

Psalms 119:145–152

The Urgency of Drawing Near to God Via His Means

Tuesday, September 24, 2024 ▫ Read Psalm 119:145–152

Questions from the Scripture text: What does the psalmist do (v145a)? With how much of his heart? What does he ask (v145b)? What does he promise to do? To Whom does he cry (v146a)? What does He ask the Lord to do (v146b)? So that he may do what? When does he do this crying (v147a–b)? Why does he do this (v147c)? When else is he doing what (v148)? To what attributes of God does he appeal (v149)? What two things does he ask God to do? Who have drawn near to him (v150a)? What is their condition (v150b)? Who else is near (v151a)? And what is His character and command like (v151b)? What has the psalmist known from of old (v152)?

How do we combat the nearness of the wicked? Psalm 119:145–152 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 are to seek the nearness of the Lord by prayer and the ministry of the Word**.

Urgency. The believer ought to feel his desperate need for the Lord. This stanza's verses all begin with the letter that begins the root for crying out (v145, 146), the root for waking up (v147, 148), and the root for near (v150–151). These words are skillfully arranged into a stanza in which the psalmist's urgency is expressed both in his crying out (v145–146) and in how he rises both before first light (v147) and first thing in the morning (v148).

Nearness. Why is he so urgent that the Lord Himself be near (v151)? Because those who follow after evil are already near (v150). As Prov 1:8–33 instructs, we need God Himself, by His Word, to draw us near, so that we will not be tempted into the wickedness of those around us.

Means: prayer and the Word. So, what is he waking up to do, in order to seek the Lord? To meditate upon His Word (v148b, cf. v147). Many a believer has longed for God to be near. When you long for Him, learn from this stanza to seek Him by prayer (v145–146) and the Word!

How has wickedness come near in a way that threatens you? That tempts you? What use are you making of prayer and the Word?

Sample prayer: O Lord, we cry out to You with our whole heart. We rise and cry to you to give us life. In Your steadfast love and justice, give us life. Make us to know You through Your Word, we ask through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP119T "I Cry With My Whole Heart" or TPH119S "With All My Heart I Cry"

"(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 145 to 152. These are God's words. I cry with my whole heart. Hear me yo, Yahweh. I will keep your statutes, I cry out to you, save me? And I will keep your testimonies. I Rise Before the dawning of the morning and cry for help, I hope in your word.

My eyes are awake through the night watches that I may meditate on your work. Hear my voice according to your loving kindness. So, Yahweh revive me according to your Justice. They draw near who follow after wickedness. They are far from your law. You are near oh Yahweh. And all your Commandments are truth.

Concerning your testimonies. I have known of old. That you have founded them. Forever. So far the reading of gods inspired and And Eric work. Major themes and this stanza of Psalm 119. The first is urgency. The letter Cove and Hebrew. Begins the word Kara, which is for crying out.

And the word Kadam or the root Kadam? well the way it's being used in 147 and 148 is Awakening. And then, for Which is used as a verb in 150 catarav. Are cut off in the verb and 150. And then as an adjective. In verse 151.

And so, We get the Urgency of crying out. In verses 145. the 146. The urgency of crying out and the urgency of arising. Waking up. at times when others would not normally be awake, But you, you the intensity of the crying out. To the Lord in verses 145 and over 46.

And then, you hear um. Intensity, or the urgency of being awake even before Dawn. 147. And then into the night watches. 148. The desire of all for all of these things is The Nearness. Of the Lord, it's particularly his word and will come to that. and a little bit.

But for the Lord, By his word. So there's this Urgent desire. for God, I I In fact, I don't have to wonder, we probably just need to confess that we don't often have the intensity of the urgency frame. That we ought to.

So there's that urgency and then there's The Nearness. We need him near. We need him near because the wicked are near. Verse 150. They draw near who follow after wickedness. First, 151, you are near Oh, y'all and all your Commandments are truth here. Psalm 1 in microcosm in a very small package.

and here The bulk of Proverbs chapter 1. Yeah, beginning in verse 8, You know, when Sinners don't entice, you do not go with them Etc. About wisdom calling out instead. And so in order to avoid being taken in by the wicked or with the wicked, You come to God's wisdom, you answer that call instead or Psalm 1, instead of walking standing sitting in the path of the the wicked.

The skull for this corner. you Delight in the law of Yahweh. And so, he's urgent for God's nearness. Because the wicked are far from his law verse 150. So, if we get sucked in with them, the here, The danger is not what the wicked might do to us.

Danger is what we might do. If we Fall in with or become like the wicked. you will be like, Those whom you spend time with, And therefore the one you want nearest to you of all as the Lord himself. Even now in our family. neither of your parents.

None of your siblings should be nearer to you. Then the Lord himself. And it's important that you That you develop that sort of mindset that that way of thinking and operating and living because you're going to come one day, we hope by God's blessing into a marriage. And even your spouse shouldn't be nearer.

You Then the Lord himself. Well, how much more? The wickedness of the One of the places to Especially watch out for as the world has different ways of tunneling into our houses and our minds now. Ubiquity of information and entertainment and And social. not just social media app, but the whole culture of the world has an entrance.

and so he's urgent. That God would be near. So that he wouldn't follow follow. Those who follow after wickedness and are far from his law. But that way, the Lord's nearness, he might meditate on God's truth. Meditate on his word verse 145, all of his Commandments of which are truth.

Verse 1, 51. And so you see that the means by which God is near is in that word. Which is one of the main themes of the stanza Mountain is the main theme. Of this entire Psalm. But also of prayer this crying out with his whole heart this crying out.

To save. He rises before the dawn to do, what to cry out. So there's prayer verse 147. He's awake through the night, watches to do what to meditate on. The word, your

word, he says to the Lord in verse 148. And so, in his urgency to know, God as near he knows and makes use of.

The means by which God, it draws us near. To himself, and Makes himself known to us. As. So may the Lord give us. That desire for his nearness. May he give us. That.

May the Lord give us that desire for his nearness That. Prevails above all other. The Nearness of all others. May the Lord give us then an urgency for his nearness And then that urgency may, he give us to employ, the means By which he gives us to draw near and to have him draw near to ourselves.

In prayer. And the Let's pray. Our Father in Heaven. Commandments are all truth. Make us to be the ones who meditate on your law day and night. Help us. For the wicked Amear. And we are in danger. Of following after, and following with. Give us an urgency towards you that would reshape.

The inner conversation of our minds and even The schedules and habits of our days. And give us then in that urgency. To come to you in prayer to that, we be urgent for prayer and Urgent in prayer. Make us urgent for your word. And Urgent in attending upon your word.

And draw near to us and make us to know your nearness. We ask by your spirit in your son. Our Lord Jesus through whom we pray. Amen.