

Psalm 119  
week 6, v.110-111

Ps 119:110 The wicked have laid a snare for me, Yet I have not gone astray from Thy precepts.

In this verse the Psalmist tells us what's happening and shares his response to his circumstances.

The wicked are basically bad people. They are morally wrong, condemned, ungodly persons. An actively bad person. We see this word <rasha> used frequently throughout the Old Testament. *William Cowper* in The Treasury of David describes these wicked people in this verse as those who work wickedness, love wickedness and persevere in wickedness. Here are a few more descriptions of wicked people in the Bible:

Ps 119:85 The arrogant have dug pits for me, [Men] who are not in accord with Thy law.

Ps 10:8-10 He sits in the lurking places of the villages; In the hiding places he kills the innocent; His eyes stealthily watch for the unfortunate. 9 He lurks in a hiding place as a lion in his lair; He lurks to catch the afflicted; He catches the afflicted when he draws him into his net. 10 He crouches, he bows down, And the unfortunate fall by his mighty ones.

These wicked people have laid snares for David. **What is a snare and what is it used for?** The Strong's Hebrew definition is a spring net spread out like a plate. WordWeb's definition of snare is something that catches you unaware; a trap for birds or small mammals that often has a slip noose. The picture described is nets used for trapping. Think of a mouse trap. It is purposefully set to catch the offender.

**Why are wicked people after the Psalmist? Think! What do wicked people hate the most? Truth.**

Mt 5:11 "Blessed are you when [men] cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me.

Lu 6:22 "Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and cast insults at you, and spurn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man.

Ps 37:12 The wicked plots against the righteous, And gnashes at him with his teeth.

What is The Psalmist's reaction to the plots against his life?

To continue to follow God's commands.

Ps 119:10 With all my heart I have sought Thee; Do not let me wander from Thy commandments.

Ps 119:51 The arrogant utterly deride me, [Yet] I do not turn aside from Thy law.

Ps 119:87 They almost destroyed me on earth, But as for me, I did not forsake Thy precepts.

Ps 119:95 The wicked wait for me to destroy me; I shall diligently consider Thy testimonies.

What keeps us from straying from God's commands? If we are striving to be continually focused upon God, we will have little time to follow anything or anyone else. Think about the snares that are laid out to trip the righteous. If we wander away from the protection of our Father, we may step into the trap of the devil.

We don't have people actively chasing us down to stop us in our tracks because of what we believe but we do have traps all around us waiting to ensnare us in sin.

What might be some of these traps?

*Girolamo Savonarola*, (1452-1498, an Italian Renaissance Friar), in the Treasury of David, gives us some ideas to think about – how wickedness can enter our life.

eating can lead to gluttony

love can become lust

words can be envious

correction can be fed by anger

our heart can become prideful

The wicked set evil in our thoughts, out of our mouths evil words, in actions evil works, when asleep evil dreams.

How we stay away from evil – by not straying from God.

Obedience to God gives security, because:

The snares are then suspected and watched against.

The feet cannot become entangled by them.

God keeps him who keeps his word.

Ps 119:111 I have inherited Thy testimonies forever, For they are the joy of my heart.

**What does it mean to inherit something?** The WordWeb definition gives us three different scenarios. First, you receive something from someone after their death; Second, you can receive a circumstance from a predecessor such as “the new chairman inherited many problems from the previous chair”; and Third, you inherit physical attributes by genetics such as good eyesight.

Our Psalmist says he has inherited God’s testimonies. Think of why God sent His Son to die on the cross for our sins. As a child of God we have inherited a relationship with Him because of the death of His Son. We have inherited a clean heart through the death of Jesus which allows us access to God the Father and the blessings He desires to bestow upon us.

This word, testimonies <eduwth> is used several times prior in Psalm 119.

v. 14 I have rejoiced in the way of the testimonies

v. 31 I have stuck unto thy testimonies

v. 36 Incline my heart unto thy testimonies

v. 88 So shall I keep the testimony of Thy mouth

v. 99 For Thy testimonies are my meditation

**Have you inherited the truths of God’s word, the promises of God’s word? What has to happen in order to partake of this inheritance?**

By faith to receive the truths which God had attested, and to embrace the promises that he had given; and thus to walk with him in his commandments and ordinances, formed that life which David deliberately chose to lead on earth, as introductory to his everlasting heritage in heaven; and the rejoicing of his soul in the exercise of faith, hope, love, and other pious affections here below, was an earnest and pledge of those unalloyed pleasures reserved for him in the future world. Thomas Scott

Treasury of David explains the joy of God’s testimonies this way: “To know the doctrine, to enjoy the promise, to practice the command”.

