

(Tet)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>65) You have dealt <u>well</u> with
Your servant, O Lord,
according to Your word.</p> <p>66) Teach me <u>good</u> discernment
and knowledge, For I
believe in Your commandments.</p> <p>67) <u>Before</u> I was afflicted I went
astray, But now I keep Your word.</p> <p>68) <u>You are good</u> and do good;
Teach me Your statutes.</p> | <p>69) The arrogant have <u>forged</u> a
lie against me; With all my
heart I will observe Your precepts.</p> <p>70) Their heart is <u>covered</u> with fat,
but I delight in Your law.</p> <p>71) It is <u>good</u> for me that I was afflicted,
That I may learn Your statutes.</p> <p>72) The law of Your mouth is <u>better</u>
to me than thousands of gold and
silver pieces.</p> |
|---|--|

We come now to our ninth section of Psalm 119 and our ninth letter of the Hebrew alphabet which is the letter “t” (tet). Psalm 119 is a Psalm that is designed to magnify God’s written Word and therefore each of the 22 sections focuses on a letter of the Hebrew alphabet to stress this focus.

Each verse in each section begins with a word that starts with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet. This is what forces one to see the emphasis of the written Scriptures.

Now in this section there are five verses that begin with the same Hebrew word even though in English it is translated by different words. The Hebrew word that starts five verses and appears six times is the word “tov.” This word starts verse **65, 66, 68 (2x), 71, 72**. In English the word is translated “well” (v. **65**), “good” (v. **66, 68 (2x), 71**) and “better” (v. **72**).

Now this word “tov” is one that means to be good in the sense of being excellent and beneficial in the sense of being happy and prosperous (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 319). This particular word has to do with that which is pleasing and delightful and good so that it makes one glad (*The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew English Lexicon*, p. 373).

So this part of the 119th Psalm is about presenting things from the Word of God that will point one in the most excellent and good direction so that he may be led to great blessings that makes one glad. It is the written Word of God that has this ability.

The point of this ninth section is this:

GOD’S WORD WILL ALWAYS DIRECT HIS SERVANTS TO A LIFE THAT IS GOOD THAT LEADS TO JOY AND HAPPINESS AND HIS BLESSINGS, AND SOMETIMES HE WILL USE AFFLICTION TO ACCOMPLISH THIS.

God’s written Word will always reveal the good God does and what is good for us to pursue. These are important things we need to know. There are six good realities we want to see:

GOOD REALITY #1 – God always deals well with His servant. **119:65**

God will always deal well with His servants and He will always deal in accordance with His Word. God will always do what is good and beneficial for His servants. He will always lead them in the best ways and those ways are revealed in His Word.

Now the word “dealt” is one that refers to what God does or what God makes (*Ibid*, p. 793). So the point is God always does and makes things good and beneficial for His servants. Now this verse clearly teaches that God has an active relationship with His servants. He is actively involved in their lives and He has always done what is good for His servants.

He has always done good for us according to His Word. God will always do that which is according to His Word. **So obviously the more we know of God’s Word, the more we will know the good He has done.**

Now if we remember that in this 119th Psalm we have seen that this writer experienced derision (v. 51); contempt (v. 22) and persecution (v. 157, 161), we must assume that God has a good purpose and plan for permitting us to experience this. The more we know of God’s Word, the more we begin to understand the good God has done.

GOOD REALITY #2 – God gives good instruction to His servants. **119:66**

Here is an eye-opening verse that reveals four amazing facts:

Fact #1 - God deals well with those who want to be taught.

People who will have God do good things for them love to be taught the Scriptures.

Fact #2 - God is the One who must give good discernment.

The word “discernment” is one that speaks of very perceptive judgment that actually tastes good to God (*Ibid.*, pp. 380-381). Those who are dedicated to the written Scriptures will discover God will grant them the ability to have good discernment and make good and perceptive judgments.

Fact #3 - God is the One who must give knowledge.

The word “knowledge” speaks of having God’s understanding and knowledge and wisdom and discernment (*Ibid.*, p. 395). Those who are dedicated to the written Scriptures will discover that God will do this kind of work.

Fact #4 - God will only give this to one who believes His Word.

Believing God’s Word is a critical factor in obtaining a good development God permits.

GOOD REALITY #3 – God uses affliction for good purposes with His servants. **119:67, 71**

The Hebrew presents the idea that there is a habitual straying, wandering and erring that took place and God used affliction to put a stop to it.

