



Psalms

The Book of Praises

Lesson 4
Instructional Psalms:
The Word of God

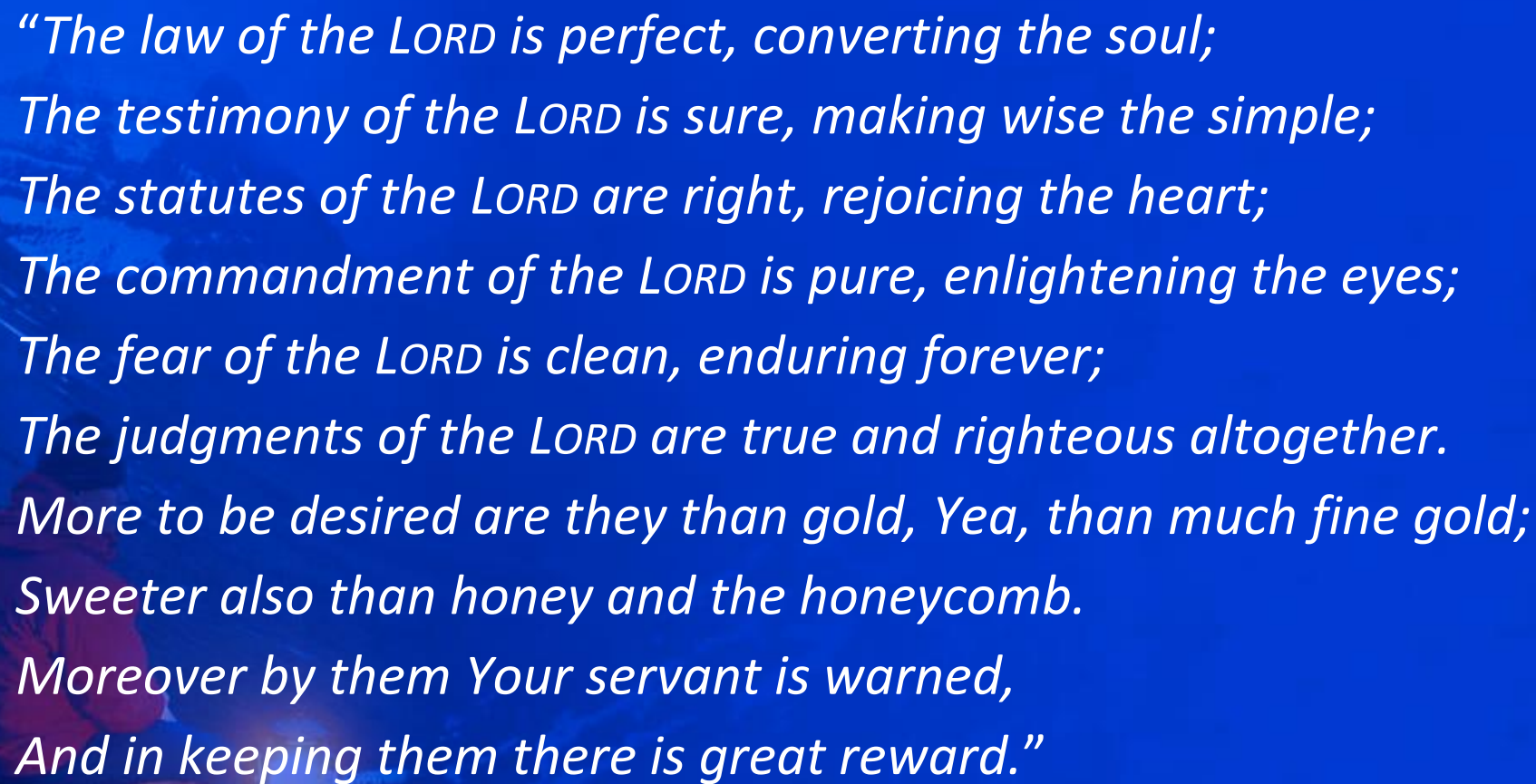
Psalm 150

- Author unknown
- Why it was composed:
 - Designed to occupy the very place which it does – to complete the volume devoted to praise
 - In view of all that has been written, there is an occasion for praise
- This psalm is made up wholly of expressions of gratitude and praise



