

PSALM 119
Parts 21 and 22

ש Shin

- 161 Princes persecute me without cause, but my heart stands in awe of Your words.
162 I rejoice at Your word, as one who finds great spoil.
163 I hate and despise falsehood, *but* I love Your law.
164 Seven times a day I praise You, because of Your righteous ordinances.
165 Those who love Your law have great peace, and nothing causes them to stumble.
166 I hope for Your salvation, O YAHWEH, and do Your commandments.
167 My soul keeps Your testimonies, and I love them exceedingly.
168 I keep Your precepts and Your testimonies, for all my ways are before You.

Reflection on Verse 162 from Charles Bridges

The reverence in which we hold the Bible is the most suitable preparation for its most happy enjoyment. In receiving every word of it, as the condescending message from him before whom angels veil their faces, we shall rejoice in it as one who finds great treasure. David had often found great treasure in his many wars, but never had his greatest victories brought him such rich spoil as he had now discovered in the word of God. The expressive image of war and spoil should remind us that the treasures of God's precious word are not to be gained without due battle. If we indulge ourselves in indolence or a merely superficial and cursory reading of the word, we will be indisposed for the necessary and habitual effort of prayer, self-denial, and faith. Paralyzed as we are by the weakness of our spiritual perceptions and the power of unbelief, we must send up many a prayer and many a sigh for Divine aid before we are crowned with victory and can joyfully claim the fruit of conquest. Let us persevere with unconquerable and unwearied vigor that we may share in the blessed spoil of victory--views of a Savior's dying love and an interest in the precious blessings of the cross.

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ת Tav

- 169 Let my cry come before You, O YAHWEH; give me understanding according to Your word.
170 Let my supplication come before You; deliver me according to Your word.
171 Let my lips utter praise, for You teach me Your statutes.
172 Let my tongue sing of Your word, for all Your commandments are righteousness.

173 Let Your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen Your precepts.
174 I long for Your salvation, O YAHWEH, and Your law is my delight.
175 Let my soul live that it may praise You, and let Your ordinances help me.
176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep;
seek Your servant, for I do not forget Your commandments.

Reflection on Verse 176 from Charles Bridges

We are well aware of the natural disposition to wander from the fold: "*All we like sheep have gone astray.*" But how distressing is the thought that this should not only be the description of a world living without God but the confession even of God's own people! And with only a little yielding, a little bending to the flesh giving way to evil, who knows what may be the end of this crooked path? But let us unite the publican's prayer, "God be merciful to me a sinner," with the Apostle's confidence, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed to him against that day." In this way we will be able to check our wanderings and keep our eyes focused on a perfect Savior until we reach the region where we shall be eternally safe in the heavenly fold.

PRAYER

O Lord God, we have strayed from your commandments. Seek your lost sheep, and let your hand guide us into the way of your statutes, that being delivered from our wicked ways we will walk to your glory in newness of life the rest of our earthly days. Save us from our own evil imaginations and corruptions, and grant that our lips may speak of your praise in the assembly of saints here that we may sing glorious anthems with saints and angels hereafter. Let our lives be honoring to you, Yahweh, who lives and reigns forever. Amen.