

Psalm 119:25–32  
The Two Ways

**Tuesday, May 28, 2024 • Read Psalm 119:25–32**

*Questions from the from the Scripture text: What is the psalmist's soul doing (v25a)? What does he ask for (v25b)? According to what? What has the psalmist declared (v26)? Who answers/corrects him, and how? What way is an alternative (v27a)? How can he come to understand them? What is one means by which God does this (v27b)? What is happening to the psalmist's soul (v28a)? What does he need from God (v28b)? By what means? From which way is he removed, when he moves from his way to God's (v29a)? Whom (and how) does he need to give him to walk according to God's law (v29b)? Which way has he chosen (v30a)? So, then, what has he done (v30b)? To what is he clinging (v31a)? What does he ask would not be the result of that clinging (v31b)? What will the psalmist do, in which way (v32a)? How will he be able to do this running (v32b)?*

**How can those returning to dust live forever?** Psalm 119:25–32 prepares us for the opening portion of public worship on the Lord's Day. In these eight verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **dead sinners come to live forever by the Lord Himself, using His Word, to bring us into and keep us in the way of life.**

**The two ways.** In this section of this great acrostic song/prayer, every line begins with the first letter in the Hebrew word for "way." In fact, five of the eight verses begin with the word "way" (v26, 27, 29, 30, 32), while two begin with "cling" (v25, 31) and one with "weep" (v28). There are two "ways" to live: man's way (v26a), the way of lying (v28a), and the Lord's way (v27a), the way of truth (v30a).

As the children of Adam, we must learn to be suspicious of our own ideas, our own feelings, and our own inclinations. As we learned in John's preaching (cf. Mt 3:1) and Jesus's preaching (cf. Mt 4:17), we need a complete change of mind—not merely a change of our opinions but a change of the very character of our mind. "Be ye converted!" This is what the psalmist is talking about, in v26, when he describes bringing his own ways before the Lord, and the Lord's answering him. This is how we need to come to Scripture: as those who are coming before the Lord to receive His correction and instruction.

**The Word is the way into the right way.** More recently in Matthew, we have heard about the narrow gate (Christ alone), and the confined way, that leads to life (cf. Mt 7:14). And how is it that we come to enter only by Who Christ is and only by what Christ has done (not at all by what we have done)? How is it that we come to walk as those who have Him alone as our righteousness, and Him entirely as our Master? By hearing His Words and responding accordingly (Mt 7:24). Otherwise, we are dead. Otherwise our soul is clinging to the dust to which it will return (v25a). His Word is the means by which He revives us, the means by which He brings us into life (v25b). Either we will be clinging to His testimonies (v31a), or our souls will be clinging to that dust (v25a).

**The Lord is the way to walk by the Word.** Those who do not believe what the Scriptures teach (especially to believe in Christ alone for salvation) and do what the Scriptures command will have their weeping in the great and eternal day. But blessed are those who mourn now (v28a), for when they come to that great day, they will not be put to shame (v31b). Here, the Word itself teaches us to walk as those who have chosen the Lord's way (v30a). Those who are strengthened by the Lord Himself (v28b) have their heart "enlarged" (v32b) not just to walk, but to run, in the way of the Lord's commandments (v32a).

We must not be surprised when, having trusted in Christ alone for righteousness before God, we find the way difficult. The path is confined by His Word, and we are afflicted with our remaining sin. So, when we are weeping and clinging and crying out "who will deliver me from this body of death?" (cf. Rom 7:15–24), let us pray and sing with this stanza of Psalm 119. The Lord, Who uses His Word to apply Christ to us, will make us to answer, "Thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (cf. Rom 7:25a).

Who can bring you into the way of life? Who can keep you there? What is especially the means/instrument that He has appointed for doing this work? What use do you make of it at what times? How closely do your own emotions toward sin, toward spiritual life, toward the Word, and toward the Lord Himself, resemble the emotions of the psalmist in this stanza? If it is not very closely, Who can help you and how?

*Sample prayer: Lord, we are dust and deserve to return to dust. If we are going to worship You in life, it must be You who revives us unto that life. Revive us, according to Your Word! Grant that our ways would be corrected in accord with Your ways, and bring us now to meditate upon Your wonderful works. By Your Spirit, strengthen us, according to Your word, and enlarge our hearts, so that both in worship and in all of life, we will run in the way of Your commandments, we ask through Christ, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP119D "My Soul Clings to the Dust" or TPH119D "My Soul Is Sinking Down to Dust"**

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))**

Psalm 119 verse 25-32. These are God's words. My soul clings to the dust revive me according to your word. I have declared my ways and you answered me, teach me your statutes. Make me understand the way of your precepts. Social I meditate on your wonderful works.

My soul. Melts from heaviness. Strengthen me according to your word. Remove from me the way of lying and grant me your law graciously. I've chosen the way of Truth. Your judgments. I have laid before me. I cling to your testimonies oh you always do not put me to shame.

I will run the course of your Commandments. For you shall enlarge my heart. So, for the reading of, God's inspired. And Aaron toward, So we are up now to the fourth section of eight verses, which means we're on alphabet gimmel, dalot. And, Every verse then, in this section, in Hebrew, begins with the D sound.

Uh, and What the Holy Spirit has done through this almost here is he has made this a stanza especially about the two different ways. Soy in Hebrew is Derek. And five of these eight verses begin. With the word direct. Um, Referring either. To our ways, the psalmist way or Uh, you always way.

The other three verses two of them. Begin with the word cling. Which you see, of course, the English wording is not in the same order, but in verse 25, my soul clings to the dust. And verse 31, I cling to your testimonies Which praise God. This then is a way of going from or the the stanza shows.

