

THE HAPPINESS OF GOD

Seeing that God is a Happy Person

Week 1. Day 4. The Happy Road of Obedience

Psalm 119:1 "Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD."

God is the Cause of all this Happiness, this happy state of living as described in *Psalm 119*, prophetically, by the Lord Jesus Christ.

"*Blessed are the undefiled*" – because they are like God, who is undefiled!

"*Blessed are the undefiled in the way*" – walking in the Way; living as God lives, so they must be blessed!

"*Blessed are [they] ... who walk in the law of the LORD.*" To keep God's laws is not grievous; it actually makes you happy!

Satan persuaded Eve that it wasn't a happy situation that God had put her in by asking her to keep His Way, but it turned out to be the very opposite! How they [Adam and she, Eve] must have regretted taking another road.

v2 "Blessed are they that keep His testimonies, and that seek Him with the whole heart."

The testimonies of God are a written record, written pictures by the Spirit of Jesus Christ crucified on His right hand. So if your life is full of those pictures, then you must be a happy person! Contrariwise, if you haven't those pictures, you will not be happy!

"Blessed are they that keep His testimonies, and that seek Him – that is God, on the Throne – with the whole heart."

To seek God is a happy situation, because you will not find anyone else like that! You will always find Him. You can find people sometimes and then you might not find them exactly as you hoped. Many times when you want somebody, they are not there when you want them! But God is always in the frame of mind that suits your need, so then you must be happy, because you have sought Him and found Him to be more wonderful than you thought; surprisingly tender and compassionate, well-acquainted with the needs of the human heart.

"undefiled" means perfect, entire, without blemish, transparent, harmless, sincere, sound, unsoiled and upright.

He has done nothing on your account that He needs to hide or be ashamed of. Blessed are those who become like Him! God has no other way of life than that which is called "the Way". It is a road laid down in His Word which you can see and follow, written for the obedient, because God is obedient to all the right conduct. He is obedient to all the laws which govern the Life. Ask yourself, 'Am I on the road?' If you are not, you should get on to it!

Psalm 37:34 "Wait on the LORD, and keep His way, and He shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it."

We need to wait on the Lord, and keep His Way. That is the only Way of Life that God knows. In every case, the victories of obedience in God's Promises offer possessions that God can give, so it is such a vain thing for Christians to go after goods and the rubbish of this life when they have so much awaiting them with God their Father.

A road laid down in God's Written Word for the obedient; for us today.

"Blessed are the undefiled in the way".

Psalm 32:8 "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with Mine eye."

God teaches His children the Way they should go with a series of Pictures formed by His Written Word – as visual aids – "I will guide thee with Mine eye", that is, He will point today only to the Scriptures that form part of that road; that Road of Life.

It is God's Road, so it is exciting to know that that is the Way He would have you to go; for you and me!

There is Picture upon Picture of Jesus Christ laid down upon your hearts. The important thing to see as you see the Road laid down in God's Word for the obedient, is to see that it is God's Way of looking at things.

"I will guide thee with Mine eye."

In the Scriptures, it says this,

1 Samuel 16:7 "But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man loketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."

God's way of looking, what God sees as important, is absolutely different to what we see. So what to us seems very important from what we saw with our eyes and heard with our ears, if you look at God's word you will look at everything differently. The same things assume another appearance, that is, the Way that God looks at it. You will never fail to understand God's Way, His Road of Life, if you establish this in your heart : that whatever attracts your eyes, whatever is important in your eyes, is neither attractive or important to God. that is a very safe guidance.

It will never be so to God, because what God has to offer you is offered to your heart by the Spirit through His Written Word.

"I will instruct thee and teach thee..." So you have your Father teaching you in the Way which you ought to go. Many parents, including many Christians parents, give up instructing their children as God would instruct them in the way they should go, and that would be God's Way, that would be the Road laid down in God's Written Word.

It is clear : "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." [*Proverbs 4:18*]. It is beautifully put, and just as beautiful if you follow it!

