

July 22, 2012 Evening  
"The Pilgrim's Portion" Psalm 119:17-24

I. As Pilgrims we should pray God will deal with us  
bountifully, according to His riches in glory –

**GIMEL. Deal bountifully with Your servant, That I may live and keep Your word. (Psalm 119:17 NKJ)**

What is meant by this verse?

1. "Deal bountifully" is modified, it is explained by the phrase,  
"that I may live and keep Your word."

A. This means the words "Deal bountifully" have a definite  
spiritual / moral context ---

If you took the words "Deal bountifully" out of this context you could  
imagine the Psalmist, David was asking for a brand new Cadillac, or a  
mansion instead of an ordinary house. Yet, the words are in the  
context of life "that I may live" and obedience "and keep Your word!

B. These two things are dependent upon bountiful, spiritual grace,  
without God making us alive we are dead in trespasses and sin

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**And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,<sup>2</sup> in which  
you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the  
prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of  
disobedience,<sup>3</sup> among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in  
the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind,  
and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. (Ephesians 2:1-  
3 NKJ)**

C. Without God helping us to "keep" His "word" we are helpless,  
unable to do good –

**Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may  
you also do good who are accustomed to do evil. (Jeremiah 13:23 NKJ)**

The Psalmist is not asking for material wealth or earthly prosperity but  
rather he is asking for spiritual LIFE and a God empowered / enabled  
obedience! These are God's Riches At Christ's Expense –G.R.A.C.E.

Note also in this verse, life and God's Word are connected –  
That I may live and keep Your word. (Psalm 119:17 NKJ)

But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread

alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."  
(Matthew 4:4 NKJ)

II. As Pilgrims we need to pray God will open our eyes,  
more and more, to wonderful spiritual realities –

**Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law. (Psalm  
119:18 NKJ)**

1. Apart from the New Birth we are naturally, spiritually blind –  
Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless  
one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3 NKJ)

2. Yet, even as God's children our spiritual eyesight is not perfect  
and can improve –

<sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in  
part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. (1Co 13:12 NKJ)

<sup>15</sup> Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your  
love for all the saints, <sup>16</sup> do not cease to give thanks for you, making  
mention of you in my prayers: <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation  
in the knowledge of Him, <sup>18</sup> the eyes of your understanding being  
enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are  
the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, (Eph 1:15-18 NKJ)

3. David sought for Wondrous things from God's law, even when  
he had just a portion of the OT, how much more should we seek  
such things when we have the entire Bible?

4. What can provide us MORE WONDROUS things than God's  
Word the Bible does? Please tell me!

5. Compare verse :18 to verse :10

**With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from  
Your commandments! (Psalm 119:10 NKJ)**

Who is more likely to "wander" than a blind man? Who is more likely  
to seek than he who is already finding Wondrous things?

III. As Pilgrims (strangers) in this world we have no  
lasting portion here, we should with 'soul breaking'  
longing seek God's commands –

**I am a stranger in the earth; Do not hide Your commandments from me.  
<sup>20</sup> My soul breaks with longing For Your judgments at all times. (Psalm  
119:19-20 NKJ)**

1. It is a dread judgment to have the things of God hidden from us

–

<sup>4</sup> Then they will cry to the LORD, But He will not hear them; He will even hide His face from them at that time, Because they have been evil in their deeds. (Mic 3:4 NKJ)

<sup>21</sup> In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. (Luk 10:21 NKJ)

2. *Longing for spiritual things, shows real spiritual health – Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. (Matthew 5:6 NKJ)*

A. *God's word spiritual food we should long for –*

- *It is milk –*

as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, (1 Peter 2:2 NKJ)

- *It is / He is Bread – Matthew 4:4 &*

And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. (John 6:35 NKJ)

<sup>12</sup> For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

- *It is meat or "solid food" –*

<sup>13</sup> For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. <sup>14</sup> But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. (Heb 5:12-14 KJV)

B. *Sometimes we need to force feed ourselves what is best for us!*

IV. *As Pilgrims we know the proud ungodly of the world are against us, but we trust in a seek God in all circumstances –*

You rebuke the proud-- the cursed, Who stray from Your commandments. <sup>22</sup> Remove from me reproach and contempt, For I have kept Your testimonies. <sup>23</sup> Princes also sit *and* speak against me, *But* Your servant meditates on Your statutes. <sup>24</sup> Your testimonies also *are* my delight *And* my counselors. (Psalm 119:21-23 NKJ)

1. *Note here a three-fold description of those God rebukes:*

A. *The Proud –*

<sup>6</sup> But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." (Jam 4:6 NKJ)

B. *The Cursed –*

<sup>14</sup> So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You *are* cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

<sup>16</sup> To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire *shall be* for your husband, And he shall rule over you." <sup>17</sup> Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed *is* the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat *of* it All the days of your life. <sup>18</sup> Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field.

<sup>19</sup> In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you *are*, And to dust you shall return." (Gen 3:14-19 NKJ)

C. *Those who stray from God's commands –*

<sup>16</sup> A man who wanders from the way of understanding will rest in the assembly of the dead. (Pro 21:16 NKJ)

2. *Note David's prayer - :22 Remove reproach and contempt, why?*
3. *How ungodly politicians act - :23a*
4. *How the man of God reacts - :23b*

V. *As Pilgrims we have God's Word, His testimonies as both our "delight" and our "counselors"*

<sup>24</sup> Your testimonies also *are* my delight *and* my counselors. (Psalm 119: 24 NKJ)

1. *God's Word was David's and is the Pilgrim's "delight" But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1:2 NKJ)*
2. *As king, David had some human "counselors"*
3. *Yet, his best helpers, counselors, even plural were the testimonies of God, we have the SAME, even better as we have the New Testament as well as the entire Old! 66 counselors!*

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