

PSALM 119
Parts 11 and 12

כ Kaph

81 My soul languishes for Your salvation; I wait for Your word.
82 My eyes fail *with longing* for Your word, while I say, "When will You comfort me?"
83 Though I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, I do not forget Your statutes.
84 How many are the days of Your servant?
 When will You execute judgment on those who persecute me?
85 The arrogant have dug pits for me, *men* who are not in accord with Your law.
86 All Your commandments are faithful; they have persecuted me with a lie; help me!
87 They almost destroyed me on earth, but as for me, I did not forsake Your precepts.
88 Revive me according to Your lovingkindness,
 so that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth.

Reflection on Verse 82 from Charles Bridges

We know that "hope deferred makes the heart sick" (Pr. 13:12). Still, as we value the promise, let us trust the assurance. Do not be discouraged by present appearances, for the sunshine is behind the clouds. We fail in patience by limiting God to our own time, ways, and means. Faith may be exercised when we do not know his reasons, when we cannot harmonize his promises with his providence, or his outward dispensations with his Divine perfections. But let us leave all to him. The blessing will be so much the sweeter when granted in the Lord's best time. And the time waiting, however it may be accompanied with weariness, is precious time. So let us now allow it to become a time of hardness, indolence, or carelessness.

* * * * *

ל Lamedh

89 Forever, O YAHWEH, Your word is settled in heaven.
90 Your faithfulness *continues* throughout all generations;
 You established the earth, and it stands.
91 They stand this day according to Your ordinances, for all things are Your servants.
92 If Your law had not been my delight, then I would have perished in my affliction.

93 I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have revived me.
94 I am Yours, save me; for I have sought Your precepts.
95 The wicked wait for me to destroy me; I shall diligently consider Your testimonies.
96 I have seen a limit to all perfection; Your commandment is exceedingly broad.

Reflection on Verse 94 from Charles Bridges

What a high and honorable character is stamped upon the lowliest believer! He is the Savior's property, the work of his hand, the purchase of his blood, and the triumph of his conquering love. He is given to Christ by his Father and preserved in Christ. And the evidence of the Christian's character is found in his seeking the Lord's precepts. Whom we serve will prove whose we are. And consider what a powerful plea for mercy we may draw from the Lord's interest in us. Will not a man be careful of his children, his treasure, his jewels?

PRAYER

Almighty and most merciful Father, we adore and magnify your glorious name, humbly beseeching you to grant us the help of your grace that we may no longer waste our time in ease and pleasure, in unprofitable pursuits or in vain conversation. But by your grace, grant us a constancy and fervor of devotion, preparing ourselves for that account which you will one day require from us. We confess that we have been unprofitable servants, but we implore your pardon and forgiveness for the sake and through the merits of your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.