

PSALM 119
Parts 3 and 4

λ Gimel

- 17 Deal bountifully with Your servant, that I may live and keep Your word.
18 Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law.
19 I am a stranger in the earth; do not hide Your commandments from me.
20 My soul is crushed with longing after Your ordinances at all times.
21 You rebuke the arrogant, the cursed, who wander from Your commandments.
22 Take away reproach and contempt from me, for I observe Your testimonies.
23 Even though princes sit *and* talk against me, Your servant meditates on Your statutes.
24 Your testimonies also are my delight; *they are* my counselors.

Reflection on Verse 21 from Charles Bridges

We cannot be surprised at this expression of the mind of God concerning pride. There is no sin more abhorrent to his character. It is as if we were taking the crown from his head and placing it upon our own. It is man making a god of himself. Let no saint, however near he may be living to God, however favored with the blessing of his countenance, consider himself beyond the reach of this temptation. Indeed, the whole plan of salvation is intended to humble the pride of man by exhibiting his restoration to the Divine favor as a free gift through the atoning blood of the cross. When we see the Son of God, who took upon himself the form of a servant that he might bear the curse of man, how can pride lift up its head?

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⌈ Daleth

- 25 My soul cleaves to the dust; revive me according to Your word.
26 I have told of my ways, and You have answered me; teach me Your statutes.
27 Make me understand the way of Your precepts, so I will meditate on Your wonders.
28 My soul weeps because of grief; strengthen me according to Your word.
29 Remove the false way from me, and graciously grant me Your law.
30 I have chosen the faithful way; I have placed Your ordinances *before me*.
31 I cling to Your testimonies; O YAHWEH, do not put me to shame!
32 I shall run the way of Your commandments, for You will enlarge my heart.

Reflection on Verse 25 from Charles Bridges

Sin is no trifle to a child of God. It is his heaviest sorrow. To have a soul clinging to the dust and yet not feel the trouble, that is the black mark of a sinner dead in sins, dead to God. To know the plague of our own heart, to feel our misery, and to believe and apply the remedy is the satisfactory evidence of a child of God.

PRAYER

O Lord God, our Father and our Sovereign Ruler, we are by nature pilgrims upon the earth who choose to walk in the paths of darkness. But by your mercy and grace we have been redeemed, and you have turned us into the straight and narrow path of righteousness through the merits of your only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Above all things, make our desire to serve you more and more fervent. Grant that we may make your statutes our chief delight, that we may ever rejoice with hope and confidence in the sanctifying influence of your Holy Spirit. And let us not pursue the things of this world, but enable us to pursue holiness, that we may be presented blameless before your throne when our time for working here has come to an end. We ask in Christ's name. Amen.