believer our prayer times are very very real. We lift up our hearts to the Lord and our hope is renewed.

# 3) DELIGHTING IN THE SERVCIE OF GOD (v 9-12)

As we move out of the sanctuary, we move into the mission field. But having been strengthened in the sanctuary we go into the world. Delighting in the service of God (v 9-12).

# a) We are here, Lord (v 9)

We are available for God to use us in His service.

# b) We are Home, Lord (v 10)

"I would rather be a door-keeper in the house of God, than dwell in the tents of the wicked".

This v 10 is a further reminder that the sanctuary is like a home to us.

#### c) We are Helped, Lord (v 11)

The Lord bestows favour and honor no good thing does He withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

### d) We are Happy, Lord (v 12)

"Blessed is the man who trusts in You".

The word "blessed" is the Greek word "Makarios), but it really means "how very happy".

# Conclusion

This is a wonderful Psalm, a Psalm which we will sing until we are home with the Lord.

Section 3 of Psalms deals with the sanctuary, and Psalm 84 is a wonderful representative Psalm for Grade 3.

# **LIFE AT ITS BEST OF VERY BRIEF Psalm 90)**

# **INTRODUCTION**

Next to the book of Job, Psalm 90 is the oldest piece of writing in the Bible. It was written by Moses in the wilderness while on the way from Egypt to Canaan. Genesis had not yet been written, nor had Exodus, Leviticus, or Numbers. Therefore, Psalm 90 stands as the oldest Psalm in history, one of the grandest Psalms ever written.

We find it in the 4<sup>th</sup> book of Psalms, and it corresponds in tone and teaching with the book of Numbers. Therefore Psalm 90 will give us a wonderful model for the 4<sup>th</sup> section of Psalms.

There are three main divisions in the Psalm:

# 1) THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE (V1-6)

i) The Sovereignty of God (v1-2)

The psalm begins by reminding us that God has been our dwelling place through all the generations, and in v.2 the psalmist ascribes to God creation. It was God who brought forth the world, and therefore our God is God from everlasting to everlasting.

ii) The Sympathy of God (v3-4)

Not only is God Sovereign, but He shows to His people amazing sympathy. There is with God a different intensity of life, so that a thousand years to God are as one day.

The Severity of God (v.5-6)

The other aspect of God's character which is there to balance His sympathy is God's severity. He sweeps people away in the sleep of death.

God is a God to be feared, not just loved, but feared for who He is. So the psalmist reminds us that we need in life the right perspective.

#### 2) THE REAL PROBLEM (V.7-12)

The psalmists remind us of things that are so often neglected today.

i) Our lives are so sinful (v.7-8)

The Bible is so clear that we are sinners; by nature, and by habit. And God knows our hearts.

"You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence." (v.8)

We are reminded that God sees and knows our secret sins, that nobody else knows.

ii) Our lives are short (v.9-10)

"The length of our days is seventy years or eighty if we have the strength"

We are reminded therefore that life is short.

iii) Our lives are so serious (v.11-12)

"Teach us to remember our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom"

The psalmist urges us to take each day seriously; to be wise in how we spend our day. Never to waste one moment.

# 3) THE RESULTING PRAYER (V13-17)

The psalmist now closes in prayer, asking God in the light of the above for four things:

i) A fresh evidence of the moving God (v.13)

How we should long for this in our lives. The movement of God through your life.

ii) A fresh evidence of enduement of the mercy of God (v.14-15)

"Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love so that we may sing for joy, and be glad all our days"

iii) A fresh expression of the might of God (v.16)

"May your deeds be shown to Your servants"

iv) A fresh effulgence of the majesty of God (v.17)

Here is a prayer for every servant of God.

"May the favour of the Lord our God rest upon us, establish the work of our hands for us"

# Conclusion

Here then is the oldest part of the Bible with Job, giving us a wonderful picture of life at its very best; with a right perspective, but with the knowledge that life is short. Therefore, use every moment for God, don't waste one second.