Psalm 150

- Q8. Why are all these instruments listed? (i.e. What is the point here?)
 - Use every means available to praise God
- Summary
 - V. 1 – praise God everywhere – on earth and in Heaven
 - V. 2 – “for His mighty acts” – things which manifest His omnipotence
 - “According to His excellent greatness” – let the praise in elevation correspond with this
 - Vv. 3-5 – all these instruments are listed
 - V. 6 – let all living beings unite in praise

A person wearing a red jacket is sitting on the ground in a dark, blue-tinted environment, possibly a cave or a night setting. A small fire is burning in a metal pot on the ground in front of them, casting a warm glow. The background is dark and indistinct, with some faint light sources.

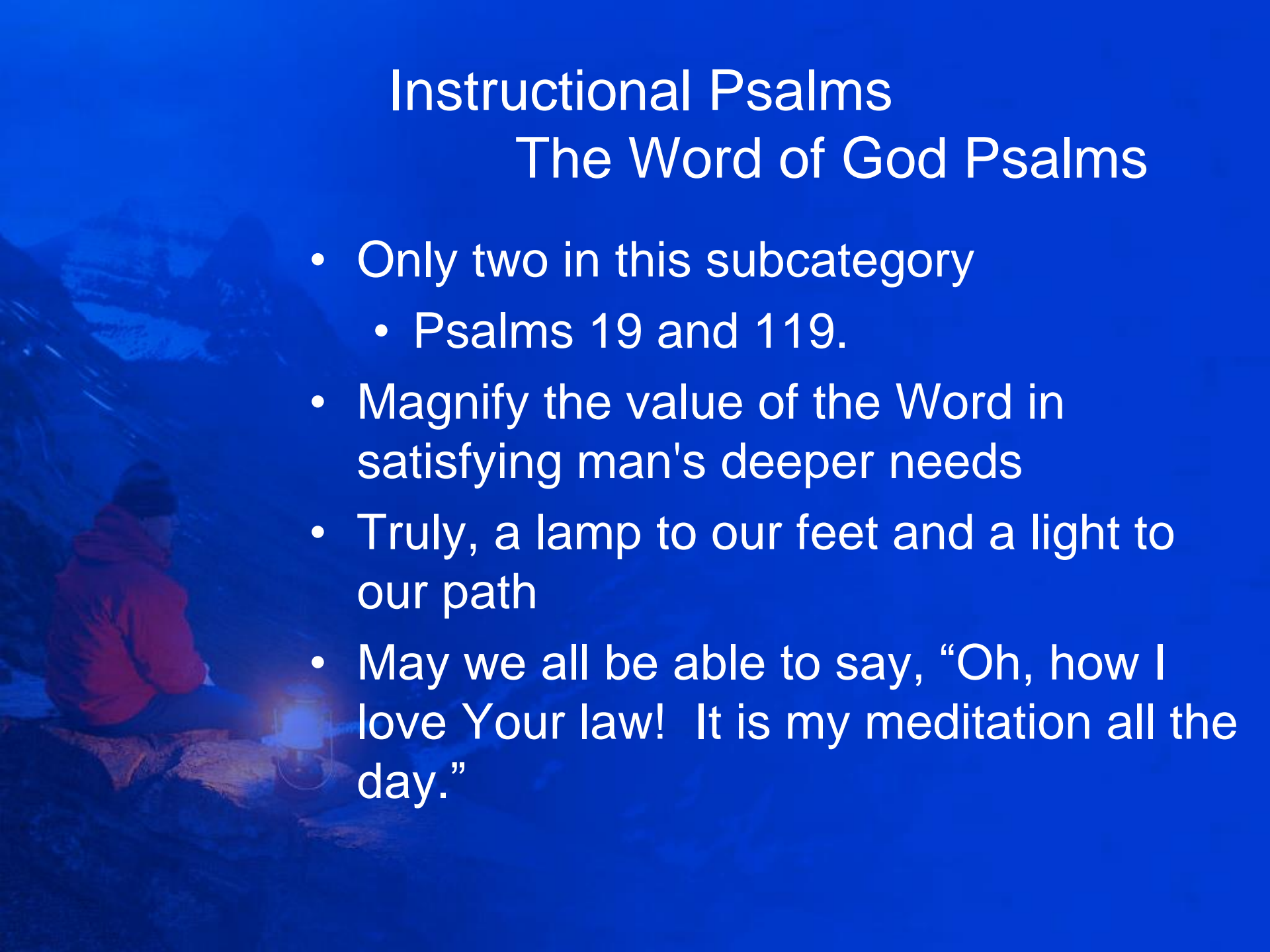
*“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul;
The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;
The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;
The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.
Moreover by them Your servant is warned,
And in keeping them there is great reward.”*

