

Studies in Psalms by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalm 119:129-136 *Pe*

3/22/13

It is fitting that the greatest tribute to the Word of God is IN the Word of God, itself, and is in the longest chapter of the Word of God! This Psalm has no author's name, historical incident, or other distraction from its theme. It is divided into 22 sections (one for every letter in the Hebrew alphabet), each consisting of 8 lines, each line beginning with the alphabet letter of that section (*aleph* is the first letter of each line under the *aleph* section, for instance). The chapter uses some eight to ten different words to describe the Word of God, each bringing something extra to the total picture of the Word of Truth. In order to savor the depth and richness of teaching in this Psalm, we will examine each portion as if it were its own chapter.



Psalm 119:129-136 *Pe*

Why The Word Is Wonderful

Verses 129-131 give admiration for God's Word;
Verses 132-135 make humble requests for God's help;
Verse 136 shows concern for those who haven't appreciated God's Word.

Verses 129-131: (Verse 129) God's "testimonies" (words describing and manifesting God's character) are "wonderful" (wonder-full, brilliant, captivating), therefore "my soul keeps them." We are drawn to that which fascinates us:

- Moses to a burning bush ([Exodus 3:1-3](#));
- Jesus' power over afflictions ([Matthew 15:29-38](#));
- Multitude on Pentecost hearing Jesus preached in their own languages by the Holy Spirit's power ([Acts 2:1-11](#));
- The man born lame "walking, leaping and praising God" ([Acts 3:1-11](#));
- Peter's vision of life without prejudice ([Acts 10:9-17](#)).

Our rapt attention should be centered in God's Word.

(Verse 130) The Bible is the gradual unfolding of the revelation of God. A light turned on in the darkness draws attention not to the light, but to what can now be seen. There is no surprise, therefore, when Scripture's "light" enters the darkened soul, and gives "understanding to the simple."



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(Verse 131) A soul struggling to be free from the entanglements of sin, trying to be distant from temptations, fighting the influence of ungodliness, “pants” (gasps, gulps) for God’s “commandments” (words authorizing the path to follow).

Verses 132-135: Having expressed how much God’s Word means, it is appropriate to ask for help from God. It is in His Word we learn that: **(Verse 132)** He looks mercifully as His “custom *is* toward those who love” His “name.” God’s habit is always to be merciful to lovers of His name.

(Verse 133) His Word “directs” (guides, leads) our “steps,” so that “iniquity” (having no right value) has no “dominion” over us. Obeying God’s Word does not keep on from single sins, but from sinful practices becoming habitual, the thoughts of Jesus ([John 8:34](#)) and John ([1 John 3:4-8](#)). **(Verse 134)** He “redeems” (frees, ransoms) the obedient “from the oppression” that comes from “man,” so that we “may keep Your precepts” (words highlighting what is right). Jesus Christ “gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works” ([Titus 2:14](#)). “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons” ([Galatians 4:4-5](#)). **(Verse 135)** Since “God is light” ([1 John 1:5](#)) He brightens the way of all who are willing to be taught His “statutes” (words marking the right and the wrong way).

Verse 136: The Word of God is so full of wonder, the obedient weep because the God of love, mercy, salvation, and comfort is ignored by those who need Him most; and because the souls yet burdened down with the toils, tears, troubles, and terrors of sin haven’t seen the wonders of The Word, The God, The Christ. “Jesus wept” ([John 11:35](#)) for you and me, and so should every Christian.

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