# **LOVE FOR THE LORD AND HIS WORD (Psalm 119)**

# **INTRODUCTION**

This Psalm is an elaborate, passionate meditation on the Law of God. It is said that Martin Luther so treasured this Psalm that he would not exchange the world for only one page of it.

Charles Bridges – "I know of no part of the Bible where the nature and evidences of true and sincere godliness are so fully and largely insisted upon as is taught in Psalm 119."

David Livingstone won a prize at Sunday school when at the age of 9 he quoted this Psalm off by heart.

1) They way of the Lord is good (v.1-8)

1 Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord!
2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart,
3 who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways!
4 You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.
5 Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!
6 Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.
7 I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules.

In these verses the Psalmist describes all the benefits which flow into our lives from a devotion to God's law:

For example: v.1 - the blessing of a good life; v.3 - free from deviation;

"blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord.

2) The remedy for sin (v.9-16)

v.6 - a life with no regrets.

8 I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me!

9 How can a young man keep his way pure?By guarding it according to your word.10 With my whole heart I seek you;let me not wander from your commandments!

11 I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.
12 Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes!
13 With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth.
14 In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.
15 I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.
16 I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

These verses will clearly show us that if we are devoted to the Word of God – not just reading it, but doing it – it will keep us from sin.

"how can a young man keep his way pure, by living according to Your Word, I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you".

3) A light for dark days (v. 17-24)

17 Deal bountifully with your servant, that I may live and keep your word. 18 Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. 19 I am a sojourner on the earth; hide not your commandments from me! 20 My soul is consumed with longing for your rules at all times. 21 You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones, who wander from your commandments. 22 Take away from me scorn and contempt. for I have kept your testimonies. 23 Even though princes sit plotting against me, your servant will meditate on your statutes. 24 Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counsellors.

When life appears to be dark, only God's Word gives purpose to life.

### "open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in Your law"

4) Faith God, divine Teacher (v. 25-32)

25 My soul clings to the dust; give me life according to your word!
26 When I told of my ways, you answered me; teach me your statutes!
27 Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous works.
28 My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to your word!

29 Put false ways far from me and graciously teach me your law!
30 I have chosen the way of faithfulness;
I set your rules before me.
31 I cling to your testimonies, O Lord;
let me not be put to shame!
32 I will run in the way of your commandments when you enlarge my heart!

# God is faithful to His Word (v.25, 28), and to those who love His Word (v.26, 30, 31), God will be their teacher. "preserve my life according to your Word"

5) Single mindedness (v. 33-40)

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end. 34 Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. 35 Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it. 36 Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain! 37 Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways. 38 Confirm to your servant your promise, that you may be feared. 39 Turn away the reproach that I dread, for your rules are good. 40 Behold, I long for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life!

# "Turn my eyes away from worthless things and preserve my life according to Your Word"

6) Complete and equipped (v. 41-48)

41 Let your steadfast love come to me, O Lord, your salvation according to your promise; 42 then shall I have an answer for him who taunts me, for I trust in your word. 43 And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for my hope is in your rules. 44 I will keep your law continually, forever and ever. 45 and I shall walk in a wide place, for I have sought your precepts. 46 I will also speak of your testimonies before kings and shall not be put to shame, 47 for I find my delight in your commandments, which I love. 48 I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes.

The Psalmist says in v.43, "do not snatch the Word of truth from my mouth, for I have put my hope in Your Law". In the N.T. 2 Tim 3:16,17 says the same. It is the Word that makes us complete and equips us.

**7)** Solace and strength (v 49-56)

49 Remember your word to your servant, in which you have made me hope. 50 This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life. 51 The insolent utterly deride me. but I do not turn away from your law. 52 When I think of your rules from of old, I take comfort. O Lord. 53 Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked, who forsake your law. 54 Your statutes have been my songs in the house of my sojourning. 55 I remember your name in the night, O Lord, and keep your law. 56 This blessing has fallen to me, that I have kept your precepts.

