

## **Psalm 119 (NRSV): The Gloriousness of God's Law**

<sup>1</sup>Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

<sup>2</sup>Happy are those who keep his decrees, who seek him with their whole heart,

<sup>3</sup>who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways.

<sup>4</sup>You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.

<sup>5</sup>O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

<sup>6</sup>Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

<sup>7</sup>I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous ordinances.

<sup>8</sup>I will observe your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.

<sup>9</sup>How can young people keep their way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

<sup>10</sup>With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments.

<sup>11</sup>I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.

<sup>12</sup>Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.

<sup>13</sup>With my lips I declare all the ordinances of your mouth.

<sup>14</sup>I delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches.

<sup>15</sup>I will meditate on your precepts, and fix my eyes on your ways.

<sup>16</sup>I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

<sup>17</sup>Deal bountifully with your servant, so that I may live and observe your word.

<sup>18</sup>Open my eyes, so that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

<sup>19</sup>I live as an alien in the land; do not hide your commandments from me.

<sup>20</sup>My soul is consumed with longing for your ordinances at all times.

<sup>21</sup>You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones, who wander from your commandments;

<sup>22</sup>take away from me their scorn and contempt, for I have kept your decrees.

<sup>23</sup>Even though princes sit plotting against me, your servant will meditate on your statutes.

<sup>24</sup>Your decrees are my delight, they are my counselors.

<sup>25</sup>My soul clings to the dust; revive me according to your word.

<sup>26</sup>When I told of my ways, you answered me; teach me your statutes.

<sup>27</sup>Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous works.

<sup>28</sup>My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to your word.

<sup>29</sup>Put false ways far from me; and graciously teach me your law.

<sup>30</sup>I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I set your ordinances before me.

<sup>31</sup>I cling to your decrees, O Lord; let me not be put to shame.

<sup>32</sup>I run the way of your commandments, for you enlarge my understanding.

<sup>33</sup>Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.

<sup>34</sup>Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.

<sup>35</sup>Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

<sup>36</sup>Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain.

<sup>37</sup>Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways.

<sup>38</sup>Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you.

<sup>39</sup>Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good.

<sup>40</sup>See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life.

<sup>41</sup>Let your steadfast love come to me, O Lord, your salvation according to your promise.

<sup>42</sup>Then I shall have an answer for those who taunt me, for I trust in your word.

<sup>43</sup>Do not take the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for my hope is in your ordinances.

<sup>44</sup>I will keep your law continually, forever and ever.

<sup>45</sup>I shall walk at liberty, for I have sought your precepts.

<sup>46</sup>I will also speak of your decrees before kings, and shall not be put to shame;

<sup>47</sup>I find my delight in your commandments, because I love them.

<sup>48</sup>I revere your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes.

<sup>49</sup>Remember your word to your servant, in which you have made me hope.

<sup>50</sup>This is my comfort in my distress, that your promise gives me life.

<sup>51</sup>The arrogant utterly deride me, but I do not turn away from your law.

<sup>52</sup>When I think of your ordinances from of old, I take comfort, O Lord.

<sup>53</sup>Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked, those who forsake your law.

<sup>54</sup>Your statutes have been my songs wherever I make my home.

<sup>55</sup>I remember your name in the night, O Lord, and keep your law.

<sup>56</sup>This blessing has fallen to me, for I have kept your precepts.

<sup>57</sup>The Lord is my portion; I promise to keep your words.

<sup>58</sup>I implore your favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise.

<sup>59</sup>When I think of your ways, I turn my feet to your decrees;

<sup>60</sup>I hurry and do not delay to keep your commandments.

<sup>61</sup>Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me, I do not forget your law.

<sup>62</sup>At midnight I rise to praise you, because of your righteous ordinances.

<sup>63</sup>I am a companion of all who fear you, of those who keep your precepts.

<sup>64</sup>The earth, O Lord, is full of your steadfast love; teach me your statutes.

<sup>65</sup>You have dealt well with your servant, O Lord, according to your word.

<sup>66</sup>Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments.

<sup>67</sup>Before I was humbled I went astray, but now I keep your word.

<sup>68</sup>You are good and do good; teach me your statutes.

<sup>69</sup>The arrogant smear me with lies, but with my whole heart I keep your precepts.

<sup>70</sup>Their hearts are fat and gross, but I delight in your law.

<sup>71</sup>It is good for me that I was humbled, so that I might learn your statutes.

<sup>72</sup>The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

<sup>73</sup>Your hands have made and fashioned me; give me understanding that I may learn your commandments.

<sup>74</sup>Those who fear you shall see me and rejoice, because I have hoped in your word.

<sup>75</sup>I know, O Lord, that your judgments are right, and that in faithfulness you have humbled me.

<sup>76</sup>Let your steadfast love become my comfort according to your promise to your servant.

<sup>77</sup>Let your mercy come to me, that I may live; for your law is my delight.

<sup>78</sup>Let the arrogant be put to shame, because they have subverted me with guile; as for me, I will meditate on your precepts.

<sup>79</sup>Let those who fear you turn to me, so that they may know your decrees.

<sup>80</sup>May my heart be blameless in your statutes, so that I may not be put to shame.

<sup>81</sup>My soul languishes for your salvation; I hope in your word.

<sup>82</sup>My eyes fail with watching for your promise; I ask, "When will you comfort me?"

<sup>83</sup>For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, yet I have not forgotten your statutes.

<sup>84</sup>How long must your servant endure? When will you judge those who persecute me?

<sup>85</sup>The arrogant have dug pitfalls for me; they flout your law.

<sup>86</sup>All your commandments are enduring; I am persecuted without cause; help me!

<sup>87</sup>They have almost made an end of me on earth; but I have not forsaken your precepts.

