

A CLOSING PRAYER

Psalm 119:169-176

tav

ה	ד	ג	ב	א
he (h) "jubilation" • /h/	dalet (d) "door" • /d/	gimel (g) "camel" • /g/	bet/vet (b/v) "house" • /b, v/	alef (.) "ox" • /ʔ/
י	ט	ח	ז	ו
yod (y/i) "arm" • /j/	tet (t) "snake" • /t/	chet (kh) "enclosure" • /x/	zayin (z) "manacle" • /z/	vav (v) "cane" • /v/
ם	מ	ל	ך	כ
mem final	mem (m) "water" • /m/	lamed (l) "study" • /l/	kaf/chaf final	kaf/chaf (k) "hand" • /k, x/
פ	ע	ס	ן	נ
pe/fe (p/f) "mouth" • /p, f/	ayin (ʿ) "eye" • /ʔ/	samech (s) "prop" • /s/	nun final	nun (n) "fish" • /n/
ר	ק	ץ	צ	ף
resh (r) "head" • /ʁ/	kof (q) "monkey" • /k/	tzadi final	tzadi (ts) "righteous" • /ts/	pe/fe final
Hebrew Alphabet BENCROWDER.NET			ת	ש
			tav (t) "good" • /t/	shin/sin (sh/s) "tooth" • /ʃ, s/

JOHN PHILLIPS: *The singer has now come to his last stanza. Letter by letter he has alternately sung and sobbed his way through the letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Again and again he found that his tears turned into rainbows when he looked through them at the Word of God; his triumphs turned into hymns. Now he is about to conclude his rhapsody on the wonders of the Word, a Word that has met him in every need of his life.*

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*Prov 6:16–17 – 16 There are six things which the LORD
hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: 17
Haughty eyes...*

169 Let my cry come before You, O LORD; Give me understanding according to Your word.

174 I long for Your salvation, O LORD, And Your law is my delight.

DEREK KIDNER: *The note of urgent need on which the psalm ends...is proof enough that the love of scripture...need not harden into academic pride. This man would have taken his stance not with the self-congratulating pharisee of the parable, but with the publican who stood afar off, but went home justified.*

I. HE NEEDED DIVINE INSIGHT

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Psa 103:7 - He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the sons of Israel.

1 Cor 1:20–25 - 20 ... Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 22 For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

I. HE NEEDED DIVINE INSIGHT

II. HE NEEDED DIVINE RESCUE

*170 Let my supplication come before You; Deliver me
according to Your word.*

III. HE NEEDED DIVINE ENABLEMENT

171 Let my lips utter praise, For You teach me Your statutes.

172 Let my tongue sing of Your word, For all Your commandments are righteousness.

Psa 141:3 - Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.

IV. HE NEEDED DIVINE POWER

173 Let Your hand be ready to help me, For I have chosen Your precepts.

Rom 7:15, 18 - 15 For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. ... 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.

IV. HE NEEDED DIVINE POWER

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174 I long for Your salvation, O LORD, And Your law is my delight.

John 6:68 - Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.

Psa 119:77, 92 - 77 ... For Your law is my delight. ... 92 If Your law had not been my delight, Then I would have perished in my affliction.

Psa 1:1–3 - 1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

V. HE NEEDED DIVINE REVIVAL

175 Let my soul live that it may praise You, And let Your ordinances help me.

VI. HE NEEDED DIVINE CORRECTION

176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.

Isa 53:6 - All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way...

CHARLES BRIDGES: *I cannot forbear to plead, that although a rebellious prodigal, I am still Thy servant, Thy child. I still bear the child's mark of an interest in Thy covenantLet me then lie humbled and self-abased. But let me not forget my claim – what He has done for me.*

O.T. ALLIS: *This may seem a feeble ending, an anticlimax. But should we not rather think of it as a most fitting conclusion for this great poem in praise of the law of God? For it shows us how deeply conscious the writer was of the perfection of the law and of his utter inability to fulfill its demands in his own strength. Only God the giver of the law can enable his servant to keep it.*

SOLL: *This psalm concludes on a note of humility and hope. The humility resides, not in breast beating, but in the knowledge that God's ways are not our ways, and that before Him we can make no pretense to greatness of any kind. The hope lies in the affirmation that God can and must take the initiative with His servants, not only in the beginning, but all along the way of Torah.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

#1 – Why does God hate pride so much?

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#2 – What is the prerequisite for being able to proclaim the truth?

#3 – Why is it so easy to stray?

LUTHER: *When our Lord and master, Jesus Christ, said repent, He meant that the entire life of believers should be one of repentance.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

#4 – If Christians are eternally forgiven, do they still need to confess and repent?

simul justus et peccator

LUTHER: *This verse is extremely emotional and full of tears, for truly we are all thus going astray, so that we must pray to be visited, sought, and carried over by the most godly shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is God blessed forever, Amen.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

#4 – If Christians are eternally forgiven, do they still need to confess and repent?

The highest flights of human devotion must end in confession of sin....The sincerest professions of human fidelity must give place to the acknowledgment of helplessness....The loftiest human declarations of love to God's law must come down to the mournful acknowledgement that we have only not forgotten it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

#5 – What does God think of our continual going to Him in confession?

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Heb 4:16 - Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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ZEMEK: *Self-examination is truly effectual when complacency has been rooted out and displaced by dependency.*

