

Works of the Flesh / Fruit of the Spirit

Part 17

Scripture: Galatians 5:16-26

Scripture Reading: Philippians 4:4-9

INTRO:

Thank you for that reading _____. Always when I come across these verses, I always come to the thought, how well do I live according to these verses? Verse 4 begins with the words ‘rejoice in the Lord always’ and I ask myself ‘do I always rejoice’?

Verse 5 begins with ‘let your gentleness be known to all men’, and I have to ask myself ‘am I always gentle’?

Verse 6 starts off by saying ‘be anxious for nothing’ but not only are we to be ‘anxious for nothing’ it says ‘but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God’. And Oh how often do I not fall short in light of these verses.

And then there is verse 8 which says;

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

And not only are we to meditate on these things Paul also goes on to say in verse 9;

The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Listen, when you read these 6 verses of scripture, how busy are our minds to be in thinking about the things of our Lord? When you look at these verses, how much of our mind are we to give to ‘rejoicing in the Lord’, ‘being gentle’, ‘being anxious for nothing’, meditating on the list he gives us, paying attention to the things we have learned and received and heard and implementing them in our lives on a daily basis?

How much of our mind does God want of us in serving Him? Well according to Jesus own words from Matthew chapter 22 verse 37 he says;

"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your... mind."

He wants us to use our entire being when it comes to serving Him and not have it be caught up with the things of this world.

Because it is the many things of **this world** that lead and tempt our minds off to other things that are not of God. Now I'm not saying we are not to have hobbies or enjoyments in this world but that we be ever cautious of how high we elevate those things of the world in comparison to God?

How high do we place rejoicing in the Lord instead of looking at the sorrows of life? How far is our gentleness known in the world or are there those who see us differently? How far up our spiritual ladder do we allow anxiety to climb up? How much time do we give in meditating and thinking on the word of God in our daily lives?

And the reason I ask these things is because much of this message I will be dealing with that very aspect your mind.

Because when we come to our text, to the second last work of the flesh of Paul's list here in Galatians chapter 5 verse 21 we come to the one he calls drunkenness, and there is a thought that I want to draw out of this word they you may not have thought about when you read this passage.

P. DRUNKENNESS

And for starters the word we are looking at today is Strong's number 3178 and is the Greek word *methe meth'-ay* and the Online Bible Greek Lexicon plainly says it is;

1) intoxication 2) drunkenness

Vine's says it;

Denotes drunkenness, habitual intoxication.

The Theological Dictionary of the New Testament under point number 2 says this word has;

...the literal sense 'to drink' or 'to be or get drunk'.

And each of the 3 times this word is used in scripture it speaks of literal intoxication. This literal drunkenness by intoxication is what is implied here in Galatians and then also in Luke 21:34 and then also in Romans 13:13.

In Luke chapter 21 we have the words of Jesus as he is speaking about the tribulation and the signs of the end times, the parable of the budding fig tree and then reminds His listeners with the verse of Luke 21:34 as He says;

"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.

Here Jesus is warning the disciples and future readers that we are to take heed to ourselves, which means to turn the mind to, or be attentive to one's self. To really look at our life and the things happening around us so that our hearts are not weighed down, or overloaded with the things of this world or even the cares of this life.

And two of those weights he notes is carousing and drunkenness.

But is this not the exact description of what the world usually does in trying to get away from their problems and their sorrows of this life? When people seek to escape from the problems of this world and the cares of their life, how do they often do it? By drinking and carousing, and does this fix their problems?

No, it does not, it never fixes the problem, but only adds more weight to the person, as the verse says 'let your hearts not be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and cares of this world.

Intoxication never fixes anything and we are commanded by Jesus to take examination of ourselves in not being consumed by the sins of

carousing and drunkenness because they do not lift us up, but rather weigh us down in this life even further.

The other place it is used is in Romans chapter 13 verse 13, which says;

Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.

