

How Blessed the Way of the Law

Psalm 119:1-8
Charlie Brackett

The longest psalm of the Bible, the 119th, has 176 verses and, in almost as many ways, this poem gives praises to the law of God. There are 22 stanzas, one for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Notice the first stanza, verses one through eight.

How blessed are those whose way is blameless,
Who walk in the law of the Lord.
How blessed are those who observe His testimonies,
Who seek Him with all their heart.
They also do no unrighteousness;
They walk in His ways.
Thou hast ordained Thy precepts,
That we should keep them diligently.
Oh that my ways may be established
To keep Thy statutes!
Then I shall not be ashamed
When I look upon all Thy commandments.
I shall give thanks to Thee with uprightness of heart,
When I learn Thy righteous judgments.
I shall keep Thy statutes;
Do not forsake me utterly!

What a blessedness it is to be in the way which is blameless. Think of it! Without blame! Do any of us dare think of even the possibility? I am keenly aware of my sins. Not only past sins, but the stark awareness that there will be future ones as well. The apostle Paul said in Romans 3:23, ".all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Let's face it and admit it. We are sinners. Yet, the psalmist clearly holds forth the hope that a person can walk in a way which is blameless.

Who is that person? He is the one who walks in the law of the Lord. Notice the descriptive phrases the poet uses: they observe His testimonies; they seek Him with all their heart; they do no unrighteousness, they walk in His ways; they keep His precepts diligently; their way is established to keep His statutes; they look upon all His commandments; they give thanks to Him; they learn His righteous judgments; and they keep His statutes.

Someone might ask, "Does this mean I must keep God's law perfectly in order to be blameless before Him?" Praise the Lord, the answer is "No!" He administers His law with mercy. Part of His law says, "If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;.." (1 John 2:1) And in verse nine of the first chapter, John says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Hallelujah! What a Savior!