

Psalms 119:41–48

THIS is the Blessed Life [Family Worship lesson in Psalm 119:49–56]

Tuesday, June 25, 2024 • Read Psalm 119:49–56

Questions from the Scripture text: What does v49 ask God to do with His Word? What has the psalmist done with it (v49b)? What does v50a talk about? What has been his comfort (v50b)? What was this affliction (v51a)? For what has he been derided (v51b)? What has he remembered (v52a)? In order to do what to himself (v52b)? But what does he feel (v53a)? Because of what (v53b)? What have the Lord's statutes been to him (v54a)? How does he describe his life in this world (v54b)? What else does he do, when (v55a)? With what outcome (v55b)? How does he view this walk with the Lord (v56a)? How did he come into such a possession (v56b)?

What is it like to hope in God's Word? Psalm 119:49–56 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these eight verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **hoping in God's Word gives us God Himself as our constant companion.**

The blessed life. Two of the most common Hebrew words that begin with this letter are the word for "remember" (v49, 52, 55) and the demonstrative pronoun ("this"/"that"/etc; v50, 56). Between asking God to remember His own Word (i.e. promise, v49) and remembering God Himself (v55) and His judgments (v52), together with two declarations in v50 and v56, five of the eight verses of this stanza are taken up. So the stanza, as a whole, puts forward the life of the one who is remembering God because he has been remembered by God. The stanza is a portrait of the blessed life.

Comfort and joy. What does the one who is living the blessed life do with God's Word? He hopes in it (v49), sticks to it (v51), keeps it (v56) remembers it (v52), and even sings it (v54) and meditates upon it in the night (v55). The result is comfort (v50) even when others mock (v51): comfort from the Word giving him life (v50), comfort that he can strengthen himself in by meditating upon YHWH's Word and works (His judgments, v52). And the result is also joy: a song to sing (v54a) that reminds him that this life is a brief sojourn in a foreign land (v54b). He has a forever-life with the Lord Whose songs they sing.

Grief. The blessed life, in this world, comes with grief. So long as there are "the wicked who forsake Your law" (v53b), believers ought to be indignant and grieved. Jesus was grieved with unbelief and sin. So also ought His people to be.

How is the Word your companion day and night? How is the Lord your companion? What effect does this have?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for giving us a life of the comfort, joy, and even grief that comes from being yours. Give us to be remembering You, and meditating on Your Word, day and night. And bring us home from our pilgrimage, through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP119G "Keep Your Promise to Your Servant" or TPH119G "Your Word Remember to Your Needy Servant"

(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)

Psalm 119 verses 49-56. These are God's words. Remember the words to your servant upon which you have caused me to Hope, This is my comfort and Affliction. For your word has given me life. The proud to have me in great derision yet. I do not turn aside from your law.

I remembered your judgments of old o Yahweh. And have comforted myself. Indignation has taken hold of me because of the wicked who forsake your law. Your statutes have been my songs. And the house of my pilgrimage. I remember your name in the night. Oh yaffa. And I keep your law.

This has become mine. Because I kept, Your precepts. So far the reading of gods inspired and And there, and towards From now to the seventh stanza of this, long wonderful Psalm. On. The usefulness. And goodness and blessedness. Of the word of God. And every line in this stanza, starts with the Hebrew letter Zion.

the two most common words of which are two of the most At least probably the two most The verb is a car. Which is the route for remember. And, The demonstrative pronoun. And its other forms. Which means this? And this declaration we get in verse 50 and verse 56.

it More demonstrative. In Hebrew, then the demonstrative pronoun is in English. It has a very forceful Display quality to it or declaration quality to it. So this is my comfort. This has become mine. and he's, he was then displaying the, the goodness and the blessedness of his life because he has God's word.

Because by having God's word, he has God God has given. Him life. by means of his word. And so, We have. Instances of remembering. First, he this almost asks the Lord to remember. His own word that he has spoken to him. Verse 49. And then you have verse 52.

