

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

Psalm 119:169-176 *Tau*

3/29/13

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 119:169-176 *Tau*

Speaking to God – Hearing His Word

Verses 169-172 give the connection from my mouth to God's ear;
Verses 173-176 summarize God's blessings from the Word.

Verses 169-172: (Verse 169) The only concern expressed is that the believer will be heard; the only thing asked for with this "cry" is for "understanding," is this not what Solomon later will do? ([1 Kings 3:5-14](#)) (**Verse 170**) "Supplication" is presenting sincere needs and asking that something be done; "deliverance" is the blessing asked for that is described in God's Word. (**Verse 171**) Coming from "my lips" indicates a heart full of lessons from God's "statutes" (words marking out the right way). Jesus later would say: "Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things" ([Matthew 12:34-35](#)).

(Verse 172) Just as a healthy tree bursts forth with signs of life; a bird sings when it shares its life; a flower shares its color and fragrance; a believer full of the "righteousness" of God's "commands" cannot be silent. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And *whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" ([Colossians 3:16-17](#)).

All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.



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Verses 173-176: (Verse 173) Choosing God’s “precepts” (words that superintend our way) will cause a believer to reach out for God’s leadership.

(Verse 174) “Longing” (continuing desire) for God’s “salvation,” means the method of obtaining it is a “delight.” Wanting to be saved is not enough; a person must enjoy obeying God to reach for it. “Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” ([James 1:21-22](#)). Since baptism into Christ is the moment of salvation ([1 Peter 3:21](#)), it is a delightful response for one who longs to be saved.

(Verse 175) Knowing how perfect God’s “judgments” have always been, the soul blessed by God with physical and spiritual life “praises” God for all of these.

(Verse 176) All of us can, and probably will, “go astray” by wandering off “like a lost sheep.” Most of us sin without intending to violate God’s Will, but by simply becoming too focused upon what we are doing at the time, and not paying attention to what should be important. God “seeks” “servants,” in other words, those who seek Him. “The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him” ([Lamentations 3:25](#)). “Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon” ([Isaiah 55:6-7](#)).

Thought: By using different words to convey facets of God’s Word, its brilliance is better than any gemstone, diamond, or other precious jewelry. [Psalm 119](#) shows that the Word of God is not a “dead book,” but bursting with life that brings to life any soul that has been numbed, deadened, or abused by the world. God’s Word brings from us a zest for life, enjoyment of life, and praise for the Giver of life!

