

SBC – Oct. 25, 2026

Psalm 119:65-80 (NKJV)

“The Good Word of God’s Testimony”

The theme of Psalm 119 is the Word of God. With 176 verses, it is the longest Psalm and the longest chapter in the Bible. There are 8 primary Hebrew synonyms (or terms) used to refer to the Word of God.

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/rules
- **Commandments** (mitzvah) used 22 times = divine directives
- **Judgments/Rules** (mishpat) used 23 times = judicial edicts
- **Word** (dabar) used 24 times = the spoken Word
- **Word** (imrah) used 19 times = declarative message

We don’t know who the author was or the occasion.

But it is clear from the context that he had his enemies and was dealing with a perilous situation.

The Psalm has no outline other than the acrostic format in which it is presented. The Hebrew alphabet has 22 letters. In the Psalm, eight lines are given to each letter.

Slide # 2

Psalm 119

Theme: The Word of God

Psalm 119:65-80

“The Good Word of God’s Testimony”

- vv. 65-72 (Heb. letter “Teth”) – God’s Word is Good
- vv. 73-80 (Heb. letter “Yodh”) – *God’s Word Gives a Clear Testimony*

Psalm 119:65–80 (NKJV)

65 You have dealt well with Your servant, O LORD, according to Your word.

What a wonderful realization. No matter what you go through to be able to look back and say “God has dealt well with me as His servant.” I don’t know about you, but that is my testimony! God has worked that which ultimately is “well” for me in every situation.

Slide # 3**Romans 8:28 (NKJV)**

28 And we know that **all things work together for good** to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

And it is always “according to” God’s Word! God works what is well for us in keeping with His Word! At every point, our life squares with the Word says and how He works is always in keeping with His Word.

66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge, For I believe Your commandments.

The word “judgment” (Heb. “taham”) is the idea of spiritual discernment. He wants God to teach him proper discernment. Knowledge is spiritual insight that enables one to properly discern. And the writer knew that the source of this is found in the commandments of God.

“No school, but the school of Christ – no teaching, but the teaching of the Spirit – can ever give this *good judgment and knowledge*.”

-Charles Bridges

67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.

This is one of the great verses in Psalm 119. Sometimes people have to learn the hard way. That seems to have been the case with the writer.

Affliction brought him down – it humbled him. It served to get him back on track. Before he was afflicted, he went astray, but now he keeps God’s Word.

Slide # 4

1 Thessalonians 3:3 (NKJV)

3 that no one should be shaken by these **afflictions**; for you yourselves know that we are **appointed** to this.

Hebrews 12:11 (NKJV)

11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, **afterward it yields** the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Slide # 5



68 You are good, and do good; Teach me Your statutes.

In the midst of affliction, the writer has not become bitter. In the furnace of affliction, people either get bitter or they get better.

Those anchored to the Word recognize the GOODNESS of God in and through it all. The Psalmist, being a man committed to the Word, is not bitter or resentful! Rather he praises God for His goodness!

God is good, and He only does good! When going through a really hard time of one kind or another, I have often said to my children: ***“God is good, and God is sovereign.”***

This is a tremendously comforting reality! God is always good, and He only works GOOD in the ultimate sense in light of eternity.

“Affliction is not the most frequently mentioned matter.... The most prominent word in these verses is ‘good.’”

– **James Montgomery Boice**

In view of this, the writer wants to learn more of God’s statutes – His fixed principles and truth. Again, he recognizes the need to be taught by God!

69 The proud have forged a lie against me, But I will keep Your precepts with my whole heart.

Repeatedly, the Psalmist mentions these arrogant people who are lying about him. Slanderous lies are one of the most hurtful and devastating things in life. You can literally destroy a person in this way.

There is an old line that says: “***Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.***” That is a flagrant lie! Stick stones may brake bones but their damage can even begin to compare with lies forged again a person. Is there anything more destructive and damaging?

The proud are self-sufficient and have no regard for God. Thus they abuse the people of God. The devil tries to use them to bring discouragement and dishearten God’s people. But the Psalmist refuses to be distracted or discouraged, resolving to keep God’s precepts with his whole heart.

70 Their heart is as fat as grease, But I delight in Your law.

The NASB translates this: “Their heart is covered with fat.” The sense here is that their heart is insensible. They have a HEART problem!

