

Psalm 119:113–120

Choosing the Glorious God Who Chose Us

Tuesday, August 27, 2024 ▪ Read Psalm 119:113–120

*Questions from the Scripture text: Whom does the psalmist hate (v113)? What does he love? What two things is God unto him (v114a)? Therefore, in what does he hope (v114b)? Whom does he tell to do what (v115a)? So that he may do what (v115b)? Whom does he ask to do what (v116a, 117a)? So that he may do/be what (v116a, 117)? And not end up how (v116b)? Whom does God reject (v118a)? What is their distinguishing mark (v118b)? What does the wicked do to whom (v119a)? How does the psalmist respond to this (v119b)? How else does he respond to God (v120)?*

**What's at stake in our choice of the companions in our life?** Psalm 119:113–120 looks forward to 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 **we must choose between the Lord Himself and those whose companionship would hinder us from loving and obeying Him.**

**Blessed is the man who walks not...** This familiar theme from Ps 1 and Prov 1 is a main theme of this stanza of Psalm 119. The ones whom the psalmist can't abide in v113 are not so much "double" as they are half-and-half. These are perhaps more dangerous than the evildoers of v115, the strayers of v118, and the wicked of the earth from v119. The latter are more obvious and more easily odious. But if we are to keep not just good company, but the sort of company that God uses to make us good, then we must be just as turned off by the half-hearted. There is no room in the believer's life for companionship with those who are carnal and worldly.

**Either-or.** The poetry of the Psalm gives us a binary option, where one choice is obviously correct. If we do not reject a life shared in fellowship with the ungodly, then we may not have God Himself as our hiding place and shield (v114a). If we do not reject a life shared in fellowship with the ungodly, then we may not have God Himself as the One Who holds us up (v117a). We can have Him or them, but not both. How dreadful for us, dear reader, if we slouch into choosing (or even overtly choose) the half-hearted "Christian" or unbeliever's companionship over the Lord's companionship.

**What choosing the Lord looks like.** Choosing the Lord looks like love, hope, obedience, and reverence/awe. "I love your law" (v113b). "I hope in Your Word" (v114b). "I will keep the commandments of my God" (v115b). Note that in this love, hope, and faithfulness, the Word of God is at center stage. God is other than we are. As creatures, we cannot reach to the Creator ourselves. And we must not think that He is merely that idea that we have of Him in our heads; an idea that we have can quite easily be an idol, but it is not the living God. However, the true and living God has communicated Himself to us, particularly by way of His Word. Real love for Him, therefore, will always be joined to loving His Word. Real hope in Him will always include hoping in His Word. Real faithfulness to Him will always mean keeping His commandments.

The last part of the portrait of the God-chooser in this stanza is the reverence in v120. The first line literally means that we get goose bumps (or gooseflesh/goose-pimples, if that's the idiom where you're from) in reverence for the Lord. We know how dreadful indeed are His judgments (v120b), but the knowledge of Him Himself puts us in such awe of Him that we can physically feel that awe!

**The Lord's own choice.** We all have deserved to be rejected (v118a) and eliminated (v119a). So, it is a glorious grace of God that there are those unto Whom He is instead hiding place, shield, hope, upholder. There is no other way that this could come to be. When we see His justice in judgment, it ought to evoke in us love for His testimonies (v119–120). And when we see His goodness and power and faithfulness to give us life according to mercy, it ought to evoke in us a dedication to observing His statutes (v116–117).

However He chooses, He is just and glorious and worthy of our love and obedience. So, let us put away evildoers from our lives (v115a), without which we would not keep His commandments (v115b).

Who are the half-Christian/half-worldly in your life that endanger your loving, hoping in, and obeying God? How do you choose God over them? What place does His Word have in your knowing/loving Him?

*Sample prayer: O Lord, You Yourself are our hiding place and our shield. You Yourself uphold us, and give us life, and keep us safe. Don't let our hope in You be put to shame. We thank You for Your Word, in which You have declared Yourself to us and given Yourself to us. We love Your Word and hope in Your Word and are determined to keep Your Word. Come, by Your own grace, in Your Son, by Your Spirit, and fill us with awe at You, we ask through Christ, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP119P "People of Double Mind I Hate" or TPH1190 "The Double-Minded I Abhor"**

**"(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 verses, 1 through 13 to 120. These are God's words. I hate the double-minded but I love your law. You are my hiding place. And my shield, I hope in your word. Depart from me, you evil doers for, I will keep the Commandments of my God. Uphold me according to your word that I may live.

Then do not. Let me be ashamed of my hope. Hold me up and I shall be safe. And I shall observe your statutes continually. You reject, all those who stray from your statutes. For their deceit is falsehood. You put away all the wicked of the earth like droth Therefore, I love your testimonies.

My Flesh trembles for fear of you. And I am afraid of your judgments.

So far, the reading of gods inspired. And Aaron toward, There's a choice that we have to make. In order to love God's law. He has this almost here has to Be unwilling to. Abide or endure tolerate. The double-minded. in his life. I'm being unwilling to abide them in his life.

In order to keep the Commandments of God verse 115, Needs to keep himself separate from depart from me, you evildoers. And so, there's This Choice between the Lord. And the companies of certain types of men, not just those who are evildoers. 115. but even those who are half and half, The word translated as double-minded in verse 113.

the idea that They can be both for the Lord, and For themselves or for wickedness or for anything? That is in competition with the Lord. But we desperately need the Lord. If you have to choose between those two, you would best choose the Lord. you need the Lord himself to be your shield and hiding place.

