

Psalm 119:121–128

God's Love, by God's Word, for God's Servants

Tuesday, September 3, 2024 • Read Psalm 119:121–128

Questions from the Scripture text: What has the psalmist done (v121a)? What does he ask the Lord not to do (v121b, 122b)? What does he ask the Lord to be for him (v122a)? In what endeavor have his eyes been consumed (v123a)? How, specifically, have his "eyes" been spent upon God's salvation (v123b)? What is the psalmist's relation to the Lord (v124–125)? To what does this servant appeal (v124a)? What would be a display of this covenant love (v124b, 125b–c)? What time does the psalmist say it is (v126a)? Why (v126b)? How does the psalmist act/think in light of the Lord's impending action (v127a)? How much does he love God's commandments (v127b)? What does this love make the psalmist to consider to be right (v128a–b)? And what does His love make him to hate (v128c)?

How should we respond, when we see others breaking God's law? Psalm 119:121–128 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 ought to plead with God, as those who belong to Him, and desire Him to conform us to His Word, in consistency with His own character.**

God's servant. As the psalmist asks for deliverance from oppression (v121b, 122b), he notes that he has done exactly opposite his oppressors. He has done "justice and righteousness" (v121a). But this is not the basis upon which he is coming to the Lord.

He is coming to the Lord because he belongs to the Lord. Three times, he refers to himself as "Your servant" (v122a, 124a, 125a). This is not a high view of himself, but a low view of himself, with a high view of his God. Oh, dear reader, we need not be like the proud (v122b). Let us be comfortable in the place of a servant, because of the greatness of Him Whose servant we are!

God's love. Even with the character that God has worked in him as His servant, and his relationship to God as belonging to Him, the psalmist's primary plea is not in himself at all. It's in the Lord: "deal with Your servant according to Your covenant love" (NKJ "mercy," v124). The reason that God's servants are made good is because their God is good. Dear reader, learn to plead His own marvelous character to Himself in your prayers!

God's Word. What "salvation" (v123a) is the psalmist asking for, specifically, as he suffers this oppression? He is going to ask for God Himself to take some action (v126a), but his first request is to learn God's Word. God's Word is that upon which he has used up his eyes (v123b), and he pleads to learn God's statutes (v124b) and testimonies (v125c). Let this be your great desire and aim: to know God's Word by God's grace.

God's action. God is holy and just and mighty. Men cannot break His law with impunity (v126b); He will surely act, and the psalmist perceives that it is time for that (v126a). Though our timing not be as God's, we may know certainly that every time His law is broken, God is taking notice, and God will surely answer. Knowing this, the psalmist loves and treasures those commandments above all earthly wealth (v127).

His values are formed by God's precepts—not just trying to do whatever is right (v128a–b) but positively hating every false way (v128c). Do you know that God will act against all law-breaking? Then why wouldn't you hate to do any slightest thing against it?

What reasons do you usually use in prayer, when you plead with God? What place does knowing His Word and pleasing Him have in your desires, when you're under fire? How are you at keeping His sure judgment in view when considering the actions of the wicked? What false priorities might you need to start hating if you are to follow the Lord more according to His Word?

Sample prayer: Lord, we rejoice to be Your servants. We are Yours; we love to serve You in our work, and we especially love to serve You in worship. According to Your steadfast love, teach us Your statutes. We love Your commandments more than any earthly treasure. So, give us to do what is right, as we worship You, and to hate any way that does not come from You, we ask through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP119Q "I've Judged Rightly" or TPH119P "I Have Followed Truth and Justice"

"(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 121 through 128. These are God's words. I have done Justice and righteousness. Do not leave me for my oppressors. Be shorty for your servant for good. Do not let the proud oppress me. My eyes fell from seeking your salvation. And your righteous word. Deal with your servant according to your mercy.

And teach me your statutes. I am your servant. Give me understanding that. I may know your testimonies. That is time for you to act o, Yahweh For they have regarded your law as void. Therefore I love your Commandments more than gold. Yes then fine gold therefore all your precepts concerning.

All things I consider to be right. I hate every.

Amen. So far, the reading of gods inspired and iner and toward We must be careful not to make the chronological order of things. in this passage into the spiritual or causal order of things. Is we pray to God and it's not wrong to pray to God. I have done Justice, and righteousness do not leave me to.

Oppressors. And we could do this in two different ways. The first is in Union, with Christ, Christ. My righteousness. Has always perfectly obeyed. He has always done perfectly, justly, he has always done perfectly righteously. I cling to him. Oh God and do to me, please not. According to what I in myself have done but what Christ has done and what I in Christ have done and so that is one way.

to say this. But there is reference to what we in our actual lives as well. Not just imputed to us by what Christ has done. But that in which the Lord has made us to walk. Having saved us by grace through faith and that not of ourselves. He has created us new in Christ Jesus, for good works.

