

Psalm 119
week 7, v. 57-58

With Psalm 119:57 we begin a new section of eight verses starting with the Hebrew letter CHETH.

Ps 119:57 The LORD is my portion; I have promised to keep Thy words.

This verse almost seems like a repetition of the previous, " This has become mine, that I observe Thy precepts" .

Think about who is writing this, King David who had all the worlds possessions at his feet, available to him. Yet, he places his greatest treasures in God.

portion <cheleq> an allotment: inheritance, part, partake

God is our inheritance. What does the Bible say we have in Him?

Ps 16:5 The LORD is the portion of my inheritance and my cup; Thou dost support my lot. The Lord sustains, maintains my destiny.

Ps 73:24-26 Thou wilt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. 25 Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides thee. 26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. The Lord guides me in His plan and receives me to His glory. He is my strength.

La 3:24 "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him." The Lord is my hope which causes me to patiently wait upon Him.

Think about the difference between treasures in heaven and treasures on earth. If our portion is the things of earth, we have our inheritance already; it' s all about what we gain now, what we enjoy now. Where is your future – are you planning for it?

We have life insurance, medical insurance, car insurance, home insurance and even identity insurance available to us and most of us invest in at least one of these just in case they are needed in the future. Is your future spiritually secure, is your inheritance in Christ? Where is your greatest investment?

Lu 16:19-26 "Now there was a certain rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, gaily living in splendor every day. 20 "And a certain poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, 21 and longing to be fed with the [crumbs] which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. 22 "Now it came about that the poor man died and he was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. 23 "And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and *saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 "And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue; for I am

in agony in this flame.' ²⁵ "But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ 'And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, in order that those who wish to come over from here to you may not be able, and [that] none may cross over from there to us.'

Think of how readily men pursue things on earth. Everyone and everything is frequently pushed away for that moment of success or glory or accomplishment. Men are applauded for the 'sacrifices' made in order to attain 'improvement', wealth and position. Even what looks to be charitable organizations can be formed for self-importance; leaving my 'mark' on humankind. Oftentimes the justification of these efforts is 'once pursuits are reached then other issues can be addressed'. Lumped with the other 'issues' is a relationship with God that is to be dealt with at another time. **But what does God say about this?**

Joh 14:15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. (not later, not when you're ready, not when it's convenient, not after your agenda has been met; NOW!)

Joh 14:21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him."

Joh 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him.

Joh 15:10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.

David not only declares that God is his inheritance but also states his resolve to keep God's commands: "I have promised to keep Thy words". **How is he able to make this promise? Are you able to follow God's word all the time?**

Look again at John 14:21 and 23. **What is the promise made to us if we meet the condition stated?**

Because of God's grace, His work in us, we are able to keep His word. We can make the same promise that the psalmist makes. Because God lives in me, His grace will enable me to keep His words.

Is God's grace sufficient to keep His commands?

2Co 12:9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

Or, do we need to add our own efforts? Man cannot profit God:

Ps 16:2 I said to the LORD, "Thou art my Lord; I have no good besides Thee."

Job 22:2-3 "Can a vigorous man be of use to God, Or a wise man be useful to himself? 3 "Is there any pleasure to the Almighty if you are righteous, Or profit if you make your ways perfect?"

Because I know that God is my inheritance and all I need is given to me through His grace, I can promise to keep His commands. Think about it! Typically, when I fail it is because I am trying to add my own 'way', my eyes become distracted by what I think I should do without going to God first and completely relying upon His instruction.

Ps 119:106 I have sworn, and I will confirm it, That I will keep Thy righteous ordinances.

Ps 119:115-117 Depart from me, evildoers, That I may observe the commandments of my God. 116 Sustain me according to Thy word, that I may live; And do not let me be ashamed of my hope. 117 Uphold me that I may be safe, that I may have regard for Thy statutes continually.

Look at the last word of the above scripture: continually, meaning constantly, always, forevermore, without a break, regularly, frequently, without interruption.....

Ver. 57. Thou art my portion, O LORD. A broken sentence. The translators have mended it by insertions, but perhaps it had been better to have left it alone, and then it would have appeared as an exclamation, -- "My portion, O Lord!" The poet is lost in wonder while he sees that the great and glorious God is all his own! Well might he be so, for there is no possession like Jehovah himself. The form of the sentence expresses joyous recognition and appropriation, -- "My portion, O Jehovah!" ... This is a large and lasting heritage, for it includes all, and more than all, and it outlasts all; and yet no man chooses it for himself until God has chosen and renewed him. Who that is truly wise could hesitate for a moment when the infinitely blessed God is set before him to be the object of his choice? David leaped at the opportunity, and grasped the priceless boon. ... He was confident as to his interest in God, and therefore he was resolute in his obedience to him. Full assurance is a powerful source of holiness. Treasury of David

In Ps 119:57, a resolution is made to keep God's commands. The Psalmist understands that he can only do this through God's help.

When our promise to keep God's commands fail, it is our direction that has faltered; our eyes have turned away; our step has taken its own path. In Christ we absolutely can keep God's commands but we must remain in Him constantly.

Ps 119:58 I entreated Thy favor with all [my] heart; be gracious to me according to Thy word.

entreat: an earnest request;

favor: Thy face; Thy presence

all my heart: my will and my intellect

Describe what it looks like to want something with all your heart. Have you ever been determined to do something? What does that mean? Someone who is determined will devote their strength and full attention towards the desired object. A concerted effort and motivation will be seen.

In Psalm 119:58 there is an understanding of the Psalmist that he needs God's favor. To understand the need for something takes humility. Do you have a right understanding of who you are and Who God is?

Do we pray for God's presence and request the mercies that He has promised? This is the example given to us.

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

Ps 4:6 Many are saying, "Who will show us [any] good?" Lift up the light of Thy countenance upon us, O LORD!

Ps 86:1-3 (A Prayer of David.) Incline Thine ear, O LORD, [and] answer me; for I am afflicted and needy. 2 Do preserve my soul, for I am a godly man; O Thou my God, save Thy servant who trusts in Thee. 3 Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to Thee I cry all day long.

First, we must have the assurance that God's promises are ours. When we seek God with all our heart He will show us His mercy. We don't demand His presence because we are undeserving of even His smallest attention. We come to Him, recognizing it is only through His mercy and grace that we can approach His throne.

The confidence of faith makes us bold in prayer, but it never teaches us to live without prayer, or justifies us in being other than humble beggars at mercy's gate. Treasury of David

Jer 29:11-14a 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. 12 'Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 'And you will seek Me and find [Me,] when you search for Me with all your heart. 14a 'And I will be found by you,' declares the LORD, ...

It's important to note the last section of Psalm 119:58. It says, 'be gracious to me according to Thy word'.

We are not to pray for what we think is best but for what God's promises are. Do we readily accept His answers and His plan for our lives?

Application Questions

What does it mean to state, ' the Lord is my portion' ? Think of what it means to know you have a priceless inheritance in heaven. What thoughts come to mind?

Read Psalm 73:24-26. Compare the inheritance of the Lord with the inheritance you may receive from family on earth.

Read Luke 16:19-26. What is the warning in this passage?

What does God say about keeping His commandments? John 14:21, 23; John 15:10. According to these verses, how is it possible to promise to keep God' s word?

Look at Psalm 119:58. Do you seek God with all your heart? What does that look like? Do your choices and actions support your answer?

Do you feel confident that God will fulfill His promises to you? Why or Why not?

How would God have you apply Psalm 119:57-58 to your circumstances right now?