

*Him with the whole heart.*” A true believer is known in being one who prays and works to keep God’s testimonies, and not just sometimes but always, not just partially, but completely. In this life no one can perfectly keep God’s testimonies, but that does become the aim of every true believer. Are you known as one who keeps God’s statutes and precepts and who truly repents whenever still you fail so to do?

Oh, must we not say finally, and with this I will end my study on living truly by God’s Word and holding to the Bible as a Christian, surely that means also simply **loving** God’s Word with all your heart immensely. How does the psalmist put it in verse 167? *“My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly.”* Is this your testimony too about God’s Word? *“My soul hath kept [and keeps] thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly.”*

As I mentioned, I have been following the alphabet in my points about the Christian and God’s Word, something in line also with this special Psalm 119, and yes, I did go further along with the alphabet letters for myself, but I challenge you now to do that for yourself. See if you can recall how I showed from our text what it means to see the Bible as God’s precious Word, truthfully and practically speaking, and keep going further, using at least 22 letters of the English alphabet matching a little the psalmist’s praise psalm of God’s Word with Psalm 119.

What is so needed in our times in the Christian church and for the Christian church’s witness in our times is that we know and show God’s precious Word, truthfully and practically speaking. The more that happens, the more we will be influencing and impacting the world positively with the gospel message in word and deed, rather than being influenced and corrupted by the world negatively with its ways and Satan’s schemes. If we would be strong Christians and have holy gospel influence and impact down through the generations to come, we need to be people of the Holy Bible, and not just a little bit, but like the psalmist and like the Saviour Himself, and like the apostles and all the godly throughout history. Let us be people of the book, God’s precious Word, truthfully and practically speaking. Is that what you want to be too, and will live showing it, and encouraging others along the same way, yes, truthfully and practically speaking? Isn’t this the need of the hour? “O Holy Spirit, even so bless these messages on Thy holy Word, and make it also now the sword of the Spirit, for Jesus sake, Amen.”

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**BANNER OF TRUTH RADIO BROADCAST**

*Radio Ministry of the FREE REFORMED CHURCHES of North America*

*Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee that it may be displayed because of the truth. (Psalm 60:4)*



## GOD’S PRECIOUS WORD [2]

This message is again especially based on verses from Psalm 119. The theme for this message is, “God’s precious Word, truthfully and practically speaking...”

Psalm 119 is a Holy Spirit inspired poem all in praise of God’s holy Word, the Bible! If we are to be living Christians and thriving believers, the Bible should be the Book of books for us. Is it so for you? Looking particularly at two sections of Psalm 119, the section beginning at verse 129 and the section beginning at verse 161, consider with me some different ways a godly person or true Christian views the Bible. Following also the letters of the alphabet, we noticed last time what was true of the godly psalmist in relation to God’s Word. We noted how he so **appreciated** God’s Word, how he **behaved** and aimed always to behave according to God’s Word, how he was **comforted** by God’s Word, how he **delighted** in God’s Word, and how he was **eager** for God’s Word time and again.

We now continue our study noticing further how clearly he **founded** his life on all God’s Word. The psalmist didn’t look to God’s Word in a way that he received half of it, and wouldn’t hear and follow the rest of it. Here I think of all too many also in the Christian church in general today who say they look to Jesus and believe in Him for salvation but they don’t then follow Him as Lord of their life. But that can’t be a true conversion then. When truly converted you don’t only look to Jesus to be saved but also you look to Him to follow Him and serve Him.

Notice how this comes out in our selection of Psalm 119. The psalmist says in verse 135, *“Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; and teach me thy statutes.”* You see not just, ‘save me, Lord, and then let me live as I please’, no, ‘but then also Lord, lead me onward in the way of Thy word! Again, look at verse 166 where we read the same psalmist say, *“Lord I have hoped for thy salvation, and done thy commandments.”* Our doing God’s commandments has no part at all in the free gift of salvation from God for us, but it has everything to do with the fruit of salvation worked in our hearts by the Lord. So the psalmist reflected faithful following after all God’s Word. Those who won’t seek and follow Christ Jesus as both Saviour and Lord really don’t know Him as Saviour and can’t serve Him as Lord of their life either. Do you understand this point speaking personally for yourself

too? Does the psalmist's testimony in relation to God's Word find an echo in your heart and life in all the ways unfolded so far? There is that children's song that says very simply, "The B-I-B-L-E, that's just the book for me; I stand alone on the Word of God, the B-I-B-L-E!" Do you too build your life on the whole Word of God?

