

Psalm 119:57-64
Living in Light of God's Lovingkindness

Introduction:

Superscription: *Heth* (the eight section of the psalm)

1) Individually—119:57-60

- Alec Motyer argues that this first section answers the question: How do we live with Him who is our portion?
 - a) **Internally**—119:57-58
 - i) Recognize the All-sufficient God is our motivation: ⁵⁷ *Yahweh is my portion; I have promised to keep [shamar] Your words.*
 - (1) This is a settled commitment to obey God.
 - ii) Recognize the insufficiency in us:
 - (1) Proper goal: ⁵⁸ *I have sought to please Your face with all my heart;*
 - (2) Need for grace: **be gracious to me** [*chanan*] according to Your word.
 - b) **Externally**—119:59-60
 - i) Willing obedience: ⁵⁹ *I thought upon my ways and I turned my feet to Your testimonies.*
 - (1) As George Zemek writes: pondering followed by performance.
 - ii) Urgent obedience: ⁶⁰ *I hastened and did not delay to keep [shamar] Your commandments.*
 - c) Allen Ross summarizes this section: There is something hollow about people pleading for God to fulfill the promises in his word when they pay little attention to keeping his word.

2) Socially—119:61-64

- Alec Motyer argues that this second section answers the question: How do we live in a world filled by His loyal love?
 - a) **With unbelievers**—119:61-62
 - i) Obedience despite danger: ⁶¹ *The cords of the wicked have encircled me, but I have not forgotten (active obedience) Your law.*
 - (1) Unbelievers have set traps for their prey. Never underestimate the power of evil, in your life or that of your Christian brother or sister.
 - (2) The psalmist responds with obedience, not retaliation.
 - ii) The priority of gratitude: ⁶² *At midnight I shall rise to give thanks to You because of Your righteous judgments.*
 - (1) Cf. 119:55

(2) Sometimes we can't sleep because of a guilty conscience or because of fear or anxiety.

b) **With believers**—119:63

i) ⁶³ *I am a companion of all those who fear [yare] You,*

ii) *and (I am a companion) of those who keep [shamar] Your precepts.*

iii) Allan Harman writes: Common allegiance to the LORD brings with it a fellowship of joint devotion and service.

c) **Worldwide**—119:64

i) ⁶⁴ *The earth, O Yahweh, is full of Your lovingkindness [chesed];*

(1) This is rooted in God's covenant with creation as communicated to Noah in Gen. 9.

ii) *teach me Your statutes.*

(1) For those who say, "But I just don't know how to see God's lovingkindness," do what the psalmist did and pray, Teach me!

3) Things we need to remember:

a) God cannot be known well apart from His Word. We can learn a little from creation, but we need His revelation to increase in knowledge and love.

b) Jay Adams wisely wrote: Christians who learn to see God's hand of goodness and mercy all around them every day and hour are rarely those who get depressed, rarely those who complain, rarely those who are a sucker for some false belief.