So these are the Pictures we get. God is guiding us with His eye – that is how He sees the thing, that is how He sees Christ as your constant Companion, as your Comfort, as your Strength, as your Right when you go wrong! And as your Help, as your Victory! Everything good that you can heap upon that Head once crowned with thorns and He will rejoice one Day to know that you benefitted from that crown of thorns, from the nails in His hands and feet and from the spear thrust into His side...

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go:"

It is wonderful; He is definite about it. He doesn't offer it to you; He presents the Way – the Road laid down in God's Written Word for the obedient!

Psalm 110:7 "He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall He lift up the head."

This speaks of Christ, one of the references in the Psalms to the lifting up of His head in Resurrection. He is the only One written of whose death is important; every detail is described and so it is written, "*He bowed His head and gave up the ghost*" [John 19:30]. That was the sign of His death. He bowed His head and delivered up His soul to His Father. "*Into Thy hands I commend My spirit*" [Luke 23:46]. And then He died. He did it voluntarily. He could not stay alive in that Body with all His Blood gone, and so His Work was done.

He bowed His head in Humility right to the end, for He still had to go into Hell. He had not finished with His torment yet, but He had finished the process of dying. He finished the Work of shedding His blood, and so He died.

Psalm 3:3 "But Thou, O LORD, art a shield for Me; My glory, and the lifter up of Mine head."

This verse would be a reference to that Work. "*Thou, O LORD, art a shield for Me*" – You will bring Me out of Hell – "*My glory, and the lifter up of Mine head.*"

The Old Testament is written in a form that conceals Christ. It conceals the Way of Salvation and is only liberated to your understanding by the Holy Spirit. It has only been revealed to His Church, hidden from generations, and from ages. "*He shall drink of the brook in the way:*" – 'He shall fulfil all that I had for Him to drink', God could say.

Christ said, "*Abba Father, all things are possible unto Thee; take away this cup from Me:*" [Mark 14:36] But God did not answer that because He expected Christ to drink it. Christ also said, "*O My Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy Will be done*" [Matthew 26:42]. It is written in that picture form, but by the Holy Spirit, we will connect the Scriptures.

Psalm 110 is a most important Psalm for us to read, if you want to single out one! Christ quotes it and it is quoted once or twice in the Church Epistles. But three of the Gospels report Him as quoting from it.

"He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall He lift up the head."

That was the Way that He had to go, and in that way He had to drink it to the dregs; all the bitterness, all the agony and grief. He had to be made sin for you and for me – that was God's way, the Road laid down in God's Written Word for the obedient, and He was among the obedient.

2 Corinthians 5:21 "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

"He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall He lift up the head."

For you, then, there are cups to drink in the Way that God will take you. So remember to keep on in the Way! Perhaps if you find it hard, remember the Lord's Method. He said, "Abba, Father". He sought comfort, and He got comfort in that He knew that God was with Him even if He did not answer Him. He had to go on with it, but that did not make Him discouraged. He remembered to say, 'I will do Your Will whatever Your decision. Please accept that firm assurance.'

So for us, for you, remember to say if it's a bit hot and very hard on the Road, and with a bitter cup, 'Oh, Abba, Father, if You can't take it away, I will drink it', and continue on the Way – that is the Road that He went, our Lord Jesus. So that is the Road you will go also!

Your cup will be different from mine, and different from His, but it will contain the excitement of denying yourself, and taking up your cross – perhaps in a more difficult way from what you may have bargained for, but 'be of good cheer, He has overcome the world!' [John 16:33] So you also will overcome on that Road!

Psalm 139:23 – 24 "Search Me, O God, and know My heart: try Me, and know My thoughts: 24. And see if there be any wicked way in Me, and lead Me in the way everlasting."

"lead Me in the way". He is to be led along that Road. You cannot take yourself along that Road; you have to have the leadings of God. The Spirit of God must take you, and lead you in the Way. Not only was God to examine Him to see if there were any reservations against obedience or any kind of objection to it – because, you can do what is right in God's eyes but not with a perfect heart [Amaziah, 2 Chronicles 25:1 -2] – but also that God could see His willingness to endure to the end without hesitation or any kind of resistance.