(Psalm 19:7–11, NKJV)

Instructional Psalms

The Word of God Psalms

- Only two in this subcategory
 - Psalms 19 and 119.
- Magnify the value of the Word in satisfying man's deeper needs
- Truly, a lamp to our feet and a light to our path
- May we all be able to say, “Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.”



Lessons for Today

- The priceless value of God's word to us
 - Only by it can we truly know the will of God for us
- We can only come to know God through His word
- How blessed we are to have the complete revelation
 - David had only a small portion of it, yet look how he magnified the word



Psalm 19

- Author - David - drawing on some contemplations he likely had in younger years as a shepherd
- "In his earliest days, [David] while keeping his father's flock had devoted himself to the study of God's two great books - nature and Scripture; and he had so thoroughly entered into the spirit of these two only volumes in his library, that he was able with a devout criticism to compare and contrast them, magnifying the excellency of the Author as seen in both. ... He is wisest who reads both the world-book and the Word-book as two volumes of the same work, and feels concerning them, 'My Father wrote them both.'" (Charles Spurgeon)

Psalm 19

- Q1. a) What does nature reveal? b) What does the Word reveal that nature alone cannot?
 - a) Nature reveals the fact that there is a God. (vv. 1-6)
 - b) The word reveals the mind of God and His will for mankind (vv. 7-11)

Psalm 19

Ways to summarize this psalm: vv. 1-6 ... vv. 7-11

- Nature reveals the fact that there is a God ... the word reveals the mind of God
- The creatures show God's glory ... the word shows his grace
- Creation is a wordless voice constantly declaring God's glory ... and the power and perfection of His law is extolled
- The glory of the lawgiver ... and the glory of the law in its manifold uses

Psalm 19

- Question 2. Notice the repeating pattern in verses 7-9. List the following: a) how the Word is described, b) how it is characterized, c) its effect.
- The word described
 - law, testimony, statutes, commandment, (the fear of the Lord, judgments)
- The word characterized
 - perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, true and righteous altogether
- The effects of the word
 - converting the soul, making wise the simple, rejoicing the heart, enlightening the eyes, enduring forever - abiding, true and righteous - authentic or virtuous

Psalm 19

- Question 4. Define some of the terms that refer to the Word.
 - **law** – “towrah” or torah {to-raw’} - a precept or statute, especially the Decalogue or Pentateuch
 - “Not a book of lifeless precepts, but a living expression of God’s will.” (Kimbrough)
 - **testimony** - `eduwth, ay-dooth' - testimony, witness.
 - “Witnesses His mind and nature.” (Kimbrough)
 - a reminder – reminding man of both what he should do and what he has failed to do

Terms for the Word

- Question 4 (cont.)
 - **statutes** - piqqwd, pik-kood' - properly, appointed, i.e. a mandate of God; commandment, precept, statute.
 - Orders – “these words claim attention as words that the authority of the Almighty has uttered, and which we cannot do other than obey.” (Leupold)
 - **commandment** - mitsvah, mits-vaw' - a command, whether human or divine (collectively, the Law); law, ordinance, precept.
 - Even more specific – rules for man clearly marked out

