

How Can A Young Man Keep Pure?

Psalm 119:9-16

Charlie Brackett

The 119th Psalm poses a question of vital import. It was a practical question that young people struggled with when this poem was written almost 3,000 years ago. It is a practical question for the young today and for older people as well. Please give heed to verse nine.

How can a young man keep his way pure?

Simply stated; straight forward, yet reaching into the profound. The poet answers, and the answer is simple, not far from anyone of us. Notice:

By keeping it according to Thy word.

"Thy word", of course, refers to God's word, the Bible. The poet goes on in verses 10-16 to expound on the thought with different aspects of keeping one's way according to God's word. "With all my heart," he says, "I have sought Thee" and he pleads that the Lord not let him wander from His commandments. He treasured God's word in his heart as a hedge against sin. He begs for understanding of God's statutes and links knowing God's will with telling it to others. He rejoices in the way of God's testimonies as if they were all riches. He meditates on God's precepts and gives proper regard to His ways. He delights in the Lord's statutes and vows he will never forget God's word. Surely such attention to God's instruction for life would keep anyone's way pure.

In the words of Isaac Watts,

How shall the young secure their hearts,
And guard their lives from sin?
Thy word the choicest rules imparts
To keep the conscience clean.

'Tis like the sun, a heav'nly light,
That guides us all the day;
And, thro' the dangers of the night,
A lamp to lead our way.

Thy word is everlasting truth;
How pure is every page!
That holy book shall guide our youth,
And well support our age.

Dear reader, are you guiding your steps through the obstacles of life by studying and applying God's words?