

SBC – Oct. 11, 2026

Psalm 119:49-64 (NKJV)

“God’s Word – A Sufficient Source of Hope”

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible, with 176 verses. It has as its theme THE WORD OF GOD. It uses various Hebrew synonyms to refer to the Word, with the following being prominent.

Slide # 1

- **Law:** (torah) used 25 times = Commands
- **Testimonies:** (eduth) used 23 times = truths in keeping with God’s character
- **Precepts** (piqqudim) used 21 times = divine instructions
- **Statutes** (huqqim) used 21 times = fixed decrees
- **Commandments** (mitzvah) used 22 times = divine directives
- **Judgments** (mishpat) used 19 times = judicial edicts
- **Word** (dabar) used 25 times = the spoken Word

Slide # 2

Psalm 119

Theme: The Word of God

Psalm 119:49-64

“God’s Word: A Sufficient Source of Hope”

- vv. 49-56 (Heb. letter “Zayin”) – God’s Word – The Source of Hope
- vv. 57-64 (Heb. letter “Heth”) – *God’s Word is Sufficient*

Psalm 119:49–56 – God’s Word: The Source of Hope

49 Remember the word to Your servant, Upon which You have caused me to hope.

In English, when we speak of remembering it is the idea of a passive mental thought of recall. However, the Hebrew word “remember” (Heb. *Zakar*) denotes not merely calling to mind but also active engagement, active intervention on behalf of the one being remembered.

After the waters prevailed upon the earth for 150 days, Genesis 8:1 says, “Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided.” Remembered here has the idea of being moved to help.

When the dying thief on the cross in repentance said to Jesus, “Remember me when you come into Your kingdom,” he was merely saying, “Recall that we were together back here at the cross.” He was asking for Jesus to actively bring him in.

The Psalmist at this point is asking God to intervene for Him in accordance with His Word. He is praying in accordance with God’s promise. It is well said that when you take hold of God’s promise, you take hold of God.

He recognizes that it is God’s work in him that has caused him to find hope in God’s Word. We don’t come to this on our own. We come to hope in God’s Word because of His work in our hearts.

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

The Psalmist says God’s Word is his comfort in his affliction. He finds his life (vitality) through the Word.

In the midst of **affliction**, the psalmist proclaims his comfort: **this is my comfort**. “The worldling clutches his money-bag, and says, ‘this is my comfort’; the spendthrift points to his glee and shouts, ‘this is my comfort’; the drunkard lifts his glass and sings, ‘this is my comfort’; but the man whose hope comes from God feels the life-giving power of the word of the Lord, and he testifies, ‘this is my comfort.’” – **Charles Spurgeon**

Where do we find our comfort? The Bible is a balm for the soul! The Bible gives us life. Yes, it provides the message of eternal life, but then when we are down for the count, it reinvigorates us – it gives us life in that sense.

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

Proud people in the Bible are independent of God. They think they are self-made people, and they mock those who acknowledge their dependence upon God. Here we find them greatly ridiculing the God-fearing man, treating him as being stupid for doing so. They are holding him in great derision.

But the Psalmist is undeterred. His commitment to the Word is strong in the face of this mockery. He resolutely determines he will not turn aside from God's law.

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

He reflects back on how God has judged the proud in the past, and in this he finds great comfort. He confounded them at Babel; he drowned them in the Red Sea. Time and time again God has judged the pride of men. This is a great comfort for those being ridiculed by proud and ungodly people.

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

Not only was he greatly comforted by the Word, but he was also incensed because of the wicked who forsake God's law. This is righteous indignation. There is a place for righteous anger. The Bible repeatedly says, "Be angry and do not sin" (cf. Ps. 4:4; Eph. 4:26).

Our commitment to the truth should be such that we are offended when our God is offended.

If you mock my wife, I am not going to appreciate that. It will make me angry, and hopefully I will not sin. But how much more when people ridicule our God and our commitment to Him. Psalm 97:10 says, "You who love the LORD, hate evil!"

54 Your statutes have been my songs In the house of my pilgrimage.

The word "statutes" means "fixed decrees" or "unchangeable laws." This is God's Word that will not change. These principles have been his songs on his pilgrimage journey. A pilgrim is one who is on a spiritual journey, traveling through one country to another. We are, as it were, in a foreign land – just passing through. And yet we have a song to sing.

There is uplifting power in singing God's Word. I have read of people in communist countries who would meet in the woods to avoid persecution, and there they would sing for hours. Their testimony is that this strengthened their souls, enabling them to keep on keeping on.

Luther is credited with one time saying during a time of great duress: "Let sing a Psalm and startle the devil." Singing is a balm for the soul! Paul and Silas sang in jail and then God worked a miracle (Acts 16:25).

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

In the dark of night, anxiety and fears can rush in, but the writer focuses on God's name. And it is this focus that keeps him on track with God's law.

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

This song in his heart, this strength in his life (as seen in verses 54 and 55) has become his because he keeps the precepts of God. God's precepts are His charges – His commands.

This is a triumphant statement! Because he keeps the Word, he knows the power and strengthening of God's Word.

Psalm 119:57-64 – God's Word is Sufficient

57 You are my portion, O LORD; I have said that I would keep Your words.

God has become his all in all! The greater your commitment to God's Word, the more precious the Lord becomes. God has come to him through His Word, and there He has found God to be his all. He meets God in the Word, and there finds his full satisfaction in God Himself.

The poet is lost in wonder while he sees that the great and glorious God is all his own! – ***Charles Spurgeon***

Someone has said that we should meet every temptation, every challenge, with the reply: "The LORD is my portion." The LORD is my shepherd, and I lack nothing was David's testimony in Psalm 23.

