

## ***Psalm 119:81-88***

*Kaph*

---

- A continuation of the exaltation of God's Word, proclaiming the effectiveness and power of God's Word; portraying the reliability and faithfulness of God's Word.
  - Focusing faith & patience in God's Word.
- 

V: 81 My soul faints for, or longs for His salvation, it is something he earnestly desires and seeks after; the salvation of the Lord.

- The word "but" is not in the original language, it should be "italicized" to indicate that fact.
- As such the Psalmist longs for, or faints for "Your" - meaning God's salvation and as such he hopes in "Your" meaning God's Word - because His Word assures us of our salvation. His Word gives us hope.

**Romans 15:4** "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."

- This book in its entirety points towards Jesus - our salvation, and our hope.

**Hebrews 10:7** "Behold, I have come in the volume of the book it is written of Me..."

**Titus 2:13** "Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."

V: 82 The Psalmist's eyes are ever searching the scriptures in pursuit of comfort.

**Psalm 119:18** "Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your Law."

- It's nice to know that we're digging for gold in an actual gold mine!

**2 Corinthians 1:3** "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort."

V: 83 Describing his need for comfort; that he's become like a dried up wine skin - yet in all of that he has not forgotten the Word of God.

- David complained of the same thing when he was in sin:

**Psalm 32:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. <sup>4</sup>For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer.”

- Jesus suffered through something similar when He was on the cross paying the price for our sin:

**Psalm 22:14-15** “<sup>14</sup>I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; it has melted within Me. <sup>15</sup>My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death.”

- The Psalmist like Jesus had that confidence in the fulfillment of God’s Word that he would be refreshed and restored.

V: 84 The Psalmist asks the question that none of knows the answer to.

**Hebrews 9:27** “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgement.”

**Psalm 90:2** “So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”

- Help us to number to take account, to appreciate the days that we have and as good stewards to use them well.

V: 85 The proud, speaking of the “accursed.”

**Psalm 119:21** “You rebuke the proud - the cursed, who stray from Your commandments.”

- Those non-believers, have dug a pit, set a trap for the righteous.

**Psalm 35:4-7** “<sup>4</sup>Let those be put to shame and brought to dishonor who seek after my life; let those be turned back and brought to confusion who plot my hurt. <sup>5</sup>Let them be like chaff before the wind, and let the angel of the LORD chase them. <sup>6</sup>Let their way be dark and slippery, and let the angel of the LORD pursue them. <sup>7</sup>For without cause they have hidden their net for me in a pit, which they have dug without cause for my life.”

- All of this is contrary to the Law, contrary to the will of God. Non-believers acting like non-believers.

**Proverbs 26:27** “Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, and he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him.”

V: 86 God’s commandments, His Word is faithful and true!

**Psalm 19:8** "... the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes."

- They, speaking of the proud, the accursed - persecute him wrongfully.

**Psalm 35:19** "Let them not rejoice over me who are wrongfully my enemies; nor let them wink with the eye who hate me without cause."

"...*Help me.*" The Psalmist knows who to cry out to!

**Psalm 121:2** "My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth."

V: 87 They almost did me in physically - but through that time of testing and trial I did not forsake your word.

**2 Corinthians 4:8-9** "<sup>8</sup>We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, not not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed."

- God is on our side! We need to choose whom we're going to fear.

**Matthew 10:28** "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

V: 88 Revive me, breath new life into me - according to your loving kindness. So that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth - enable me to keep your Word.

**Philippians 2:13** "For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."

- To be revived implies that some one was once alive, then died or was near death, and needs an outside person to intervene in such a way that the one who is dead or almost dead can come back to life.
- This is the essence of what it means to be born again, born again of the Spirit.
- Like the old saying if you're only born once - you will die twice; but if you're born twice then you only face death once.
- If we're only born once, born of the flesh as we all are in this world - and all we have is physical life, then we will face death twice. Physical death, then spiritual death, eternal separation from God on that great day of judgment.
- If we're born twice, born of the flesh - then born again of the Spirit, then we'll only face physical death because that spiritual death is circumvented by the cross of Jesus - meaning we'll be with Him forever in paradise.

Jesus said:

**John 3:3** “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

**John 3:36** “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

- The cause of that transition from spiritual death to spiritual life is one of the things that we’ve been called to remember - His sacrifice on the cross on our behalf.

---

## **1 Corinthians 11:23-32**

---

V: 23-24 The first thing that Paul communicates is that basically he is passing on that which he received from the Lord - which is consistent with the Gospel accounts of communion.

