

Evening Sermon Outline – July 23, 2017
“From Mercies to Motion, to True Devotion”
Psalm 119:41-48

I. A prayer for mercies –

WAW. Let Your mercies come also to me, O LORD... (Psalm 119:41 A NKJ)

1. *Psalm 119, like the rest of the psalms was a song, to be sung, but it also contains many prayers! The Psalmist begin the last section with a prayer for God to teach him, and help him understand. Here he starts with a prayer for mercies and grace, he knew he was a sinner, needing God’s forgiveness!*

“He desires mercy as well as teaching, for he was guilty as well as ignorant.” C.H. Spurgeon

2. *He prays for mercies, note the “s”, plural because he knew he had a great variety of needs.*

II. A prayer for salvation, according to God’s Word –

... Your salvation according to Your word. (Psalm 119:41 B NKJ)

1. *Salvation, the sum and completion of God’s mercies, is also a many splendored thing. To not miss any aspect of his needed salvation the psalmist prays for salvation, according to God’s word.*
2. *What does God’s word say about salvation?*
 - A. *There is temporal salvation – God saved David from Goliath, therefore he saved Israel from the Philistines and their champion.*

B. *There is eternal salvation –*

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (John 3:16-17 NKJ)

- C. *There is salvation from sin, meaning not only from Hell, which is the penalty for sin, but from sin itself, which means perfect righteousness –*

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21 NKJ)

III. Reasons for these prayers:

1. *An answer for him who reproaches –*

So shall I have an answer for him who reproaches me, ... (Psalm 119:42 A NKJ)

2. *Trust in God’s word –*

For I trust in Your word. (Psalm 119:42 B NKJ)

3. *He would not be speechless –*

And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, ... (Psalm 119:43 A NKJ)

4. *He hoped in God’s ordinances –*

... For I have hoped in Your ordinances. (Psalm 119:43 B NKJ)

5. *His prayers seem to be for a kind of salvation of argument / communication. He is praying for words and a lifestyle which would glorify God both against and in front of his enemies –*

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; ¹⁶ having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. ¹⁷ For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. (1 Peter 3:15-17 NKJ)

If this is indeed the case, it would seem to me a big part of God’s answer to this psalmist’s prayer, is Psalm 119, itself! Additionally, as he trusted in God’s word and ordinances, and these became more and

more, his life, these were also his salvation and defense, he became like those who Paul wrote to, obedient, shining lights –
Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain. (Philippians 2:12-16 NKJ)

IV. Promises made to God in expectation of answered prayer

1. A caution regarding vows and promises –

"Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.' ³⁴ "But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; ³⁵ "nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ "Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ "But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one. (Matthew 5:33-37 NKJ)

2. Promises of the Psalmist:

A. I will keep Your law, continually, forever and ever –

So shall I keep Your law continually, Forever and ever. (Psalm 119:44 NKJ)

Is this possible?

But Jesus looked at *them* and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26 NKJ)

Christ Kept God's commandments, continually, Forever and ever ...

And I will walk at liberty, For I seek Your precepts. (Psalm 119:45 NKJ)

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:31-32 NKJ)

"As he who departs from confessing of God's truth doth cast himself in straits, in danger and bonds; so he that beareth out the confession of the truth doth walk as a free man; the truth doth set him free." —*David Dickson*.

B. I will speak Your testimonies, without shame –

I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed. (Psalm 119:46 NKJ)

In these words, he seems to believe that he is in possession of that which he formerly prayed for. He had said, "Take not the word of truth out of my mouth," and now, as if he had obtained what he requested, he rises up, and maintains that he would not be dumb, even were he called upon to speak in the presence of kings. He affirms that he would willingly stand forward in vindication of the glory of God in the face of the whole world.—*John Calvin*.

C. I will delight in Your commandments –

And I will delight myself in Your commandments, Which I love. (Ps. 119:47 NKJ)

D. I will lift up my hands to Your commandments –

My hands also I will lift up to Your commandments, Which I love, ... (Psalm 119:48 NKJ)

Verses 46, 47, 48. In these three last verses David promises a threefold duty of thankfulness. First, the service of his tongue. Next, the service of his affections. Thirdly, the service of his actions....—William Cowper.

Hands lifted up, we typically think of as a kind of charismatic praise habit. However, it has meaning! He will devote himself to doing God's commandments, take my hands ...

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; ... (Ecclesiastes 9:10 NKJ)

E. I will meditate on Your statutes –

... And I will meditate on Your statutes. (Psalm 119:48 NKJ)

Again, Psalm 119 is proof: the Psalmist really did "meditate" on God's statutes, we read the proof he obviously "delighted" in them :47

Arnold A. Brevick