Slide # 3

Here is the Christian complete – taking *the Lord* as his portion, and his *word* as his rule.” – **Charles Bridges**

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

God’s favor is literally “Your face.” To have God’s face shine upon You is to enjoy the look of His favor. Thus the Psalmist has sought the face (the favor) of God with his whole heart.

Slide # 4

Numbers 6:24–26 (NKJV)

24 “The LORD bless you and keep you;

25 The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;

26 The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.” ’

He has earnestly sought the favor of God and yet realizes that no matter how sincere or committed he is – he still needs the mercy of God.

Mercy (Heb. Chanan) means to show favor or unmerited pity. It is the generosity of a superior towards an inferior which is totally unearned.

The request for mercy is not based on it being a right, or that he deserves it. The psalmist speaks as one who expects mercy **according to** the promise of God’s word. – **David Guzik**

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

One of the wonderful things about being in the Word is that it causes one to think about their ways, and it brings about correction. It brings conviction and correction. If one is never in the Word, then they grow cold toward it, which is a scary reality.

Slide # 5

2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, **for correction**, for instruction in righteousness,

Of course one has to be willing to listen. One has to be teachable. One has to be willing to make the correction called for, which the psalmist was willing to do.

It starts with thinking! Some people just don't think about the Word very deeply or at all. I remember an old preacher saying, "Sometimes I sit and think, and sometimes I just sit." Or we have a million other things to distract us, and our thoughts are far from the corrective Word.

The Psalmist, as he was in the Word, thought about his ways! It is good to think about your ways and whether or not you are on the right path. And if there is need for correction, we have to volitionally make adjustments.

He says, "I turned my feet to Your testimonies."
God's testimonies are His truth in keeping with His character. It is what God has revealed about Himself. To turn your feet to God's testimonies is to align your walk with God-like ways and character.

"Blaise Pascal, the brilliant French philosopher and devout Christian, loved [Psalm 119](#). He is another person who had memorized it, and he called verse 59 'the turning point of man's character and destiny.' He meant that it is vital for every person to consider his or her ways, understand that our ways are destructive and will lead us to destruction, and then make an about-face and determine to go in God's ways instead." - **James Montgomery Boice**

Slide # 6

I thought about my ways: "How many, on the other hand, seem to pass through the world into eternity without a serious *thought on their ways!* Multitudes live for the world – forget God and die! This is their history." - **Charles Bridges**

That is so true! I often ask people, have you thought about God? Have you thought about the hereafter? Have you thought about being right with God? How sad to hear them say, "I just don't think about it." That is the road to hell!

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

This is indicative of true repentance. It makes a decisive commitment which is then reflected in the life.

The word “delay” indicates indecision. This very same word is used of Lot in Genesis 19:16.

Slide # 7

Genesis 19:16 (NKJV)

16 And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.

Delay is reluctance to move, indecisive in decision. But the psalmist was not that way. He made haste and did not delay to keep God's commandments. Again, this is indicative of true repentance.

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

The wicked have sought to ensnare him, but he is resolute in sticking with God's law. He maintains His focus on God's Word in spite of all the efforts of the wicked to bind him.

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

Even at midnight he determines that he will rise to give thanks to God because of His righteous judgments.

Have you ever thanked God in the middle of the night for His Word? Well, wake up tonight and do it. -**J. Vernon McGee**

In the dread of the night, his focus is on God's Word, and he anticipates God's intervening judgment, and so he gives thanks. It is good to thank God for what He is going to do, even before He does it!

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

His fellowship is with like-minded God-fearing people – that is, those who keep God's precepts – that is the charge of His commandments. These people take God seriously! They order their lives by the Word of God.

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

In fellowship with “God and His people the writer saw the MERCY of God all around him. And this caused him to want God to teach him even more about Himself.

The word “mercy” here is the Hebrew word “hesed.”

Hesed has the nuanced meaning of loyal love couched in active mercy. This word has so many layers that no single English word does it justice. It is often translated as “God’s steadfast love”, “His covenant love,” or “His loyal love.” The basic idea is that of “loving faithfulness.” It is the idea of covenant love and faithfulness.

As the writer spends time in the Word, he sees the faithfulness of God on display everywhere in the world. Constantly, God shows up for His own in keeping with His Word.

Thus, the psalmists wanted to know more of God. And he comes with a teachable heart, saying, “**Teach me Your statutes.**” Again, God’s statutes are His unchangeable principles or His binding Word.

Slide # 8

- **Studying the Bible will take your entire life and you'll still never find the end of its depth.**

The pursuit of God in and through His word leads to satisfaction and blessing. That satisfaction and blessing leads to a deeper pursuit, leading to even more satisfaction and blessing. – **David Guzik**

In our text tonight, we see the writer had come to find his hope and comfort in the Word! Through the Word he had come to see that God is his portion – is sufficient all! He had come to see his world as being full of God’s loving faithfulness and therefore wanted to know even more of God’s Word.

Read the Bible Through

**I supposed I knew my Bible,
Reading piecemeal, hit or miss,
Now a bit of John or Matthew,**

**Now a snatch of Genesis,
Certain chapters of Isaiah,
Certain Psalms (the 23rd),
Twelfth of Romans, first of Proverbs
Yes, I thought I knew the Word!**

**But I found that thorough reading
Was a different thing to do,
And the way was unfamiliar
When I read the Bible through.
You who like to play at Bible,
Dip and dabble, here and there,
Just before you kneel a-weary,
Yawning through a hurried prayer;
You who treat the crown of writings
As you treat no other book –
Just a paragraph disjointed,
Just a crude impatient look –
Try a worthier procedure,
Try a broad and steady view;
You will kneel in very rapture
When you read the Bible through!
-Amos R. Wells**

Yes, read the Bible thoroughly and read it through. "You will kneel in very rapture when you read the Bible through."