Paul here is talking about the proper conduct of the Christian walk and includes the abstaining of drunkenness along with other sins such as revelry which is the topic of the next message, and then also such things such as lewdness and strife and envy, all of which we have covered in the past.

And we already know that as a child of GOD we are not to be caught up with the sins of the world, we are not to be caught up with the works of the flesh, but that our life and conduct as the verse says is to be proper; we are to walk properly, as in the day. Just as Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians chapter 5 verse 4 through 9 where he writes of the coming of the end as well and says;

4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

6 ¶ Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.

8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

It is through verses like this that drunkenness is to be an unacceptable practice for any professing Christian to participate in. It is an obvious outward work of the flesh in which, not only will such a one not be ready according to Jesus words, but as Paul says in the final part of the verse in Galatians 5:21, that those who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdome of God.

And again, I do not think that any of us here in this congregation are being led away with this outward physical sin of drunkenness, and I don't think or know that any of us struggle with this as a secret sin either.

I believe that drunkenness is foolishness, and I don't say this lightly, but that it is foolishness for any child of God to participate in either little or much of this sin that leads to drunkenness.

We are commanded multiple times in scripture to be sober, as Peter tells us in 1 Peter 5 verse 8 saying;

Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

We are called to be awake as Paul says in Romans chapter 13 verse 11 saying;

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

And we are to be watching, and to be waiting for the return of Jesus. Just as He tells us in Matthew 25:13;

"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

And when the scriptures command us to be sober and awake and be watching and waiting, there is absolutely no room for drunkenness of any kind for the Christian including the one I am about to share with you this morning.

Because there is an aspect of this sin that can be applicable to all of us, me, you and everyone who claims to be a Christian, there is a drunkenness that can affect us even if we have never had a drop of alcohol in our life.

It is a drunkenness that can affect our way of thinking just as much as if we would be intoxicated with alcohol and for that, turn in your bibles to Ephesians chapter 5.

In chapters 4, 5 and 6 Paul deals with many things in regard to the life of the Christian, how we are to walk, how we are to talk and what the Christian life is to look like, and in verse 1 of chapter 5 he begins with the words

Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

And right away he gives us the means or the beginning of what that walk is to look like and not only are we to be imitators of God as dear children, but in verse 2 he says;

And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us,

And he then proceeds to give us a kind of outline of what the Christian life is to look like. As he talks of all kinds of unchristian-like characteristics from verse 3 through verse 7, some of them we have covered previously in other messages.

And then in verse 8 to 14 Paul gives us the contrast of walking in darkness as opposed to walking in the light, in that we are to expose the things of darkness and walk in the light as he says in verse 13;

But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

This is a very good rule of thumb for the Christian, live in the light, we are to expose those things of darkness in our lives to that of the light, for what every makes manifest, that means, whatever exposes sin in our life, whatever brings dark things to the surface, is light. And if we walk in the light, we say that we are part of that light and profess to be of that light.

Then Paul says in verses 15 to 17 how we are to walk, and how we are to think if we are truly partakers of that light by saying;

15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

In short, he says we are to walk circumspectly... anyone know what circumspectly means... it means accurately or diligently or carefully in the most strictest and precise interpretation of the word.

He says we are to walk circumspectly, redeeming the time, and to be wise in understanding what the will of the Lord is.

And then in verse 18 he says;

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

And one thing that should stand out to you right away from this verse is that the first half of the verse somehow looks out of place in the context of the surrounding verses or in the flow of the chapter.

And if I go with the notes I had scribbled into the side margin of my bible from when Pastor Phil preached through the book of Ephesians. I note as he noted this is probably not drunkenness as in intoxication.

If it was, it would or should have been listed in the individual sins Paul lists in verses 3 through 7 or if not there, then expand on how to avoid it in verse 8 through 13.

