

*PSALM 119*  
*Parts 5 and 6*

ה He

33 Teach me, O YAHWEH, the way of Your statutes, and I shall observe it to the end.  
34 Give me understanding, that I may observe Your law and keep it with all *my* heart.  
35 Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it.  
36 Incline my heart to Your testimonies and not to *dishonest* gain.  
37 Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity, and revive me in Your ways.  
38 Establish Your word to Your servant, as that which produces reverence for You.  
39 Turn away my reproach which I dread, for Your ordinances are good.  
40 Behold, I long for Your precepts; revive me through Your righteousness.

Reflection on Verse 35 from Charles Bridges

We are not only ignorant of the path of God's commandments, but we are impotent to go in it. Therefore we need double assistance. Our mind must be enlightened and our hearts compelled; otherwise our knowledge of this humbling path would make us shrink from it. But under the complete influence of Divine grace, when understanding has been given to discern the beauty of it, the soul's warmest desire is fixed upon it. It is delightful to acknowledge that this work is all of God--that it is he who works in us both to will and to act according to his good pleasure.

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י Vav

41 May Your lovingkindnesses also come to me, O YAHWEH,  
Your salvation according to Your word;  
42 So I will have an answer for him who reproaches me, for I trust in Your word.  
43 And do not take the word of truth utterly out of my mouth,  
for I wait for Your ordinances.  
44 So I will keep Your law continually, forever and ever.  
45 And I will walk at liberty, for I seek Your precepts.  
46 I will also speak of Your testimonies before kings and shall not be ashamed.  
47 I shall delight in Your commandments, which I love.  
48 And I shall lift up my hands to Your commandments, which I love;  
and I will meditate on Your statutes.

## Reflection on Verse 42 from Charles Bridges

What is the salvation which he had just been speaking of? It was the whole gift of the mercy of God--redemption from sin, death and hell; pardon, peace, and acceptance with a reconciled God; and constant communication of spiritual blessings. In other words, it was all that God can give or we can desire, and all that we are able to receive here or that heaven can perfect hereafter. Now if this is the anchor of our hearts, surely it will furnish us at all times with an answer to that person who reproaches us with such a question as, "What is there to counteract the relinquishment of pleasure, esteem, and worldly comfort?" The mere professor can give no answer. But the true believer is ready to say, "I have found in the Lord's salvation pardon and peace, and in such do I abide. It is my happiness to live bearing his cross and testifying in the midst of abounding tribulation that there are no comforts like those of Christ." This was David's answer, when family trials were probably an occasion of reproach: "*Although my house is not with God, yet he has made an everlasting covenant with me, ordered in all things and sure; for this is all my salvation and all my desire*" (2 Sam. 23:5).

### PRAYER

*Heavenly Father, you have given us your law that we might walk in its holiness. Remove from us all evil and worldly desires, and make us go all our days in the paths of your commandments. Keep our hearts from covetousness and let not our eyes wander after vain and wicked desires. Give us confidence and boldness in our Christian profession, never fearing to acknowledge that we have made your law the rule of our conduct. Grant us the sustaining influence of your Holy Spirit that we may persevere to the end, and when the day of your coming arrives, to be admitted into your heavenly presence. This we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.*