You could be dragging your feet spiritually. You could have a bit of resentment that you should be called upon to do a certain thing when you are enjoying your Christian life! All these things Satan can put upon you. So you just say, 'Lord, if You cannot take the cup away, help me to enjoy doing what you have asked me to do. The enjoyment of pleasing God takes the bitter experience out of it. But you do not have a bitter experience! – that is only reserved for the proud and the scornful, those who will not accept humbly all that God has for them.

They question everything. 'Is this for me?' 'Am I right? Am I wrong?' We are not to be like that. *"Blessed are the undefiled in the way"*. It is only in that

Way, that the undefiled are happy, anyway! They don't just have to be undefiled, they have to be in the Way as well. Then they are "blessed"!

Psalms 142:3 "When My spirit was overwhelmed with Me, then Thou knewest My path. In the way wherein I walked have they privily laid a snare for Me."

He was saying to God that through My dreadful experience You saw what I was going through. This has to do with Christ in Hell. Many of the Psalms are :

vs1 - 2 "I cried unto the LORD with My voice; with My voice unto the LORD did I make My supplication. 2. I poured out My complaint before Him; I shewed before Him My trouble.

v6 "Attend unto My cry; for I am brought very low: deliver Me from My persecutors; for they are stronger than I."

He was being persecuted in Hell by all the ungodly. "for they are stronger than I" – everyone was stronger than Him; He was God's Sacrifice. He could not do a thing to anyone. That wasn't His business. His business was to die and go to Hell.

v7 "Bring My soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy name: he righteous shall compass Me about;..."

He is giving the vision of when He comes out, when He rises from the dead with all the Church around Him.

"... for Thou shalt deal bountifully with Me"

The LORD is a Good God; He deals bountifully with His people.

And so the Lord Jesus said, "*When My spirit was overwhelmed with Me*" ... He also said, "*Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit:*" [Luke 23:46] because He died and went down into Hell.

v3b "then Thou knewest My path. In the way wherein I walked have they privily laid a snare for Me."

Again, He mentions the difficulties, the dangers and the terrible hatred that He experienced in God's Way for Him. It was God's Way. Don't suppose when you get into difficulties that you are not in the Way, because of the difficulties! It might be just the right thing for you! Probably, it is in this self-indulgent and materialistic comfortable life that we are soft towards ourselves, so we do not find the time to get up and go to people. We do not find the time to pray as we know we should for the matters that are on our hearts, but God will show you the WAY today! That is the Road laid down in

His Written Word, and the matchless Christ, His Son, is of course the Pattern of it all.

"In the way wherein I walked have they privily laid a snare for Me." You can see the Joyous Confidence in it all. After all that, He still cries out to God with Confidence [v5 "*I cried unto Thee...*"]

v5 "O LORD: I said, Thou art My refuge and My portion in the land of the living."

So the whole Psalm (142) is the WAY. He was in THE WAY! "Blessed are the undefiled in the WAY", so in that darkness, in that Pit, in that prison which was Hell, surrounded by people screaming curses at Him, He said, "*I cried unto Thee, O LORD: I said, - He's quoting Himself - "Thou art My refuge and My portion in the land of the living."*

vs6 - 7 "Attend unto My cry; ... Bring My soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy name:"

Not that I may indulge Myself because I'm used to all that, but that I may praise Thy name. It was a new song in His mouth, that He came out with praise for God. He was God's Equal! He did not need to praise God, but He came out with this experience. It was part of His Life for evermore. It was an experience of a man, and it was a joyous experience to Him because it brought Him out knowing God loved Him for that.

He said, [*John 10*] 'I lay down My life of Myself ... No one takes it from Me (no one is in the matter at all). Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay it down of Myself.'

John 10:15 - 18 "As the Father knoweth Me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. 17. Therefore doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life, that I might take it again. 18. No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father."

There was no compulsion. There can't be! And there is no compulsion on you to obey God's Word - only one! - that is your love for the Lord Jesus Christ, and your happy confidence in God's Love for you!!

