

## (Tsade)

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| <p>137) <u>Righteous</u> are You, O Lord,<br/>And upright are Your judgments.</p> <p>138) <u>You have commanded</u> Your<br/>testimonies in righteousness<br/>And exceeding faithfulness.</p> <p>139) My zeal <u>has consumed me</u>,<br/>Because my adversaries have<br/>forgotten Your words.</p> <p>140) Your word is <u>very pure</u>,<br/>Therefore Your servant loves it.</p> | <p>141) <u>I am small</u> and despised, Yet I<br/>do not forget Your precepts.</p> <p>142) <u>Your righteousness</u> is an everlasting<br/>righteousness, and Your law is truth.</p> <p>143) <u>Trouble</u> and anguish have come<br/>upon me, Yet Your commandments<br/>are my delight.</p> <p>144) Your testimonies are <u>righteous</u> forever;<br/>Give me understanding that I may live.</p> |
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We come now to the eighteenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet. There is really no letter like this in English or Greek. It is the letter that is pronounced “ts.”

Psalms 119 is a Psalm cleverly and carefully written to exalt God’s written Word. It communicates the idea that God’s Word needs to be carefully studied and expounded systematically, just as one would tackle the alphabet.

There are 22 eight verse sections written in the order of the Hebrew alphabet. Every beginning word in this section begins with a word that starts with the Hebrew letter “ts.” For example, in **verse 137** the first word is “**tsadiq**” which is the Hebrew word “righteous.”

The purpose of this is to show that the approach to God’s Word should be one of alphabetic orderliness. The Bible is to be unlocked in a careful and systematic way.

Now one thing that certainly catches our eye, in this series of verses, is the repetition of the word “righteous” or “righteousness.” That word shows up in verses 137, 138, 142 (2x), 144. So in eight verses this word shows up six times.

There are three main points that are communicated in this Psalm:

- 1) God is righteous.
- 2) God’s Word is righteous.
- 3) God’s Word can produce righteousness.

The point of this part is this:

**GOD’S WORD REVEALS GOD’S RIGHTEOUSNESS AND KNOWING AND OBEYING GOD’S RIGHTEOUS WORD IS THE KEY TO COPING WITH ANYTHING IN LIFE.**

Now the word “righteous” (tsadiq) and its derivatives speak of the true, righteous standards of God. It is a righteousness that God would consider to be right (Brown, Driver, Briggs, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 841).

Now what we have here are a series of thirteen statements pertaining to God and His Word as it relates to God and to His people.

**STATEMENT #1 – God is righteous. 119:137a**

Now this is something people need to grasp about God. God is righteous. **God is righteous in character and He is righteous in conduct.** God cannot and does not do evil. God cannot and does not do anything dark because He is righteous.

**STATEMENT #2 – God’s judgments are upright. 119:137b**

Anything God does and any judgment He makes will be upright and righteous and just. The Hebrew word “upright” means that God’s judgments will always be straight judgments and right judgments (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 375).

Sometimes people say, “Why would God let this happen?” “Why didn’t God prevent this from happening?” My answer is “I don’t know because I am not God.” But what we can say is anything God does or permits, is the right thing to do or permit because any judgment God makes is an upright judgment.

**STATEMENT #3 – God’s Word has been commanded and is righteous. 119:138a**

God commanded His Word into existence and His Word is based on His righteousness. God’s written Word reveals God’s righteousness. When God addresses any issue, whether it be a moral issue or a spiritual issue or a prophetic issue, it is based on His righteousness.

One writer said God’s Word is given to instruct us, to inspire us and to inhibit us.

**STATEMENT #4 – God’s Word is exceedingly faithful. 119:138b**

This is a key point to remember. The Word of God is always faithful. So when God reveals something to us about creation or humans or the universe or animals or angels, what God says is always right. If God makes a promise, He will always be faithful to fulfill the promise.

**STATEMENT #5 – God’s servant had a zeal for God’s Word. 119:139**

True servants of God love God’s Word, they have a passion and zeal for God’s Word. Now what the writer specifically says is that “My zeal has consumed me.” That verb “consume” is in the Piel form which refers to an intense and eager action (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Grammar*, p. 141). This servant had a consuming, intense passion to know God’s Word.

Now notice what was in part impetus for this passion; his enemies. His enemies and adversaries could care less about the Word of God and that only fueled his desire to know it more. When he saw his adversaries who did not have a clue as to what God said in His Word because they forgot His Word, he wanted to know more and more of it. One commentator said that cold blasts coming from the enemies should heat our passions for the Word of God.

**STATEMENT #6 – God’s Word is pure. 119:140a**

What this means is that every word in the Scriptures has been carefully examined by God and is free from any impurity. It has been refined and tested by God Himself and it is absolutely pure. God’s Word is free from any contamination. Always stick with the Scriptures and believe and defend the Scriptures because the Scriptures are pure.

**STATEMENT #7 – God’s Word is loved. 119:140b**

God’s Word is loved by a servant of God. It is not loved by everyone. God’s Word reveals the righteous Word of God and will of God and therefore any servant of God will love God’s Word.

**STATEMENT #8 – God’s Word is not forgotten. 119:141**

What we learn in this verse is that the writer was small, the writer was scorned, but the writer was smart.

Compared to the big shots of the world and the powerful and arrogant adversaries, this writer did not appear to be anything. He wasn’t impressive.

But this writer was smarter than all of the other people because he never forgot the Word of God. He never forgot the precepts of God.

One of the best things any of us can do when surrounded by difficulties and hardships and hostilities is to stay focused on remembering the Word of God.

**STATEMENT #9 – God’s righteousness is everlasting. 119:142a**

Now we know that God is righteous and God’s Word is righteous so what we learn here is that this righteousness is an everlasting righteousness.

**STATEMENT #10 – God’s Word is truth. 119:142b**

God’s Word on any topic, issue or subject is the truth. Whether the subject is Satan, Salvation, Sex, Society or Sin, it is the truth. Whether the subject is creation, condemnation, consecration, or sanctification, it is the truth. Whether the subject is heaven or hell, it is the truth.

**STATEMENT #11 – God’s Word is our delight. 119:143**

When we find ourselves surrounded by things that trouble us and emotionally cause us anguish, it is the Word of God that is our delight. Since God’s Word is the truth and since God’s Word is pure and everlasting, it stands to reason that it is and would be our delight.

Most people do not grasp this point. When people get depressed, most people don’t realize that if they went to church to hear the Word of God accurately taught their emotions would be uplifted. Their sorrow could be turned to delightful joy.

The one thing that can truly bring delight to us is the Word of God.

**STATEMENT #12 – God’s Word is forever righteous. 119:144a**

We have already seen God’s Word is righteous. God’s Word is faithful. God’s Word is pure. God’s Word is truth and now we see it is forever righteous. Righteousness is everlasting and so is the Word of God.

The written Word of God is just as righteous as God forever. All books outlive their authors, except one. God’s Word is timeless and it is forever.

**STATEMENT #13 – God’s Word needs to be understood. 119:144b**

Now this writer who is writing inspired truth realized that it isn’t just reading the Bible that matters; it is understanding the Bible that matters. He asks God to give him an understanding of His precious Word. Only God can give understanding of His Word.