And I just want to quote a few paragraphs from his message he did on Ephesians 5 verse 18, in showing that this drunkenness is probably not intoxication, and if you want to listen to that entire message it is message number 86 in his series of Ephesians, and it is available on sermon audio the Maranatha Ministries account. But quoting part of that message He says this;

I want to recommend that he is not speaking about drunkenness from drinking alcohol. He would have dealt with that much more severely and in the earlier verses. I think he is comparing the senselessness, and unthinking manner of the Ephesians and their falling for empty words, with physical drunkenness. I think he is likening their spiritual senselessness to what happens to those who drink too much wine.

Lange's commentary says, "The general notion is 'not senseless but understanding...'" Senselessness is being contrasted to understanding.

So I am recommending that Paul, by metonymy, likens being drunk with wine, in which is excess, to the fact that they were non-thinking. The empty words they are swallowing is making them spiritually non-thinking, as alcohol does literally. And he likens understanding the will of the Lord to being filled with the spirit.

and

~~So I am recommending~~ that the instruction to "stop being drunk with wine" corresponds "to stop being unwise" or non-thinking of the previous verse. To be non-thinking as Christians has the same effect as alcohol has on people. It renders their thinking processes not only useless, but debauched, spiritually speaking.

EOQ

It is the word picture of portraying the Ephesian Christians as being non-thinking drunkards as if they are intoxicated with wine. Because if you look at the context from verse 15 onward it says;

See then that you walk circumspectly --- not as fools

Redeeming the time --- because the days are evil

Do not be unwise --- but understand what the will of the Lord is

Do not be drunk with wine --- but be filled with the Spirit

You see the first part of verse 18 doesn't fit the context of this section of the letter if taken literally, if it is literal then you would think it should have been in verses 1 through 7 along with the other individual sinful things they were doing. Or at least noted to in verses 8 through 14 in exposing such a practice.

But if it is taken as a 'figure of speech' meaning they were not to be non-thinking Christians, now we have something that fits the context of the passage. You see even Jesus used this kind of figure of speech many times in the gospels, for example in Matthew chapter 16 starting in verse 6;

...Jesus said to them (that is the disciples), "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees."

And what did the disciples think... well verse 7 says;

7 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "It is because we have taken no bread."

Well after the rebuke and correction he says

11 "How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread? —but to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

12 Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Paul could be doing the same thing here, he goes from commanding them to walk circumspectly not as fools, redeeming the time for the time is evil, do not be unwise but wise in understanding what the will of the Lord is, and do not be drunk with wine... implying, do not be non-thinkers but be filled with the Spirit. Because look at what the rest of the chapter goes like, verse 19;

19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

And then beginning with instruction for the individuals in the next section he begins by saying;

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

And that theme of Christian instruction then continues to end of verse 20 of the next chapter.

They are instructed and commanded with all kinds of things from here on and right to the end of the letter. And it begins by walking circumspectly, redeeming the time, being wise in understanding what the will of the Lord is and to do all that you have to be **thinkers**, and not only thinkers but you have to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

The command in ‘not’ being non-thinkers fits the context and flow of the passage, Paul says don’t allow your minds to be empty and inactive, undiscerning, and idle, like some drunkard, but see that you do these things... and he gives a whole list of things they are to be doing from the middle of chapter 5 to the end of the letter. And begins the next phrase by telling them of be filled with the Holy Spirit.

But there is also another word I want to quickly look at in Ephesians 5:18 and that is the word dissipation, the first half of the verse reads;

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation;

We already looked at what could be a figure of speech with the first part of the verse, but this dissipation is a really interesting word, the English definition from the Encarta dictionary says that;

It is the overindulgences in the pursuit of physical pleasures or the wasteful use in the squandering of resources such as money or fuel.

But this is only the definition of the English word used in the New King James Version; other bible versions use words like; excess, which means ‘an amount beyond what is considered proper’. Words like; debauchery which is ‘unrestrained self-indulgent immoral behavior, riot, or reckless actions’, and another word used in some translations is dissoluteness which means ‘overindulging in physical pleasures’.