“fat as grease.” Refers to the proud of v. 69 whose hearts are thick and thus the Word is unable to penetrate. – **John MacArthur**

It meant that their hearts were dull, insensitive, and drowning in luxury and excess. In contrast, the psalmist found **delight** in the word of God. – **David Guzik**

71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.

God uses the wicked to hone His people! In verse 67 he speaks of having been afflicted; now in verse 71 he again speaks of being afflicted. And in between he speaks of how the proud have lied about him, and how insensitive their hearts are.

It is in that context he says it has been good for him to be thus afflicted to the end that he may learn God’s statutes (permanent rules). God overrules the wicked and uses it in our lives for our good. In this we grow deeper in the Word and God’s ways.

This was the testimony of Joseph.

Slide # 6

Genesis 50:20 (NKJV)

20 But as for you, **you meant evil against me**; but **God meant it for good**, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

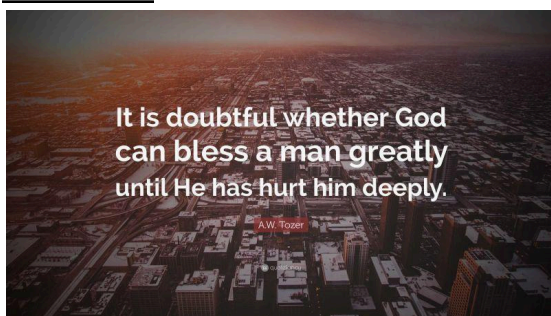
“I, for my part, owe more, I think, to the anvil and to the hammer, to the fire and to the file, than to anything else. I bless the Lord for the correctives of his providence by which, if he has blessed me on the one hand with sweets, he has blessed me on the other hand with bitters.” - **Charles Spurgeon**

As someone has said: Affliction makes the best schoolmaster!

Yet we must guard against the misunderstanding that seasons of affliction automatically make one better or godlier. Sadly, there are many who are *worse* from their affliction – because they fail to turn to God’s word for wisdom and life-guidance in such times. The worst affliction of all is a wasted affliction, wasted because we did not turn to God and gained nothing from it. – **David Guzik**

John Piper wrote a book [*Don't Waste Your Cancer*](#).” He wrote it on the eve of his own prostate cancer surgery to address how Christians can respond to life-threatening illness to the glory of God. His core message was that cancer is not a meaningless accident, but an opportunity to glorify God and rely on Christ.

Slide # 7



“Very little is to be learned without affliction. If we would be scholars, we must be sufferers...God’s commands are best read by eyes wet with tears.” - **Charles Spurgeon**

72 The law of Your mouth is better to me Than thousands of coins of gold and silver.

For the godly in the midst of affliction the Word of God becomes very precious. I told my wife this week the older I get, the more precious the kingdom promises are. The harder life presses on us, the more we cling to the value of the Word of God.

Verses 73-80 correspond to the little Hebrew letter “Yodh”. This letter is that which Jesus referred to in Matthew 5:18 translated as “jot.”

Slide # 8

Matthew 5:18 (NKJV)

18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one **jot** or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

Jesus here emphasizes the inerrancy and authority of the entirety of the OT Scriptures right down to the very letter, yea, down to the smallest part of every letter. That is total inerrancy! Thus, Jesus affirms the HIGHEST view of the inspired Scriptures possible.

73 Your hands have made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments.

The writer here recognizes God as Creator and also Teacher. Again, he recognizes his dependence upon God to help him understand. There is a tremendous emphasis on this in this Psalm.

Slide # 9

v. 66 – Teach me...

v. 68 – Teach me...

v. 73 – Give me understanding...

Some things your teachers emphasize stick with you. I remember one of my professors in Bible College saying we should never begin to read the Bible without asking God to help us understand what He wants us to see and apply.

And note the emphasis on him having a “teachable heart. He wants to learn God’s commandments. It is very hard to teach an unteachable heart! Yes, God gives understanding, but He does so in regard to a teachable heart that wants to learn and apply what God is saying.