How we go from the way of death to the way of life. My soul clings to the dust is a very Uh, poetic intense way of reminding us that we were made from dust in order to glorify God and enjoy him. But because of our sin and our first father, Adam Dust, we are and to dust, we shall return, is what the Lord said.

And so yes, my soul clings to the dust as a way. Um, a manner of saying. That I am brought very low. And I am grieved and weighed down. Uh, but it's also a matter of saying, I am on Or at the point of death. And in this case, it is a way of saying.

My entire life. Feels like a death to me. Um, we need to be revived. We need to be given Life verse 25. So God gives us life. He brings us into the way of life, especially, of course, by his word. And so you can see again many of these synonyms for the word of God.

Um, The glory of which word is the subject of the psalm as a whole, the topic of that, Psalm as a whole. So revive me according to your word, You answered verse 26, your statutes presets. Um, Uh, works. And Well I I don't remember now. Which word for work is there in verse 27.

But works and words Is very are very close to one another in scripture especially when it's spoken of God because he works by his word. And so often, the works of God will actually use the verb for speaking to talk about his works to beir I think this might be the word Assa.

There are many words for Works. Um, but the word law in verse 29, truth, judgments testimonies Commandments you see, Many of The synonyms for his word. So there are the two ways. There is our way, apart from the Lord, which is the way of death. In which we cling to the dust.

And then there is the way of life. Um, the way in which God makes us to go. When he gives us, makes us alive by his spirit and especially makes us to enter the narrow way. The confined way, which is, by the, the gate, the one gate, the narrow gate, the Lord Jesus Christ, and him alone.

His obedience alone is The Obedience that is good enough to be our obedience before God, his sacrifice alone is the sacrifice that is big enough. To pay for sins before God. And so that's the gate by which we come into the way of life. And God makes us alive and he teaches us about Jesus in his word and brings us to Faith in Christ, especially the work of his Spirit.

Making us alive and teaching us his word and bringing us to Faith in Christ. And then he makes us to walk in his way instead of in our way. And so there are here the two ways. Indeed. Psalm 119 verses 25-32 might well be behind. The Lord Jesus is teaching in Matthew chapter 7.

About the narrow way. Than the Broadway. The The way of the Lord that we find in his word, where Christ Alone is the gate and then, Uh, he constrains us, compels Us in Holiness, as he sanctifies us. Takes us on that high safe Road of Holiness to Glory. Not that, Um, there aren't difficulties and pains in it, but it is the safe way.

Uh, the safe way, the highway of Holiness. Is the way that is according to God's word in which we really can only walk by the life of Jesus in One of the reasons that it's nonsense to think. That we can come to God by our obedience, is because there can actually be no obedience except By having been joined to Christ.

And by his life in So, he tells us about the two ways he tells us, That the word is the way into the right way. And so we come to Um, believe in Christ by believing what the scriptures teach and we come to be like Christ. By walking in the way that the scriptures, Uh, teach.

By Christ's grace to make us walk. In that way. Uh, and so we go from clinging to the dust. Clinging to death by walking in our way. To clinging to his testimonies. Verse 31. And those who cling to his testimonies those who walk in that way. They will second half of verse 31, not be put to shame.

Jesus will not fail you Trust in him. Walking in his way, will not fail you. Yes, you may be slaughtered all day long for for his sake. An account. You may be accounted as sheet for the slaughter and killed all day long for his sake. But he will not fail, you.

It is the way to life the way to glory. The way to perfect happiness in God, himself, boundlessly, increasing happiness, forever. And so, the narrow gate and the confined way that the scriptures principally. Teach us what to believe. Concerning God, that he's revealed himself in Jesus and saves us by Jesus.

What Duty does God require of men? To obey all of God's Commandments and instructions to be conformed. To the image of Christ, not transformed. Are not conformed to the world, but to be transformed. By the renewing of our mind. And so there are the two ways and the word is the way into the right way and what the word teaches us.

Is that the Lord himself? Is the way that we enter or come into the way by which we Uh, walk in the right way. And so, he's crying to the Lord to do this work. Revive me according to your word. So the the word is an instrument but it's the Lord who does the Reviving teach me your statutes.

His statutes are the instructions by which we live, but it's the Lord who teaches our hearts, Make me understand the way of your presets. Strengthen me according to your word, the word is the instrument by which we are strengthened, but it is God himself. Who does the strengthening? Remove from me the way of lying.

Um, you I and the conclusion, then Verse 32, I will run the course of your Commandments. Not just, I will walk in the way of your Commandments, but I will run in the way. Of your Commandments. For you. Shall enlarge my heart. And so it is a work of Grace.

That brings us to believe. What the Bible teaches us concerning God, it's a work of Grace. Especially applying Christ. To whom we have been United by faith, applying his life to us. It's a work of Grace. That then makes us to walk. In the way of God's Commandments. And not just to walk because verse 32 says, but even To run.

So yes, there is the former way. The way that seems like a law within our members sometimes, Romans chapter 7, What I hate, I do. That, which I want to do, I don't do. We know the the way that we are supposed to be walking, But we often take steps and stumbles that.

Seem to be in the formal way. But when we cry, who will save me from the body of this death, The answer is thanks be to God through Jesus Christ. Our Lord, God is the one. Who makes us walk in the right way. And he uses especially his word.

To do it. Praise God. Let's pray. Lord help us to trust you and help us to love your word. So that we will not just walk but run in the way of your Commandments. We ask in Jesus name. Amen.