

PSALM 119
Parts 7 and 8

† Zayin

49 Remember the word to Your servant, in which You have made me hope.
50 This is my comfort in my affliction, that Your word has revived me.
51 The arrogant utterly deride me, *yet* I do not turn aside from Your law.
52 I have remembered Your ordinances [judgments] from of old, O YAHWEH, and comfort myself.
53 Burning indignation has seized me because of the wicked, who forsake Your law.
54 Your statutes are my songs in the house of my pilgrimage.
55 O YAHWEH , I remember Your name in the night, and keep Your law.
56 This has become mine, that I observe Your precepts.

Reflection on Verse 52 from Charles Bridges

We are all too ready to imagine that there is something peculiar about our own case, that the fiery trial we are experiencing is unique to us. But when we remember the Lord's judgments of old with his people, we can comfort ourselves in the assurance that throughout the ages these same afflictions were experienced by our brethren; and as the sufferings of Christ abounded in them, so their consolation also abounded through Christ. They encountered the same ridicule of the proud but always experienced the same support from the faithfulness of their God.

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‡ Heth

57 YAHWEH is my portion; I have promised to keep Your words.
58 I sought Your favor with all *my* heart; be gracious to me according to Your word.
59 I considered my ways and turned my feet to Your testimonies.
60 I hastened and did not delay to keep Your commandments.
61 The cords of the wicked have encircled me, *but* I have not forgotten Your law.
62 At midnight I shall rise to give thanks to You because of Your righteous ordinances.
63 I am a companion of all those who fear You, and of those who keep Your precepts.
64 The earth is full of Your lovingkindness, O YAHWEH; teach me Your statutes.

Reflection on Verse 60 from Charles Bridges

A superficial conviction brings with it a sense of duty but not the compelling force needed to move us. Men stand around reasoning and doubting instead of making haste. But a sound conviction sweeps away all excuses and delays. Indeed, in a matter of life and death--of eternal life and eternal death--the call is too clear for debate, and there is no room for delay. Many a precious soul has been lost by waiting for "a more convenient season." But it is a time that will probably never arrive; and the willful neglect of present opportunity provokes God to put it far away. Today is God's time.

PRAYER

O gracious God, be merciful to us as we make our humble petitions before your throne of grace. Grant that in all our troubles we may put our whole trust and confidence in your mercy, and derive comfort and support from your holy word. Let our companionship be found among those who fear you, and teach us to shun fellowship with those who despise your law that we may not be drawn into the wickedness of vice. Watch over us and keep our feet on the straight and narrow path, that we may be preserved holy and blameless until the appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.