These definitions all come from the Encarta dictionary.

Now I think all these translations would be correct if you view the ‘do not be drunk with wine’ as being the literal ‘do not be drunk with wine’ statement. But if the ‘do not be drunk with wine’ can be a figure of speech then the ‘in which is dissipation’ could also mean something else. Now no I'm not reinterpreting the bible for my own means but if we look at the word used here, it is the word *asotia* *as-o-tee'-ah* Strong's number 81, and it is interesting what the makeup of this word is, quoting the Strong's dictionary it says that it is;

from a compound of 1 alpha 'A' (as the negative particle) and a presumed derivative of 4982;

If you remember when the Greek and in some cases with the English when you add the 'a' to a word it means the opposite, as in the English words moral to amoral or muse to amuse. This is what is done here with this word. From a compound of Strong's number 1 which is the 'a' and a presumed derivative of 4982.

This 4982 is the word *sozo sode'-zo* and in its first definition in the Online Bible Greek Lexicon is;

'to save, to keep safe and sound'.

The very first place that this word is used is in Matthew chapter 1 verse 21, starting in verse 20 it speaks about Joseph taking Mary his betroth wife says;

20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

21 "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save sozo sode'-zo His people from their sins."

As used in this verse and in many other places this word is often used in reference to the saving as in salvation. but if this word comes with the negative particle, you get the word asotia *as-o-tee'-ah*.

Listen asotia *as-o-tee'-ah* literally means as the concluding definition of the Strong's dictionary says properly;

Unsavedness,

Remember the word sozo *sode'-zo* and in its first definition in the Online Bible Greek Lexicon is;

'to save to keep save and sound'.

And to negate this with the negative particle makes a word like nonsaved or unsavedness and can mean something that is not saved as in wasting or if I can stretch it so far to say that is someone that is not saved as in salvation. I would say something like 'an unbeliever lives in a state of unsavedness'.

Listen if Paul tells us or implies to us that we are not to be non-thinkers because this is wasteful, wastefulness of mind perhaps, but a more concerning thought is wastefulness of their salvation.

The interlinear Scripture Analyzer writes out the words of the verse like this it's a little choppy but the words translated go like this;

And not ye-being_drunk to-wine in which -is-being UN-saving.

And since the context of Ephesians chapter 5 verses 15 onward is talking about how we are to walk and talk and act and live like saved Christians, listen verse 18 in that light, it could say something like this;

And do not be drunk with wine, do not be a non thinking Christians the same way as a drunkard is non thinking, for in such non-thinking-ness is unsavedness, do not be non thinkers because there is no salvation in non thinking. And if you think that is a little too farfetched, what is the contrast Paul gives in the latter half of the verse, well he says;

but, be filled with the Spirit.

And the only way we can be filled with the Spirit is through salvation. Listen if I could just give you what the verse would sound like with this thinking in applying this word picture it would sound something like this;

15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

*18 And do not be **non thinking**, in which **there is no salvation**; but **be thinkers** filled with the Spirit,*

Because listen only when we are save by the blood of Jesus Christ through repentance and faith can we be filled with the Holy Spirit. It doesn't come any other way. If we remain non-thinking Christians, we can very well be wasting our salvation by allowing sin into our heart, sins which Paul talks about here in Ephesians chapter 5 and in also in Galatians chapter 5.

And this is the message I wanted to bring across with this sin of drunkenness for the Christian, not the literal drinking unto drunkenness which is a very obvious sin for those who name the name of Christ, but to caution us with the drunkenness of non-thinking, not checking things out, not testing the spirits, not thinking about what is pleasing or displeasing to the Lord as spelled out in scripture.

Because when we look at scripture there is no other way to salvation there is no other way to be filled by the Holy Spirit except by salvation in Jesus Christ. In anyone tells you otherwise... they are not thinking.

