

**PSALM 119**  
**Parts 13 and 14**

M Mem

97 O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.  
98 Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever mine.  
99 I have more insight than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.  
100 I understand more than the aged, because I have observed Your precepts.  
101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word.  
102 I have not turned aside from Your ordinances, for You Yourself have taught me.  
103 How sweet are Your words to my taste! *Yes, sweeter* than honey to my mouth!  
104 From Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

Reflection on Verse 103 from Charles Bridges

None but a child of God could say with David, "How sweet are Your words," because none beside true believers have a spiritual taste. In the sacred word, David found that its majesty commanded his reverence, its richness called forth his love, its sweetness excited his joy, its holy light kept his heart close to Yahweh. How barren is a mere external knowledge of the Bible. The natural man may talk, even dispute, about its precious truths, but he has never tasted them to the extent that they are the heavenly food for his soul. Let our enjoyment of the Word be our spiritual barometer, for it will accurately mark our progress or decline in our Christian walk. With advancement, the word will be increasingly sweet; but with decline, it will lose its flavor and the reading of it will become a burdensome task.

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N Nun

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.  
106 I have sworn and I will confirm it, that I will keep Your righteous ordinances.  
107 I am exceedingly afflicted; revive me, O YAHWEH, according to Your word.  
108 O accept the freewill offerings of my mouth, O YAHWEH, and teach me Your ordinances.  
109 My life is continually in my hand, yet I do not forget Your law.  
110 The wicked have laid a snare for me, yet I have not gone astray from Your precepts.  
111 I have inherited Your testimonies forever, for they are the joy of my heart.

112 I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes forever, *even* to the end.

Reflection on Verse 107 from Charles Bridges

There is a "needs-be" for afflictions in the Lord's people. The stones of the spiritual temple cannot be polished or fitted to their place without the strokes of the hammer, the gold cannot be purified without the furnace, and the vine must be pruned for greater fruitfulness. The measure of discipline varies greatly, but such is the ingrained desire for fleshly lusts that a very great amount of affliction may sometimes be needed. But rest assured, it will be tempered by God, who knows the precise measure and who will not chasten us for his pleasure but for our profit. Now it may be that affliction is not our present lot. Nevertheless, it is our duty and wisdom as a good soldier to burnish our armor for the coming fight.

PRAYER

*O God our Creator, you have brought light into the world in the incarnation of your Son, Jesus the Messiah. He has pointed out to us the way to eternal life. Teach us to love light more than darkness, that we may be enabled to keep your righteous precepts. Grant that we may apply our hearts earnestly to your commandments all our days, that we may possess your law as our portion and inheritance forever. We ask in Christ's name. Amen.*