<sup>88</sup>In your steadfast love spare my life, so that I may keep the decrees of your mouth.

<sup>89</sup>The Lord exists forever; your word is firmly fixed in heaven.

<sup>90</sup>Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

<sup>91</sup>By your appointment they stand today, for all things are your servants.

<sup>92</sup>If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my misery.

<sup>93</sup>I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life.

<sup>94</sup>I am yours; save me, for I have sought your precepts.

<sup>95</sup>The wicked lie in wait to destroy me, but I consider your decrees.

<sup>96</sup>I have seen a limit to all perfection, but your commandment is exceedingly broad.

<sup>97</sup>Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all day long.

<sup>98</sup>Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is always with me.

<sup>99</sup>I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your decrees are my meditation.

<sup>100</sup>I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.

<sup>101</sup>I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word.

<sup>102</sup>I do not turn away from your ordinances, for you have taught me.

<sup>103</sup>How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

<sup>104</sup>Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

<sup>105</sup>Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

<sup>106</sup>I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.

<sup>107</sup>I am severely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to your word.

<sup>108</sup>Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your ordinances.

<sup>109</sup>I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.

<sup>110</sup>The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.

<sup>111</sup>Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.

<sup>112</sup>I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

<sup>113</sup>I hate the double-minded, but I love your law.

<sup>114</sup>You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word.

<sup>115</sup>Go away from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the commandments of my God.

<sup>116</sup>Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live, and let me not be put to shame in my hope.

<sup>117</sup>Hold me up, that I may be safe and have regard for your statutes continually.

<sup>118</sup>You spurn all who go astray from your statutes; for their cunning is in vain.

<sup>119</sup>All the wicked of the earth you count as dross; therefore I love your decrees.

<sup>120</sup>My flesh trembles for fear of you, and I am afraid of your judgments.

<sup>121</sup>I have done what is just and right; do not leave me to my oppressors.

<sup>122</sup>Guarantee your servant's well-being; do not let the godless oppress me.

<sup>123</sup>My eyes fail from watching for your salvation, and for the fulfillment of your righteous promise.

<sup>124</sup>Deal with your servant according to your steadfast love, and teach me your statutes.

<sup>125</sup>I am your servant; give me understanding, so that I may know your decrees.

<sup>126</sup>It is time for the Lord to act, for your law has been broken.

<sup>127</sup>Truly I love your commandments more than gold, more than fine gold.

<sup>128</sup>Truly I direct my steps by all your precepts; I hate every false way.

<sup>129</sup>Your decrees are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.

<sup>130</sup>The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

<sup>131</sup>With open mouth I pant, because I long for your commandments.

<sup>132</sup>Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your custom toward those who love your name.

<sup>133</sup>Keep my steps steady according to your promise, and never let iniquity have dominion over me.

<sup>134</sup>Redeem me from human oppression, that I may keep your precepts.

<sup>135</sup>Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes.

<sup>136</sup>My eyes shed streams of tears because your law is not kept.

<sup>137</sup>You are righteous, O Lord, and your judgments are right.

<sup>138</sup>You have appointed your decrees in righteousness and in all faithfulness.

<sup>139</sup>My zeal consumes me because my foes forget your words.

<sup>140</sup>Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it.

<sup>141</sup>I am small and despised, yet I do not forget your precepts.

<sup>142</sup>Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and your law is the truth.

<sup>143</sup>Trouble and anguish have come upon me, but your commandments are my delight.

<sup>144</sup>Your decrees are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.

<sup>145</sup>With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O Lord. I will keep your statutes.

<sup>146</sup>I cry to you; save me, that I may observe your decrees.

<sup>147</sup>I rise before dawn and cry for help; I put my hope in your words.

<sup>148</sup>My eyes are awake before each watch of the night, that I may meditate on your promise.

<sup>149</sup>In your steadfast love hear my voice; O Lord, in your justice preserve my life.

<sup>150</sup>Those who persecute me with evil purpose draw near; they are far from your law.

<sup>151</sup>Yet you are near, O Lord, and all your commandments are true.

<sup>152</sup>Long ago I learned from your decrees that you have established them forever.

<sup>153</sup>Look on my misery and rescue me, for I do not forget your law.

<sup>154</sup>Plead my cause and redeem me; give me life according to your promise.

<sup>155</sup>Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek your statutes.

<sup>156</sup>Great is your mercy, O Lord; give me life according to your justice.

<sup>157</sup>Many are my persecutors and my adversaries, yet I do not swerve from your decrees.

<sup>158</sup>I look at the faithless with disgust, because they do not keep your commands.

<sup>159</sup>Consider how I love your precepts; preserve my life according to your steadfast love.

<sup>160</sup>The sum of your word is truth; and every one of your righteous ordinances endures forever.

<sup>161</sup>Princes persecute me without cause, but my heart stands in awe of your words.

<sup>162</sup>I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil.

<sup>163</sup>I hate and abhor falsehood, but I love your law.

<sup>164</sup>Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous ordinances.

<sup>165</sup>Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.

<sup>166</sup>I hope for your salvation, O Lord, and I fulfill your commandments.

<sup>167</sup>My soul keeps your decrees; I love them exceedingly.

<sup>168</sup>I keep your precepts and decrees, for all my ways are before you.

<sup>169</sup>Let my cry come before you, O Lord; give me understanding according to your word.

<sup>170</sup>Let my supplication come before you; deliver me according to your promise.

<sup>171</sup>My lips will pour forth praise, because you teach me your statutes.

<sup>172</sup>My tongue will sing of your promise, for all your commandments are right.

<sup>173</sup>Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts.

<sup>174</sup>I long for your salvation, O Lord, and your law is my delight.

<sup>175</sup>Let me live that I may praise you, and let your ordinances help me.

<sup>176</sup>I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek out your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.