This is an extremely important point to see. The actual word “affliction” is one that refers to a variety of things that are oppressive and that makes one depressed to the point of crying out for help (Gesenius, p. 642). God actually has a good purpose for allowing these kinds of things to come into the lives of His servants in that it gets His people back on track.

Victor Hugo, a famous play write of the 1800’s, said, “adversity makes men and prosperity makes monsters.” Paul wrote some of his most powerful letters while in prison. John wrote Revelation while on a prison island. John Bunyan wrote Pilgrims Progress from a Bedford jail. Martin Luther translated the German Bible in a Wartburg Castle. In fact, Martin Luther’s wife said there were some Psalms that meant nothing to her until she and her famous husband experienced various afflictions (Charles Spurgeon, *Psalms*, p. 537).

Now in this verse we learn part of the way God uses affliction with His servants. When we as the servants of God stray off the path of God’s Word, which at times we have a tendency to do, God permits adverse things to hit us. Before God hit this writer with affliction, he strayed off the path of God many times.

What affliction did for him and for us is that it causes us to refocus our lives on the Word of God so we can get away from the adverse things God is permitting. As **verse 71** says, it actually is good that we go through this process because it brings us right to the Word of God.

This is what Israel needs to learn and this is what we need to learn.

Affliction makes us more faithful and less apt to go astray. When we see affliction through instructed eyes, we realize that affliction is not our enemy; it is a tool God uses to make us stronger and better as He takes us to a deeper level of godliness.

We know from II Corinthians 1:3-4 that God comforts us in our affliction so one of the things that afflictions permit us to experience is the comforting grace of God.

GOOD REALITY #4 – God is good and God does good. **119:68**

God is the only being about which this may be truly said. God is always good and God always does what is good.

Now notice the last part of the verse, the writer asks God to teach him His statutes. The more we know of the Word of God, the more we may spot the good God is doing. Whatever God does will be good. This is true when He saves and this is true when He destroys.

The more we know of the Word of God, the more we will be able to discern the good and excellent things God is doing. We will never know everything, but we can understand many things.

GOOD REALITY #5 – God permits those arrogant to exist for our good. **119:69-70**

Arrogant and godless people make up lies against true servants of God. They spread untrue gossip and they forge lies, which are deeper and deeper. These people are proud and arrogant. Their hearts are puffed up with arrogant fat.

Now why would God permit these kinds of people to exist around His servants? Well one answer is found right here. **These people drive the servants of God to the Word of God.**

True servants of God have hearts that want to know God's Word and in a world of proud and arrogant God-mockers, those right with God go after a careful understanding and application of God's Word with all their hearts.

One thing those who lie do is cause those right with God to search the Scriptures for truth.

Verse 70 is critical because it shows that those who are right with God find their great delight in the Word of God. This is where real servants find their highest happiness because it is the Word of God that leads them to a right relationship with God.

GOOD REALITY #6 – God's Word is good. **119:72**

Do not overlook this verse. There is nothing more valuable on this earth and in our lives as the written Word of God. It is far more valuable than thousands of pieces of gold and silver.

Very few see the value of it, but true servants of God do. Very few take God's Word seriously, but true servants of God do.

There are people who go to church who will put and promote all kinds of things as being more valuable than the written Scriptures: Friendship; fellowship; music; plays; programs; gimmicks; movies; youth ministries and other things.

But to God the most valuable thing of all is His written Scriptures. For a true servant of God, he sees and senses the value of the Word of God.

Anything that causes us to draw close to God and His Word is good for us. God will always do His servants good, even when they are going through affliction.

This part of the Psalm shows us the value of God-ordained afflictions that He sovereignly permits to come into our lives. There are at least ten presented in this one section:

Value #1 - God's afflictions will show us how good God has been to us. 119:65

Value #2 - God's afflictions will give us good discernment and knowledge. 119:66

Value #3 - God's afflictions will help recover us when we stray. 119:67a

Value #4 - God's afflictions will cause us to want to keep God's Word. 119:67b

Value #5 - God's afflictions will show us that God is a good God who does us good.
119:68a

Value #6 - God's afflictions will prompt us to want to be taught God's Word. 119:68b

Value #7 - God's afflictions will lead us to obedience with all our heart. 119:69

Value #8 - God's afflictions will cause us to delight in God's Word. 119:70

Value #9 - God's afflictions will cause us to learn God's Word. 119:71

Value #10 - God's afflictions will cause us to value and prize God's Word. 119:72