

PSALM 119
Parts 15 and 16

D Samekh

113 I hate those who are double-minded, but I love Your law.
114 You are my hiding place and my shield; I wait for Your word.
115 Depart from me, evildoers, that I may observe the commandments of my God.
116 Sustain me according to Your word, that I may live;
and do not let me be ashamed of my hope.
117 Uphold me that I may be safe, that I may have regard for Your statutes continually.
118 You have rejected all those who wander from Your statutes,
for their deceitfulness is useless.
119 You have removed all the wicked of the earth *like* dross;
therefore I love Your testimonies.
120 My flesh trembles for fear of You, and I am afraid of Your judgments.

Reflection on Verse 120 from Charles Bridges

Believers in Christ, let us rejoice in being delivered from that fear associated with punishment (1 John 4:18). Yet let us cherish that holy reverential fear of the character and judgments of God which will form our most effectual safeguard from presumptuous sins. If we are under the influence of this reverential awe and seriousness of spirit, we shall learn to attach a supreme authority and consideration to the least of his commands. We shall dread the thought of willfully offending him. The fear of grieving him will be far more powerful now than was the fear of hell in our unconverted state. The humble believer knows very well how intimately the fear of the Lord is connected with the comfort of the Holy Ghost, and with his own steady progress in holiness and preparation for heaven.

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Y Ayin

121 I have done justice and righteousness; do not leave me to my oppressors.
122 Be surety for Your servant for good; do not let the arrogant oppress me.
123 My eyes fail *with longing* for Your salvation and for Your righteous word.
124 Deal with Your servant according to Your lovingkindness and teach me Your statutes.

125 I am Your servant; give me understanding, that I may know Your testimonies.
126 It is time for YAHWEH to act, for they have broken Your law.
127 Therefore I love Your commandments above gold, yes, above fine gold.
128 Therefore I esteem right all Your precepts concerning everything,
I hate every false way.

Reflection on Verse 127 from Charles Bridges

In the worldly man we have the image of the miser brought before us. His heart and treasure are in his money. With what delight he counts it and with what watchfulness he keeps it, hiding it in safe custody lest he should be robbed of that which is dearer to him than life. Christians should be misers as well, that is, spiritual misers. Let them count their treasure, which is more than fine gold, and hide it in their hearts for safe keeping. There the great robber shall not be able to reach it. Oh, Christian, how much greater is your portion than the miser's treasure! Hide it, watch it, and retain it. You need not be afraid of covetousness in spiritual things. Rather "covet earnestly" to increase your storehouse. By living upon it and living in it, it will grow richer in extent and more precious in value.

PRAYER

O heavenly Father, you are our defense and shield. Let your mercies uphold us while we travel through a sin-sick world. Make us hate all things evil, all corrupt imaginations and the wicked pursuit of worldly pleasures. Let us anchor our souls in your faithfulness, and build our expectations upon your mercy and promises through Christ Jesus. Then we shall not be disappointed in our eternal hopes, that of living in your glorious kingdom where you, Yahweh, live and reign in the unity of the blessed Trinity, one God, world without end. Amen.