I remembered your judgments. of old Yahweh and have comforted myself. And then verse 55. I remember your name? in the night. Oh Yahweh And I keep your law. That he remembers who the Lord is whom, the Lord has revealed himself to be to him. Even. even in the night.

there's homiletics Professor not a preaching professor, not one that we had at RTS. I actually don't remember. where he was teaching at the time when I met him. He was just the pastor of Reformed Baptist Church in Washington D.C at that time. but he used to he used to say, your sermon should pass the 3 A.M test?

That if your wife rolls over at 3am on the Lord's day morning and mumbles sleepy to you, what's the sermon about today? you should Know, the main idea of your sermon. So clearly that even half awake, you could say the main idea of your sermon in one sentence.

Now, I'm not so sure what. believe about that. the longer I've reached the More certain. I've been that the main thing is that the main point of the text, the main points of the text should be the main points. Of the sermon and so forth. But there is then in verse 55, the 3am test What is it that you?

Remember. To yourself in the night. Now whether this is half awake sleepily, or this is someone who is being kept up at night by duties or distress or whatever. The lord's name. is what keeps him? Centered, so that Rather than responding. Out of unbelief or anxiety, or Pride or manipulation?

Because he remembers the lord's name. The way he lives is by the law of the Lord. Verse 55. So the Blessed life is the life of the one who remembers the Lord and remembers the Lord's word, and who knows that the Lord also remembers his own word to us.

The Blessed life is a word centered life. Know our God. He has revealed himself to us. He has communicated his name to us, by his word and especially now. That he has that the word himself, the Lord Jesus God, the son has become flesh. We know our God because we know him in Christ.

And this is the Blessed life to know God to be known by him. to know his self-disclosure. Revelation and communication of himself to know his promises to us. And to know that he remembers those. Well, the Blessed life then is full Of comfort and jo. The word is something that causes us to Hope verse 49 gives us comfort and affliction verse 50.

It gives us life verse 50. it makes us to sing your statutes have been my songs verse 54. it makes us to sing songs. It makes us to sing songs of our homeland. We consider this whole life as this little pilgrimage, And, the difficulty that we have these breaking down bodies as it The house of our pilgrimage.

the word gives us to sing certainties like we just had in our catechism question about the resurrection and the relationship being openly acquitted, and the righteousness, they're openly acknowledged and the relationship being The relationship. The resurrection, and Relationship, being openly acknowledged and the righteousness, being openly acquitted and the reward.

being perfectly blessed full enjoyment of God. And so his statutes are our songs. They make us sing as those To belong to God, who have him. And who will forever enjoy him? And the new heavens and a new Earth. So, There's comfort and joy in the Christian Life.

As a result of belonging to God and remembering his word, there's also grief in the Christian Life. As a result of. Belong to God and remembering his word. Because we are still in the house of all our pilgrimage. And this is not the new heavens and the new Earth in which righteousness dwells.

This is an earth that is bound to corruption and Decay. Because it is inhabited. By image bevers who have suppressed the truth in unrighteousness? And although they knew God, neither glorified him, nor gave him. Thanks. And his wrath is displayed. And his wrath is displayed from Heaven against us.

And his wrath is displayed.

And his wrath is displayed from Heaven against us. And so you have this grief, this indignation In verse 53. Indignation has taken hold of me. Because of the wicked, who forsake. your law. Praise God. Our Lord Jesus. Has perfect Humanity. When he lived for a time in this world, He was often grieved.

And indignant. Because of sin. And because of its effects. And so, we shouldn't expect. to have sorrowless griefless life in this world. In fact, if we do Then that shows that we are being forgetful of God's law. Or ignoring. What sort of world this is, and what sort of people it is.

It is filled with So, we're grateful. For God's declaring to us this. About the Christian Life, the believing life. This is our comfort and Affliction, his word has given us life. This has become ours. this life of knowing him and Singing. Over the blessedness that we have in him.

This has become ours. Now, because we kept his presets, No, not spray.

Lord, we thank you that you have given us promises that have their yes And amen in Jesus Christ. Help us to remember you. Revelation of yourself in Jesus, your words to us and remember your promises to us, we pray. And give us the Blessed life. As your word describes it for, we ask it in Christ's name.

Amen.