- The Passover feast to the Jews was a commemorative feast intended to help them memorialize what God had done for them in delivering them from their bondage in Egypt - to help them remember.
- Our celebration of communion which was instituted on the eve of the Passover is intended to be commemorative as well, to help us remember why Christ died on the cross for us.
- Jesus took the bread, giving thanks, and breaking it - distributing it with the explanation that this bread represents His body which would be broken for each of us, on our behalf.
- **The broken bread reminds us of Christ’s body which was broken for us.**

**Isaiah 53:4-5** “<sup>4</sup>Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.”

- Jesus and Isaiah were both describing the redemptive work of the cross; that Jesus received the punishment that we deserved.

V: 25-26 Jesus took the cup, which He had filled with the fruit of the vine (un-fermented grape juice) and he offered it to His disciples explaining that this was a new testament, a new covenant in His blood.

- The cup symbolizing His life, because the life is in the blood...

**Leviticus 17:11** “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”

- **The cup reminds us of His shed blood.**
- The whole point is to be brought to a vivid reminder of His sacrifice on our behalf.
- We remember His death because it is part of the Gospel message, without His death there could be no resurrection.

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”

- As we “celebrate” communion, as we remember and commemorate His sacrifice on the cross, it’s not just that, but it’s also a celebration of His resurrection from the dead - yes it’s sober and reverent, but it’s also a joyful celebration appreciating every aspect of what He’s done for us.
- Understand that it is not the life of our Lord Jesus, or His teachings, that will save us, but it is His death, His sacrificial death on the cross is what saves us.
- We also remember why He died: Christ died for our sins; He was our substitute.

**Isaiah 53:6** “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

**1 Peter 2:24** “Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness - by whose stripes you were healed.”

- Jesus died on the cross paying the debt that we could not pay.
- We also remember how He died: He died willingly, meekly, showing forth His love for us.

**Romans 5:8** “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

- He gave His body into the hands of wicked men, and He bore on His body the sins of the world.
- Our remembrance isn’t just recalling historical facts. It is a participation in a spiritual reality.

- At the Lord's Table, we're not focused on a monument, or an icon of some sort.
- At the Lord's Table we're having fellowship with Him, we commune with the True and the living God, with our living Saviour as our hearts reach out to Him by faith.

V: 26b ***We also look ahead.*** In observing of the Lord's supper, we proclaim the Lord's death "till He comes."

- The return of Jesus Christ is the blessed hope of the church corporately and each of us, the individually.
- Jesus not only died for us, but He arose again and He ascended into heaven; and one day He will come back to take us to heaven, where we will be with Him forevermore.
- Today, we are not all that we should be; but when He comes we're going to be like Him.

**1 John 3:2** "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

- We look back, we look forward, and we look within.

V: 27 Paul is instructing us about an orderly observance of communion:

- Notice that Paul is not saying that they had to be worthy to partake; just not to partake in an unworthy manner.
- No one should come to the table who is not a true believer. Nor should a true believer come to the table if his heart is not right with God and with his fellow Christians.

**Matthew 5:23-24** "<sup>23</sup>Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

- The celebration of communion is intended to be sober, worshipful, and focused.
- Apparently as Paul described before in V: 21 - some were being gluttonous or even drunk - not fully appreciating what they were supposed to be commemorating.
- An un-worthy manner could simply be being irreverent, or not having an appreciation as a non-believer would not have.

**V: 28 Men should examine their hearts leading up to and in the communion service.**

- If we are to participate in a worthy manner, we must examine our own hearts, judge our sins, and confess them to the Lord.
- To come to the table with unconfessed sin in our lives is to be guilty of Christ's body and blood, it was sin that nailed Him to the cross.
- If we will not judge our own sins, then God will judge us and chasten us until we do confess and forsake our sins.
- High priest / Yom Kippur / Holy of holies... soul searching!

**Psalm 139:23-24** “<sup>23</sup>Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; <sup>24</sup>and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

**V: 29-30 There are consequences to lying to God, to presuming upon God:**

- Ananias and Sapphira are good examples lying to the Holy Spirit.
- They brought judgment upon themselves - not discerning the Lord's body - the intent of communion.
- Many became weak or sick, some died. Paul is explaining to those in the Corinthian church what happened. Because they had been careless about their celebration of communion, approaching it with a wrong heart - many became weak, or sick, or even died.
- This was not just a philosophical discussion - people were dying because of this.

**Galatians 6:7-8** “<sup>7</sup>Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. <sup>8</sup>For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”

**V: 31 Back to examining our hearts, judging ourselves - taking spiritual stock - and repenting as need be.**

**1 John 1:9** “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

- If we would judge ourselves, head things off at the pass - then there would be no need for others to judge us because it would already have been taken care of.

V: 32 If we do fall into that place of being chastened by the Lord, the intent is to correct us, and guide us - that we wouldn't be condemned along with the rest of the non-believing world.

- Worship team:
- Bread
- Cup