Now the psalmist reminds us that it id the Word that gives us comfort and strength in life.

# "remember Your Word to Your servant, for you have given me hope"

**8)** The Lord is my portion (v.57-64)

57 The Lord is my portion: I promise to keep your words. 58 I entreat your favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise. 59 When I think on my ways, I turn my feet to your testimonies; 60 I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments. 61 Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me, I do not forget your law. 62 At midnight I rise to praise you, because of your righteous rules. 63 I am a companion of all who fear you, of those who keep your precepts. 64 The earth, O Lord, is full of your steadfast love; teach me your statutes!

# "You are my portion oh Lord, I have promised to obey Your Word". Every aspect of life is from the Word.

**9)** God's good discipline (v.65-72)

65 You have dealt well with your servant,

O Lord, according to your word.
66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments.
67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.
68 You are good and do good; teach me your statutes.
69 The insolent smear me with lies, but with my whole heart I keep your precepts; 70 their heart is unfeeling like fat, but I delight in your law.
71 It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.
72 The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

# "before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey Your Word' The Word keeps us from backsliding.

**10)**A Faithful Creator (v.73-80)

73 Your hands have made and fashioned me; give me understanding that I may learn your commandments. 74 Those who fear you shall see me and rejoice, because I have hoped in your word. 75 I know, O Lord, that your rules are righteous, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me. 76 Let your steadfast love comfort me according to your promise to your servant. 77 Let your mercy come to me, that I may live: for your law is my delight. 78 Let the insolent be put to shame, because they have wronged me with falsehood: as for me, I will meditate on your precepts. 79 Let those who fear you turn to me, that they may know your testimonies. 80 May my heart be blameless in your statutes, that I may not be put to shame!

We now remember that God created all things by His Word, and these verses are at the back of:

1 Pet 4:19 - Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

11) Lord, how long? (v. 81-88)

81 My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word. 82 My eyes long for your promise; I ask, "When will you comfort me?" 83 For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, yet I have not forgotten your statutes. 84 How long must your servant endure?
When will you judge those who persecute me?
85 The insolent have dug pitfalls for me;
they do not live according to your law.
86 All your commandments are sure;
they persecute me with falsehood; help me!
87 They have almost made an end of me on earth,
but I have not forsaken your precepts.
88 In your steadfast love give me life,
that I may keep the testimonies of your mouth.

# At a time when the godless triumph, at a time when God's silence may cause us confusion; it is the Word that gives us hope.

12) God's Word is inexhaustible (v. 89-96)

89 Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. 90 Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast. 91 By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants. 92 If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction. 93 I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life. 94 I am yours; save me, for I have sought your precepts. 95 The wicked lie in wait to destroy me, but I consider your testimonies. 96 I have seen a limit to all perfection, but your commandment is exceedingly broad.

#### "Your Word oh Lord is eternal, it stands firm in the heavens"

#### **13)**Here is wisdom (v. 97-104)

97 Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. 98 Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. 99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation. 100 I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts. 101 I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word. 102 I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me. 103 How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! 104 Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

# "Oh how I love Your Law, I meditate on it all day long, Your commands make me wiser than my enemy"

#### 14) The Pragmatic Argument (v. 105-112)

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. 106 I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous rules. 107 I am severely afflicted: give me life, O Lord, according to your word! 108 Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your rules. 109 I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law. 110 The wicked have laid a snare for me. but I do not stray from your precepts. 111 Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart. 112 I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

### 15) Loving God's law (v. 113-120)

113 I hate the double- minded, but I love your law. 114 You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word. 115 Depart from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the commandments of my God. 116 Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live, and let me not be put to shame in my hope! 117 Hold me up, that I may be safe and have regard for your statutes continually! 118 You spurn all who go astray from your statutes, for their cunning is in vain. 119 All the wicked of the earth you discard like dross, therefore I love your testimonies. 120 My flesh trembles for fear of you. and I am afraid of your judgments.