Terms for the Word

- Question 4 (cont.)
 - **judgments** (ordinances) - mishpat, mish-pawt' - properly, a verdict (favorable or unfavorable) pronounced judicially, especially a sentence or formal decree; ordinance, right.
 - **statutes** - choq, khook - an enactment; hence, an appointment (of time, space, quantity, labor or usage); appointed, bound, decreed.
 - **Word** - 'imrah, im-raw' - commandment, speech, word.

Psalm 19

- The character of the word – adjectives used to describe it
 - Perfect – all-sided so as to cover completely all aspects of life
 - Sure – a foundation on which a man can unhesitatingly build
 - Right – maps out a straight course for any man that would be guided by it
 - Pure – may well be conceived as a product that has been thoroughly purified and is thus unadulterated
 - Clean – essentially the same thought; used with reference to metals
 - True – a particularly strong description - utter dependability
 - True and Righteous – attributes of God reflected in His word

Psalm 19

- The beneficial effects of the word
 - Converting (restoring) the soul – a beneficial reviving effect that permeates the very life and soul of a converted child of God
 - Making wise the simple – imparting true heavenly wisdom to all who will keep their soul open to its effects
 - Rejoicing the heart – deep and satisfying joys
 - Enlightening the eyes – imparts a freshness and joy to the very looks of the eye
 - Enduring forever – does not offer a mere chance opinion that may lose its value shortly
- vv. 10-11 - See its great value
 - “gold” – the revealed truth of God is esteemed to be the most valuable of all things
 - “honey” – the sweetest of all substances and was regarded as an article of luxury

Psalm 19

To the tune “This Is My Father’s World”

The skies above declare

The handiwork of God;

Without a word the day and night

Repeat His fame abroad.

From where he sleeps the sun

With eagerness will rise,

And gladly he will run his course,

The circuit of the skies.

Psalm 19

To the tune “This Is My Father’s World”

How perfect is His law,

Restoring, making wise!

It brings rejoicing to the heart

And brightness to the eyes.

The judgments of the Lord

Are righteous and complete;

Much more than gold are they desired,

And more than honey, sweet.

Psalm 19

To the tune “This Is My Father’s World”

They keep your servant safe
And bring a great reward;
Deliver me from hidden faults
And willful sins, O Lord!
Thus innocent of wrong
And true to what is right,
Let everything I say and think
Be pleasing in Your sight.

Psalm 119

- An acrostic, instructional, praise, imprecatory, lament
 - Overriding theme: The wonder and beauty of the Word
- Author - unknown.
 - Some think David, but others suggest someone in the time of Nehemiah and Ezra.
- Basic messages
 - Thanksgiving for the law or the word of God
 - Prayer that it may be faithfully kept or that one may experience the comfort of that word in trying times
 - Prayer for steadfastness, or that God may not forsake His servant
 - The overthrow of the ungodly
 - Praise of the law in its various aspects
 - Prayer for understanding of God's word and for ability to keep it

Psalm 119 - highlighting

1 Blessed *are* the undefiled in the way,
Who **walk in** the **law** of the LORD!

2 Blessed *are* those who **keep** His **testimonies**,
Who seek Him with the whole heart!

3 They also do no iniquity;
They **walk in** His **ways**.

4 You have commanded *us*
To **keep** Your **precepts** diligently.

5 Oh, that my ways were directed
To **keep** Your **statutes**!

6 Then I would not be ashamed,
When I **look into** all Your **commandments**.

7 I will praise You with uprightness of heart,
When I **learn** Your **righteous judgments**.

8 I will **keep** Your **statutes**;
Oh, do not forsake me utterly!

9 How can a young man cleanse his way?
By **taking heed** according to Your **word**.

10 With my whole heart I have sought You;
Oh, **let me not wander from** Your **commandments**!

Psalm 119

- Terms that refer to the word:
 - statutes, testimonies, law, ways, precepts, commandments, word, judgments, righteous judgments, judgments of Your mouth, way of truth, ordinances
 - Describe the many-sidedness of the word of God
 - But, the use of all these terms is mostly the psalmist's way of using variety of expression

Psalm 119 - What he does ...