To walk in them to walk in those good works, which God has prepared beforehand for us. And we see that it is God's grace, that is producing this Justice and righteousness in the life of the psalmist, because he needs God. To just to teach him. His statutes verse 24.

Just to he needs God just to give him understanding. In order that he may know God's testimonies verse 125. And so, there is not this idea that That we have initiated, and we would do righteously and that God now reciprocates, because we have somehow indebted him or obligated him by the good that we have done.

No, any good that we have done, we didn't even know. It was good until God gave us understanding. Until God gave us. To know and understand his precepts verse 128 and to consider them to be right? He is the one who has produced the effect in the mind, he is the one who's produced the effect in the heart.

To see. That Yahweh verse. 26 is going to respond and repay. All wickedness and to make us see our sin as hateful because it is against him. And since our sin is against him and our obedience would be for him, we love his Commandments, which teach us how to love him.

Here are the most useful helpful things that we can have since God is the great good and we want to love him and we want to know what loving him looks like in our lives so that we can do it here, come his Commandments from him. That he is mercifully given to us and we count that gift more than if he gave us treasure troves of gold like men like to write about in their fantasy books.

Oh, if they had a better, Understanding of what's valuable. The Treasure Trove would be the Commandments of God. You go into the, the great treasury Hall and it would be full of all of the ways that we may love God. Well, who has loved us and who is the ever blessed God.

And so he says, I love your Commandments more than gold. Yes then fine. Gold and so is the Lord who gives us understanding so that we may have affection. So that we may choose and will and do rightly, I have done Justice. And righteousness. So, this doing Justice, and righteousness, here is not

So this doing Justice and righteousness, here is not, I have obligated God but God has mercifully lovingly. Graciously taken me to be his servant. You see that three times verse 122, be surety for your servant and then verse 124 deal with your servant verse 125. I am your servant And so, Not only are we, his And asking God to Treat us according to the relationship that we have with him.

But he's brought us into that relationship in his own perfect character. And that is the heart of this section verse 124 deal with your servant, according to your mercy. According to your facet. According to your covenanted love. Our. That we will know his word and love his word and do according to his word.

Is in God, himself in his own character. It is as impossible that this hope would fail. As it is that, God would cease to be. The god of steadfast love the god of Covenant love. It is in that. Love that he determined. That we would be conformed to the image of his son.

Those whom he formed you, he predestined to be conformed, to the image of his son. And that's why Those whom he justified, he also glorified even though we do not yet. See that Glory, we still think many wrong things. We still don't feel towards him, like we should, we still choose and desire and do many wrong things.

Yet the days of that, falling short or numbered. Because God is dealing with us. According to his own character. And according to the relationship into which he has brought us with himself in Christ. Which he determined to do. In that very character. And so our love for his word must be a love that has its roots in our love for him.

And the place that he has given his word, In this work of love, that he is doing. For. This is why if you want to spend your eyes on anything, there's that language again, my eyes, fail, verse 23, my eyes are consumed used up. Upon your salvation. Where, He used his eyes up or looking for salvation.

He looks for the Salvation in God's righteous word. And it is there that God has taught us everything that we need for Faith and practice. And it is there, especially that he has spoken to us of Christ. We are right to search the scriptures. Thinking that in them, God is giving us eternal life.

But it is, they that speak to us of the Lord Jesus. Amanda, let's pray. Our gracious God and our heavenly father, we thank you that you have given us statutes and precepts and Commandments. Your good law. In your love, in which you have taken us to be your servants in which you have Given light to our minds.

That we might believe into Christ in which you have begun conforming, not just our minds but our affections. Oh, Lord. We read and we pray and we sing how we love your Commandments more than gold? Yes, than much, fine. Gold. And yet we see how often. Actual condition of our hearts falls short of that.

So come and help us by your spirit who has given us these words as a means by which he works in the heart, Grant that he would now work by love and power. In our hearts to conform us to Christ to give us that love That we would more and more do justly and righteously.

And not only be able to sing and pray that communion with Christ. But to Marvel that by your grace. You are increasing. The Life of Christ in us and the actual outworking of his righteousness in our lives. And so, calm and hear us and do according to this, Psalm the section of the psalm, which you have put into, Mouse, which we ask you to install into our hearts.

Which we ask you to make to bear fruit in our lives. For we ask it through your son, our Lord Jesus. Amen.