Let me give just two more points showing the Christian in relation to God's Word. Notice surely how the psalmist reflected God's precious Word, truthfully and practically speaking in also **grieving** over those who did not and would not live by it. "*Rivers of water*" he says, "*run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law.*" It is a fact when God's Word is in your heart and you know the Saviour, Jesus Christ, from that Word then you are saddened thinking of the many who don't know Him and the many that despise and reject God's Word. A Christian, when into the Word, will have a burden for those ignorant of the Word, and worse even, defiant against the Word. Even the most joyful believer in this sense will still carry a burden of sorrow and grief in this life. If the Word says that all outside of Christ will perish in eternal hell, doesn't that give every reason to be sad and grieving for the lost? No true believer living by the Word of God can live careless and thoughtless in regards to the wicked and unbelieving. Do you know of this inward pain as well regarding all too many in your area and all over the world still who do not know the Lord and His Word, and are not believing it, but turning their backs on it?

When that is something real in our lives then that will be obvious also in us **holding high** and **holding forth** God's Word as teaching us the way of grace and truth and telling the only gospel of Jesus Christ. See how again this is surely what the believing psalmist in our text does. In this whole Psalm he is telling how wonderful God's Word is! He is describing it as showing the way of God-given wisdom and salvation and true and ultimate blessing. Even as the Reformation document, the Belgic Confession, expresses it in Article #7, the psalmist knew and confessed God's Word, the Holy Scriptures, "fully contain the will of God, and that whatsoever man ought to believe unto salvation is sufficiently taught therein" and that it's teaching is "most perfect and complete in all respects. Neither do we consider of equal value any writing of men, however holy these men may have been, [nothing can compare with this Book, the Holy Bible], nor ought we to consider custom, or the great multitude, or antiquity, or succession of times and persons, or councils, decrees, or statutes, as of equal value with the truth of God, for the truth [as given in the Bible] is above all...and therefore we reject with all our hearts whatsoever does not agree with this infallible rule" [and inspired Word of God]!

So today surely we must hold high and hold forth God's Word, and proclaim it not with apology but with authority, not meekly but boldly as the living Word of the living God, and that which the Lord is still pleased to use to

open the eyes of the blind and to work regeneration in the heart, and to lead to conversion and salvation. The Bible is all about the only Saviour, Jesus Christ, and to proclaim Him, we must stick to the Bible and proclaim its truth as given to us from the beginning to the end, from Genesis 1 to Revelation 22. Is this your conviction too?

When it is so, won't it be true also what **intercessors** with God's Word we should be too, as the psalmist was. He pleaded on the basis of God's Word for mercy and help for himself and for others. Just listen to verse 132 in this regard. "*Look thou upon me*" he prays, "*and be merciful unto me, as thou usest to do unto those that love thy name.*" When God's Word is precious to us, truthfully and practically speaking you end up praying God's Word back to Him on behalf of yourself and your family and so many others. Is this a spiritual exercise you can relate with too?

How much reason to pray in intercession in our day in these perilous times in which we live! There is reason to pray without ceasing, and the more you are into God's Word the more you find ways and words to bring in humble hearty petition, confession, and intercession, and praise before the Lord. When you struggle in prayer at times, it is good to take God's own Word and read it as a prayer to God, especially also from the book of Psalms. Have you not also found this so helpful in your life?

Notice further in this regard, how that through God's precious Word, the psalmist is also **joined** to all others who seek and serve the Lord, and will live by God's Word. In verse 63 he states very emphatically even, "*I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.*" The psalmist will not be companions of those who do not keep God's law, but he associates with and would be found among all who love God's Name and His ways. When truly a Christian living by God's Word, immediately there develops a spiritual bond with all others likeminded and living in submission to God's Word. Then God's people and the fellowship of the saints become such a blessing and joy to you, and such an encouragement too. Doesn't every believer listening now also identify with this point, and can you not give personal examples too of knowing and enjoying that spiritual Christian bond with others in common adherence to the Scriptures and the Saviour and Lord of the Bible?

God's precious Word, truthfully and practically speaking means living in appreciation of God's Word, behaving in accordance with it, being comforted by it, delighting in it, eager for it, following faithfully all of it, grieving over those not knowing it or despising it, holding the Scriptures high and holding it forth to others, interceding by means of the Word for self and others, joined to others in fellowship with the Word, and it means **keeping** to the Word and keeping the Word in your heart and life, as the psalmist also clearly states many times over just in this Psalm 119. In verse 2 of the psalm he states, "*Blessed are they that keep His [God's] testimonies, and that seek*