If you buy a new appliance, it will come with an owner's manual. The Bible is the owner’s manual for God’s people. It tells us what we need to know. It tells us why we were created, how to be right with God, how we should then live, and our ultimate destiny. God created us and He knows exactly what we need. Everything we need to know is shared in the covers of the Bible. It is all sufficient, thoroughly equipping us for every good work (2 Tim. 3:15-17; 2 Pet. 1:3-4).

74 Those who fear You will be glad when they see me, Because I have hoped in Your word.

In view is the fellowship of the godly. To fear God is to reverence Him. The Psalmist knew that those who share a hope in God’s word encourage one another in their faith. It’s called “edification.” Those with like faith build each other up.

75 I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are right, And that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.

Once again he refers to the affliction that God has allowed into his life. This is now the third reference to this reality in our section tonight.

His focus on the Word has brought him to the realization that God’s judgments have been right and proper in keeping with what has been spiritually good for him.

It is one thing to say, “God has the right to do with me as He pleases.” It is a greater thing to say that His **judgments are right, and that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.** – *David Guzik*

Job was brought to this point. After a long and difficult struggle in the Book of Job where Job wrestled to try and understand the WHY of it all he came to the point where he recognized that the “judgments” of God were right and that through it all God was faithful!

Slide # 10

Job 42:1–3 (NKJV)

1 Then Job answered the LORD and said:

2 “I know that You can do everything, And that no **purpose of Yours** can be withheld from You.

3 You asked, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore **I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.**

Job 42:6 (NKJV)

6 Therefore I abhor myself, And **repent** in dust and ashes.”

The lesson of Job is that we often don’t understand the WHY, but God’s sovereign good purposes are totally consistent. In all our afflictions, the judgments of God are right!

76 Let, I pray, Your merciful kindness be for my comfort, According to Your word to Your servant.

God’s “merciful kindness” is literally the Hebrew word “***hesed***” which refers to God’s unfailing faithfulness. It is often translated as “steadfast love” or “loyal love,” referring to God’s covenant faithfulness.

No matter what, God will be there! He is ever LOYAL! You can count on Him, which was a great source of comfort for the writer in accordance with God’s Word.

Many times in my life, after a trying time, I have awakened to the glorious promise of Lamentations 3:22-23....

Slide # 11**Lamentations 3:22–23 (NKJV)**

22 Through the LORD’s mercies [***hesed***] we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.

23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

The Psalmist prayed from a position of solid ground as he prayed in accordance with God’s faithfulness. God’s promises of faithfulness are a great comfort to the person of faith!

“Our prayers are according to the mind of God when they are according to the word of God.” - **Charles Spurgeon**

77 Let Your tender mercies come to me, that I may live; For Your law is my delight.

The writer pleads for God’s tender mercies to come to him in accordance with God’s Word, which was his delight. The sense is that as he delights in the Word, God will send His mercies in the midst of a desperate, life-threatening situation.

“Tender mercies” (Heb. racham) literally means “womb.” The imagery signifies the protective instinct of an all-encompassing love for an unborn/helpless child. It expresses deep compassion for the vulnerable. No one cares for us like God does. It is deep!

“The mercies of God are ‘tender mercies,’ they are the mercies of a father to his children, nay, tender as the compassion of a mother over the son of her womb. They ‘come unto’ us, when we are not able to go to them.” - **George Horne**

78 Let the proud be ashamed, For they treated me wrongfully with falsehood; But I will meditate on Your precepts.

Again, he brings up the PROUD who have wrongfully treated him with falsehood. He requests that these PROUD be humbled in shame.

In contrast to the PROUD who arrogantly look to themselves, the Psalmist determines that he will meditate on God’s precepts (instructions). For him it always comes back to the Word!

“He would study the law of God and not the law of retaliation. The proud are not worth a thought. The worst injury they can do us is to take us away from our devotions; let us baffle them by keeping all the closer to our God when they are most malicious in their onslaughts.”

- **Charles Spurgeon**

I heard J. Vernon McGee say that one key thing he had learned in his ministry was to turn people over to God, saying that “God is able to handle difficult people and personal mistreatment far better than you ever could yourself.” Ask God to deal with them as is appropriate! It is appropriate to

ask that He humble the proud, that they come to where they are ashamed how they have mistreated the servant of the Lord.