**Psalm 19:7-11**

Think of the word testimony a bit more. What is a testimony the way we define it? It is an account of our life, the evidence and fact of our lives. God’s testimonies, His words, His commands, all speak of who God is.

The Scripture is called "testimonies" in respect to God himself, because it doth give a testimony to him, and makes God known to us: it gives a testimony of all those attributes that are himself, of his wisdom, of his power, of his justice, of his goodness, of his truth. The declaration of these, we have them all in the various books of the Scriptures: there is never a book, but there is a testification of these attributes. In the book of Genesis we have a testimony of his power in making the world, of his justice in drowning the world, and of his goodness in saving Noah. In the book of Exodus, we have a testimony of his providence in leading the people of Israel through the Red Sea, in bringing them out of Egypt; we have a testimony of his wisdom in giving them his law. What should I name more? In the New Testament, in the Gospel, all is testimony. As the Old gave testimony to God, so the New to Christ: "To him gave all the prophets witness"; not only the Old, but the New: "These are they that testify of me." Everywhere there is testimony of Christ, -- of his humility, in taking our nature; of his power, in working miracles; of his wisdom, in the parables that he spoke; of his patience and love, in the torments that he suffered for us. Both Law and Gospel -- the whole book of Scripture, and every part of it in these regards is fitly called "the testimonies of the Lord." And the holy Psalmist made choice of this name when he was to speak to the honour and glory of it; because it was that name from which he sucked a great deal of comfort, because it was the testimony of God's truth and goodness and wisdom and power to him; thereupon he makes so precious esteem of it as to account it his "heritage."  
--Richard Holdsworth (1590-1649), in "The Valley of Vision."

When you think of inheriting an estate, it is all physical property. Everything with physical properties has a limited time of lasting. The inheritance of God's testimonies are forever!

Zep 1:2 "I will completely remove all [things] From the face of the earth," declares the LORD.

2Pe 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

Isa 51:6 "Lift up your eyes to the sky, Then look to the earth beneath; For the sky will vanish like smoke, And the earth will wear out like a garment, And its inhabitants will die in like manner, But My salvation shall be forever, And My righteousness shall not wane.

Ps 119:89 Forever, O LORD, Thy word is settled in heaven.

Ps 119:152 Of old I have known from Thy testimonies, That Thou hast founded them forever.

Isa 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.

1Pe 1:25 BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ABIDES FOREVER." And this is the word which was preached to you.

We have a promise of inheritance forever.

For ever <owlam> the vanishing point; generally, time out of mind; eternity; always; lasting; perpetual; without end

Can you think of anything else that can claim the promise of forever?

We not only have present blessings from God, we have the promise of future and unending blessings from God. No thief can steal these blessing from God's children. The joy we have in Him cannot be taken.

Jer 15:16 Thy words were found and I ate them, and Thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I have been called by Thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

1Pe 1:8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

Luke 10:38-42

Excerpt from the Treasury of David: Know the doctrine

Enjoy the promise

Practice the command

1. How rich the Psalmist was determined to be: "Thy testimonies have I taken as a heritage." Rich, --

(a) In knowledge.

(b) In holiness.

(c) In comfort.

(d) In companionship, for God's company goes with his word.

(e) In hope.

2. How he clung to his wealth: "For ever."

(a) He hurt none by so doing; he could give generously his portion, and yet not waste.

(b) He was right; for he had the only wealth of which an everlasting possession is possible.

(c) He was wise.

3. How he rejoiced in his wealth: "They are the rejoicing of my heart."

(a) Here is internal and deep joy; not always possible to the possession of wealth.

(b) Pure, unalloyed joy; it is never so with other wealth.

(c) Safe joy; other joy is dangerous.

(d) Unloseable joy.

### Application Questions

Ps 119:110-111

What is your usual response to those who aren't treating you the way you expect? Do you fall in line with the world or do you stand apart by following God?

Should we expect adversity from those who don't believe in God's truths?

Matthew 5:11

Luke 6:22

Psalms 37:12

According to the word, where should we turn when we feel weak or attacked?

Psalms 119:110

Psalms 119:51

Psalms 119:87

Psalms 119:95

What does it mean to inherit something? What does Psalms 119:111 say about inheriting God's testimonies?

What is the comparison between an inheritance we receive from someone on earth and the inheritance we receive from God?

Psalms 119:152; Isaiah 40:8