Verse 114, you can't even live verse 116. Unless it is the Lord, who is upholding you? You're not safe verse 117. Unless the Lord holds you up. So, the idea that you could ever have life or safety, Apart from him is a lie. It's a falsehood. it's an idolatry to think that you could have.

Life from someone else or something else or from yourself instead of God or safety. From someone or something else. And so if this is the choice, then we should make that choice. Much better to have the Lord and to be lonely in terms of other humans. Tolerate, the companionship of those.

Who are half-hearted towards him. They might make a profession of Faith. They might have Some sound theology. They might even be converted but they're so fleshly in the way they think. The way they talk, the way they spend time, what they enjoy. That they are. That they are half and half, you should not.

You should not tolerate or abide such people as Companions in your life. Because you need, To walk with the Lord. Now you aren't entirely alone. The Lord gives himself

to you. Then he gives himself to you, especially by Has worked. Not abiding, the half and halves or not abiding.

The double-minded in verse 113, is set over against not just loving the Lord, but loving his law. Because the Lord is hiding place and shield verse 114. We are to Hope in his word. Why? Well, because his law His way of communicating himself to us. His word is His way of communicating himself to us.

And so if our hope is in his word verse 114, our hope is in himself. And that hope is not going to be put to shame. It's not going to fail us verse 116. Do not let me be Ashamed of My Hope. Now, the amazing thing about our making this Choice between God and The comp, the companionship of God and the companionship and wicked.

Is that we are only able to make this choice because God has made a choice. Of Grace. No, he says, you reject all those who stray From your Strat statutes. For their deceit is falsehood. You put away all the wicked of the earth like dross. Well, we were those who went astray, we were those Who are wicked?

It's only by God's upholding verse 116. Like we already said that we live It's only. From God that we are given. to become those who Keep his word. Observe, his statutes. Hold me up. He says and I shall be safe and I shall observe your statutes continually So verse 117 is observing God's statutes came from God, holding him up.

And so, what? What a wonderful. Truth reality about our God. That he has made the choice to save some otherwise none of us. Would be Godly, none of us would even be half-hearted, we'd all Heartedly against him. And so, There's not just this love for God and hoping in him.

And commitment to him. But there's also this tremendous reverence In verse 120, My Flesh, trembles for fear of you. The word that's being translated. Here is the trembling of the flesh is actually one. That means to have I think most Americans say Goosebumps some say Goose pimples. I think the Brits say, goose flesh.

But you know what Goosebumps are when? Well, when you You get the Risen bumps like on your arms in the back of your neck and little hairs on the back of your neck, stand up a little bit. And there's it's a very Vivid tactile. metaphor experience.

Experiential picture of. Odd. We should be at God. How we should be in Wonder at him? For his judgments and his judgments here, doesn't just mean his punishment. It is part of his judgments. That he has decided judged for himself that he would save some and even as we were hearing.

In numbers, 20 in the evening serum in the beginning of this week. Um and made reference to Romans chapter nine. This is one of the great ways that God glorifies himself. Yes, he glorifies himself. By his wrath upon the wicked, putting away, all the wicked of the earth like dross For instance, in verse 119, Rejecting.

All those who stray from his strategies. Verse 118, that is one way that he glorifies himself. But he is especially pleased to glory to glorify her to try the riches of his glory. And vessels prepared for Mercy. And it should make our hair stand on edge, and it should give us Goosebumps.

At the greatness of the glory of our God. Who even saves from among Sinners. He has made this judgment that he would do. So. And has committed himself in the person of his son. To Bear the Wrath that we deserve. So that he might give himself to us. And B are hiding place and our Shield and our upholders so that we live and the one who holds us up so that we would be safe.

And that we would observe his statutes. How marvelous is our God? who has been pleased? To will to determine to plan and accomplish. Such a Salvation as this. And certainly he's worth. Forsaking the companionship of the wicked. Not just putting away the companionship of a half-hearted even though we really wish we could be their friends, but Being.

Opposed in our heart to the very idea. Of taking as companions in our life, those who are half-hearted towards God And some of the spirit give us. So, to treasure and Revere the Lord. That we would make that choice. In response to his choice. Of saving us. Amen, let's pray.

Lord, we thank you for giving us this time to consider this portion of your word. So that when we read people of double mind I hate and sing it and pray it. We Be able to do so in context. we pray that you would

Those who are Hostile to you. Those who are double minded about you. That you would save and sanctify. But give us a lord. And the choice of companions for our lives. To choose you first and foremost by your word. And then along with you, those other believers. Whom you are making like-minded.

By the work of your spirit. Conforming them to Christ. And working Us in such a way that Other believers who whom you are making wholehearted towards you. Would be glad to have us as companions. And that Fellowship. Into which you have brought us. Give us wisdom. Oh God. There are events or social dynamics, and Who are tempted to wish that we could be included.

Conform us to your word that we would rather hate to be included. In those things that Comprise half-heartedness towards you. How we thank you for loving us and taking us to be your own. Forgive us. How fleshly and worldly we often are in our thoughts. We look forward. To your finishing, the work that you have begun.

We will no longer be. Partially Sanctified. But one day, have characters that Fully conformed to that of Christ, your son. Through whom also, we ask this prayer. Amen.