- obey
 - keep, walk, run in the way of, observe, do not turn aside from, have not departed from, turned my feet to, did not forsake, do, inclined my heart to perform, cling to, taking heed according to, have not strayed from
- learn
 - learn, look into, consider, meditate on, do not forget, remembered, contemplate, get understanding
- let them guide
 - my counselors, lamp to my feet and a light to my path, laid before me, comforted myself, ever with me, hidden ... not sin

Psalm 119 - What he does ...

- desire
 - seek, long for, soul breaks with longing, have sought, longed for, have chosen
- declare
 - declared, will speak of
- attitude toward
 - love, believe, rejoiced in, trust in, taken as a heritage forever, my songs, in awe of, afraid of, delight myself in, hoped in, better to me than thousands of coins of gold and silver, consider to be right, wonderful, rejoice at

Psalm 119 - Things requested

- direct my steps, let me not wander from, teach me, open my eyes, do not hide, revive me, make me understand, strengthen me, grant, make me walk in, incline my heart to, establish to me, salvation, take not out of my mouth, remember to me, be merciful, uphold me, let help me, deliver me according to
- Essentially: teaching, guidance, strength, grace (favor), instilling a desire

Psalm 119

Q6. How do we reconcile man's free will with such strong requests?

- In general, these are accomplished through the power in the word
 - If we are open and receptive to it, God will accomplish these through the word
- In conjunction with His providence
 - God's favor will be provided providentially as He has described or promised in His word - thus the phrase "according to"
- "according to"
 - as stated or attested by; in conformity with
 - the psalmist placed his trust in God and his word that all this will be brought about - as he is assured by God in the word

Psalm 119 - Summary

- Vv. 1-8 - the joy of walking in the precepts of the Lord
- Vv. 9-16 - the resolve to keep God's ordinances faithfully
- Vv. 17-24 - the faithful adherence to God's law affords strength in persecution
- Vv. 25-32 - In the midst of affliction the psalmist seeks deeper insight into God's word
- Vv. 33-40 - prayer for understanding and guidance
- Vv. 41-48 - the prayer for grace and courage
- Vv. 49-56 - the word of God sustains the psalmist in the midst of affliction and opposition
- Vv. 57-64 - the psalmist busies himself with God's word in the fellowship of God's saints

Psalm 119 - Summary

- Vv. 65-72 - God's goodness drives the psalmist closer to the word
- Vv. 73-80 - the deliverance of God to His servant is a mighty comfort to other saints
- Vv. 81-87 - in the midst of persecution, the psalmist hopes in God's word
- Vv. 89-96 - the psalmist praises the immutability of God's word which has upheld him
- Vv. 97-104 - the law of God, if it is truly loved, imparts wisdom
- Vv. 105-112 - the psalmist vows fidelity to the enlightening word of God under all circumstances, let the cost be what it will
- Vv. 113-120 - prayer for strength to remain loyal to the word in the face of much opposition
- Vv. 121-128 - God's faithful servant commits his cause into God's hands and clings steadfastly to the word of his God

Psalm 119 - Summary

- Vv. 129-136 - God's wonderful testimonies confer many blessings; therefore they are to be faithfully kept
- Vv. 137-144 - the righteousness, purity, and truth of God's law command the psalmist's deepest love and reverence
- Vv. 145-152 - with trouble on every side, the psalmist continually turns to God in prayer and guides his steps by the unfailing word
- Vv. 153-160 - in the midst of wicked enemies the psalmist looks to God to "revive" him
- Vv. 161-168 - the psalmist has both loved and kept God's law
- Vv. 169-176 - prayers for insight

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