Because it is only by our salvation in Jesus Christ that we can follow Him, but the only way we can follow the entirety of Paul's letter, and the rest of scripture!

It is only by our salvation that we can be imitators of God.

And as we opened with the scripture reading of Philippians 4:4 it is only by our salvation that we can always rejoice in the Lord. Tell me when is the last time you saw an unbeliever rejoice in the Lord for all things, for all the things they may be going through in life, the hard things or trials they may be going through, you don't. You don't see them doing this. They see you do this, why, because we are children of God through the blood of Christ in salvation.

It is by our salvation that our gentleness is known to all men. And if we are followers of Christ that gentleness will remain with us even unto to the cross as did Jesus.

It is by our salvation that we can be anxious for nothing and trust on His word.

It is only by being saved in the Lord Jesus Christ the we can put on the whole armor of God; listen, if you have no salvation in Christ you have no armor, you have nothing but your own worldly wits to keep you afloat in this world and protect you from the devil and let me tell you, you will fail.

And I think, and this is only my own study, this is where this idea of spiritual drunkenness can be applied to all Christians. That if we are in state of being a non-thinking, and non-discerning Christian about what the word of God really says about sin that such non-thinkingness will led to wastefulness of mind, wastefulness of salvation in being on the track of unsavedness.

That it is such non-thinking drunkenness in where Christians forfeit their salvation by allowing in the sins of Paul's lists to enter their hearts. That is what this whole series has been about so far. About things that we as Christians should be aware of and watching out for! That we ponder and test and search the scriptures for the truth of what God's word is telling us.

Because as I see it is a drunkenness that we are seeing all over North America Christians, a myriad of non-thinking Christians, swallowing empty words from false preachers who stand in the pulpits and makes them spiritual non-thinkers, just as alcohol does to the physical mind.

You see we have come to an age where even thinking and paying attention has become too much of a task for most Christians for most people. Just listen to some of these averages of some of our social media platforms;

A Snapchat video that is 1 to 10 seconds long is one snap, 2 or more snaps is a story.

Instagram videos with the most comments typically average around 26 seconds long. If you want to maintain your viewers' attention and engage with your audience, it's a good idea to keep your Instagram videos under 30 seconds.

I find it really interesting how they use the words like 'engage' and 'maintain attention' by having something that only last less than 30 seconds.

The average YouTube short video is between 20 and 40 seconds.

The average TikTok video is between 10 to 15 seconds.

And it doesn't take much of a rocket scientist to figure out what these 10 to 15 second clips are doing to our nation and especially our young people.

I mean if people only give 30 seconds of their attention to something before they get bored and move on, how will they ever find the truths that are found in the bible.

And its not that technology is to blame, technology can be a wonderful and fascinating tool in our day, look I brought these as examples. My kindle reader. Right now, I have about 50 different books in this one little device, and I can bookmark any page, highlight any section and most of all I can go back and search for anything in any book by the technology we have developed. And not only that, look at this most of you can't even see it, it a memory stick, they make them pretty small these days, but this little device can hold my entire almost 300 book library I own.

And not only that, the amount of information that one can find and research on the internet is already utterly mind boggling. With all this technology we should all be theologians with the word of God...

But with all this information that is available what are the majority of people being preoccupied with? 10 to 15 second clips of amusement, because if it is much longer that that they loose interest.

10 to 15 seconds

You can't even read the first 5 verses of Genesis chapter 1 in 15 seconds. You can get through Psalm 117, in about 10 seconds, but if you would read the bible only 10 seconds a day, it would take you 75 years to read through it.

People are entertaining themselves with empty videos, empty entertainment that is making them non-thinking, just as physical alcohol does to the physical mind, and we are we seeing this not only in the worldly people but also in Christianity, and it is creating spiritually non-thinking Christians. Are the majority of Christians walking circumspectly... diligently or carefully in the most strictest and precise and rigors interpretation of the word? Are we seeing Christians redeeming the time? Are they looking at the signs of the times?