# "Your statutes are wonderful, therefore I obey them"

#### **16)**Grounds for appeal (v.121-128)

121 I have done what is just and right;
do not leave me to my oppressors.
122 Give your servant a pledge of good;
let not the insolent oppress me.
123 My eyes long for your salvation
and for the fulfillment of your righteous promise.
124 Deal with your servant according to your steadfast love,

and teach me your statutes.

125 I am your servant; give me understanding, that I may know your testimonies!

126 It is time for the Lord to act, for your law has been broken.

127 Therefore I love your commandments above gold, above fine gold.

128 Therefore I consider all your precepts to be right; I hate every false way.

# He now pleads for divine action on the ground of his service.

17) How God blesses His Word (v. 129-136)

129 Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them. 130 The unfolding of your words gives light: it imparts understanding to the simple. 131 I open my mouth and pant, because I long for your commandments. 132 Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your way with those who love your name. 133 Keep steady my steps according to your promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me. 134 Redeem me from man's oppression, that I may keep your precepts. 135 Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes. 136 My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law.

#### **18)**God's other Self (v. 137-144)

137 Righteous are you, O Lord, and right are your rules. 138 You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness. 139 My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget your words. 140 Your promise is well tried. and your servant loves it. 141 I am small and despised, yet I do not forget your precepts. 142 Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is true. 143 Trouble and anguish have found me out, but your commandments are my delight. 144 Your testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.

# The psalmist says, "Your statutes are forever right, give me understanding that I may live."

**19)**The two recourses (v. 145-152)

145 With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O Lord! I will keep your statutes.

146 I call to you; save me,

that I may observe your testimonies.

147 I rise before dawn and cry for help;

I hope in your words.

148 My eyes are awake before the watches of the night,

that I may meditate on your promise.

149 Hear my voice according to your steadfast love;

O Lord, according to your justice give me life.

150 They draw near who persecute me with evil purpose; they are far from your law.

151 But you are near. O Lord.

and all your commandments are true.

152 Long have I known from your testimonies

that you have founded them forever.

# **20)** Give me life (v.153-160)

153 Look on my affliction and deliver me,

for I do not forget your law.

154 Plead my cause and redeem me;

give me life according to your promise!

155 Salvation is far from the wicked,

for they do not seek your statutes.

156 Great is your mercy, O Lord;

give me life according to your rules.

157 Many are my persecutors and my adversaries,

but I do not swerve from your testimonies.

158 I look at the faithless with disgust,

because they do not keep your commands.

159 Consider how I love your precepts!

Give me life according to your steadfast love.

160 The sum of your word is truth,

and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

#### 21) Honour where honour is due (v. 161-168)

161 Princes persecute me without cause,

but my heart stands in awe of your words.

162 I rejoice at your word

like one who finds great spoil.

163 I hate and abhor falsehood,

but I love your law.

164 Seven times a day I praise you

for your righteous rules.

165 Great peace have those who love your law;

nothing can make them stumble.

166 I hope for your salvation, O Lord,

and I do your commandments.

167 My soul keeps your testimonies;

I love them exceedingly.

168 I keep your precepts and testimonies,

for all my ways are before you.

# 22) The paradox of blessing (v.169-176)

169 Let my cry come before you, O Lord; give me understanding according to your word! 170 Let my plea come before you; deliver me according to your word. 171 My lips will pour forth praise, for you teach me your statutes. 172 My tongue will sing of your word, for all your commandments are right. 173 Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts. 174 I long for your salvation, O Lord, and your law is my delight. 175 Let my soul live and praise you, and let your rules help me. 176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.

The psalmist closes on these lovely words:

"I long for Your salvation oh Lord, and Your law is my delight, let me live that I may praise You, and may Your laws sustain me"

### Conclusion

Psalm 119 is a lovely summary of the 5th book of Psalms, and the whole emphasis has been on the Word, and our relationship to the Word. As we love it and read it, and meditate on it, it will keep us from sin and bring us to God.