Don't seek vengeance – ask God to deal with the situation as you continue your resolve to mediate on God's Word.

79 Let those who fear You turn to me, Those who know Your testimonies.

In verse 74, he was confident that he would be a blessing to those who fear the Lord, and here in verse 79 he asks that those who fear the Lord congregate around him.

Specifically, those who fear (reverence) the Lord are said to be those who know God's testimonies (God's truth in keeping with His character). These are those who know God deeply and have a vibrant relationship with Him. They know God!

He doesn't want to deal with his situation alone, but rather recognizes the importance and strength of the fellowship of those with precious like-faith.

This is a great prayer! "God please bring people into my circle who fear you – who know your Word." We all need this kind of strengthening fellowship!

God never intended for us to go it alone! He designed us to need each other. Part of God's provision is for us to find strength in the context of fellow Bible believers. We serve as iron sharpening iron.

Yes, our slanderous enemies plot our demise, but the fellowship of the God-fearing and God-knowing people is where we find our refuge. The catalyst of our fellowship is our commitment to God and His Word.

"As the believer finds trouble from the world, he prays that he may find help from the Lord's people.... It is painful therefore to see Christians often walking aloof from each other, and suffering coldness, distance, differences and distrust to divide them from their brethren." - **Charles Bridges**

Isolation is contrary to Scripture and leaves one weaker, not stronger!

80 Let my heart be blameless ,regarding Your statutes, That I may not be ashamed.

His prayer is that his heart be blameless (obedient) regarding God's decrees – what He has ordained. And he prays this to the end that he may not be ashamed. His major concern is that he be pleasing to God.

Our major concern should be that we not fall into sin.

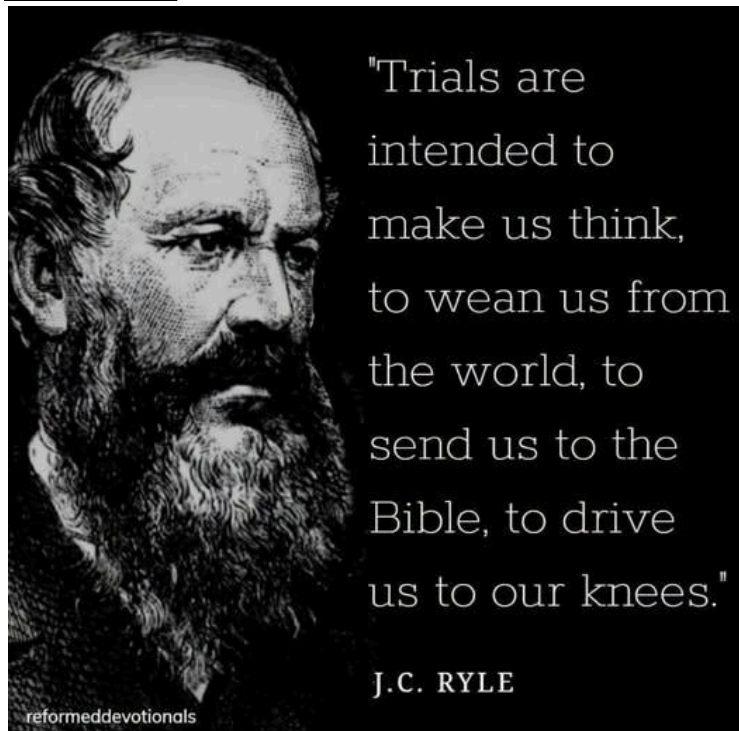
To this end, Jesus taught us to pray, “***do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.***” (Mt. 6:13) – LSB

We need God's help all along the way. And faithfulness begins in the heart. And nothing affects the heart more than saturating your soul with the Word of God.

1 John 2:28 indicates that some will be ashamed before the Lord at His coming, while others will have confidence because they have obediently lived out the Word.

A key thing that stands out to me in this section is the reality that God uses affliction in the lives of His children for our ultimate good. Affliction drives us back to the Word and deeper into the heart of God (v. 67, 71, 75). And its through sweet fellowship with God in the Word that He shows up for us over and over.

Slide # 12



In the midst of afflictions, God provides sweet comfort, solace, and strength through His Word. The writer had learned the secret of this reality, and because of this, he delighted in and treasured the Word!