Are the vast majority of Christians understanding what the will of the Lord is in regard to adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness?

Are they taking a hard look at such things as idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath?

Are they seeking the connections between selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, and between envy and murders?

No, they are not, Christians would rather have a pastor tell them that living with this sin is ok, instead of taking the time to read and check it out with the word of God for themselves. They look and listen for sermons that flatter, and music that entertains rather than checking things out. They would rather remain in this drunkenness state of not wanting to think or study it because it... well... it may take longer than 30 seconds.

Yes, it is your pastor's job to study and learn and preach the scripture to the congregation, but it is also the responsibility of the congregation to study and learn alongside the pastor in their own bible reading and study. As pastor Phil has often said; 'check it out for yourselves, don't just take my word for it, check it out'. Check what the word of God says on any given subject, even including the one I'm giving you right now.

We ought to be discerning Christians, sober Christians, thinking Christians if we are to understand God's word, and most of all understand what it means to walk in the light and not in darkness. In walking as imitators of God and not in the ways of the world.

And I want to quote Menno Simon who speaks on that subject, he says;

Therefore I admonish all our beloved brethren and sisters in the Lord, so precious as is Christ Jesus to you, never to let it go out of your mind, but always remember for what purpose you are called, taught, and baptized.

Remember the covenant of the most high God, that into which you voluntarily entered; into which you have voluntarily desired and accepted; being taught by the word of God, and operated upon by the Holy Spirit;

and remember that according to the doctrine of Paul, you have voluntarily buried in baptism all your sins of uncleanness, pride, hatred, envy, idolatry, gluttony, drunkenness, sensuality, falsehood, deceit, and that you are arisen with Christ Jesus, into newness of life, a new life that is nothing else but righteousness, blamelessness, love, mercifulness, humility, longsuffering, peace, truth, yea, the whole, gentle life which is taught by the gospel, and was found in Christ Jesus.

But if you refuse this and remain unchanged in your natural state; lead an un-repenting, easy life, laying aside the word and ordinance of the Lord, act the hypocrite with the world, and refuse the cross, then...

...you cannot be a member of the church of Christ;

EOQ

And so as we conclude. Let us recognize that we are called to be thinkers, we are called to discern, and we are called to rightly divide the word of truth in all matters. We are called to be sober, we are called to be watchful and we are called to be wise in understanding what the will of the Lord is for our lives.

If we profess to be Christians then let us act like Christians, study like Christians, teach like Christians, think like Christians, and reject the non-thinking ways of what Menno Simons says is the un-repented easy life, in laying aside the word of God.

Yes, Paul is talking about literal physical drunkenness in Galatians chapter 5 and yes physical drunkenness is absolutely a sinful work of the flesh that will bar one from the kingdom if practiced by Christians.

But there is a much greater danger to Christians than just physical drunkenness and that is spiritual drunkenness, a non-thinking Christian, swallowing empty words making them spiritually non-thinkers and being led to hell in the process.

And to close I want to read verses 33 to 40 of Psalm 119, if you remember I did a message awhile ago about Psalm 119 in how the beginning of each stanza begins with a reference to Gods word or God's law or His testimonies. Psalm 119 verse 33 to 40 read;

Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, And I shall keep it to the end.

34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

35 Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it.

36 Incline my heart to Your testimonies, And not to covetousness.

37 Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, And revive me in Your way.

38 Establish Your word to Your servant, Who is devoted to fearing You.

39 Turn away my reproach which I dread, For Your judgments are good.

40 Behold, I long for Your precepts; Revive me in Your righteousness.

Well may these words be a reminder to us that we continue to be sober thinkers and wise learners in understanding His will.

So that when our day comes, He will find us sober, awake and watching, according to all that His word says.