Psalm 143 is a Psalm from the Pit; Hell.

v4 "Therefore is My spirit overwhelmed within Me; My heart within Me is desolate."

v7 "Hear Me speedily, O LORD: My spirit faileth: hide not Thy face from Me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit."

v6 "I stretch forth My hands unto Thee: My soul thirsteth after Thee, as a thirsty land. Selah.

Remember, Hell is a thirsty place. The rich man said, 'Oh, couldn't Lazareth dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue? [Luke 16:24]!' It is a very thirsty place – and He has experienced that!

v8 "Cause Me to hear Thy lovingkindness in the morning;..."

"in the morning" – on that Great Resurrection morning when all man's troubles were confirmed as rolled away! Are you still in trouble? Well, they were rolled away some centuries ago! You may lift up your head and thank God that you ever heard of Jesus Christ!

v8b "for in Thee do I trust: ..."

He was coming out of Hell. He was coming back into Life still in that wounded Body; He was still depending on God to show Him how to go.

"cause Me to know the way wherein I should walk;..."

Have you ever thought to ask God, 'How shall I live in a new body?' Or do you think you will fit into it any old how? If you ask God that perhaps He will show you some things you have not realised in your life! You cannot take any kind of pride or self-righteousness into a new body; it will not fit in there! Only a humble and lowly spirit that finds fault with nothing because God has delivered it – that spirit will fit in very well into that new body!

Paul called people fools who were asking how the resurrection will take place and with what kind of body they will have. These questions are purely technical and God is not technical! If you are going the right way, you will get that right body, because the bodies are made to fit right people! Right in their hearts with God; right in their conduct, straight in their dealings, proper in their relationships...

So the Lord said, *"cause Me to know the way wherein I should walk;"* – 'show Me how I am going to live in this raised Body'. After all, not every man who will live in Eternity had a spear thrust into his side leaving a hollow that a clenched fist can be put into; not every man who will live in Eternity will have holes in his palms and in his feet, and with his back all lacerated and marked, whose face does not look very presentable as a human being should look...

Nevertheless, that was His experience, and He asked God to show Him! Isn't God wonderful! He has undertaken to provide every Answer; just fall

into God's Way! He will show you from day to day. He cannot show you everything today – you won't remember it! And if He showed you that tomorrow you will be in some difficulty, you would not want tomorrow to come! Remember, Today is the day of Salvation. Today is the day of your decision, and today, remember to make them!

"... for I lift up My soul unto Thee."

Psalm 37:23 "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and He (that is, the good Man) delighteth in His Way."

"the steps" – day by day; step by step; precept upon precept, line upon line. Yes, God can go on with you all day. He is patient and He is right. He will never do wrong to you, and you cannot really overtax His Patience because He is always right in His conduct, so He goes on and on to the appointed Day.

It is not because His Patience is running out, but there is a Day coming when God will know that no one else will take another Word from Him, and those who have will have already done so. That is the Time when He will close the account and settle up with everyone!

"the steps of a good man" – someone bountiful to God, cheerfully giving to God; most pleasant with God; someone easy with God. Christ gave His best to God, so God is able to give Christ to you. If Christ gave His best to man, man would not have appreciated it!

Psalm 44:18 "Our heart is not turned back, neither have our steps declined from Thy way" – Thy WAY!

Here He is associating Himself with His people.

v17 "All this is come upon us; yet have we not forgotten Thee, neither have we dealt falsely in Thy covenant."

Only *He* could say that! When He uses the plural, it would include you and me – the obedient, walking along the Road laid down in God's Written Word.

In *Luke 9* the Road seems to have quite a lot of landmarks! One man [*v57*] said, 'Lord' with great enthusiasm, like many Christians wanting to serve God. "I will follow Thee whithersoever Thou goest."

v58 "And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head."

He did not own anything. He couldn't say, 'I can lie down there'. They didn't mind Him lying down on the rocky hillside, but He did not have a right to

demand a bed or a room. That is one of the signs of the kind of Road laid down in God's Written Word for the obedient. We do not look to men, but you look to God. It is His Road; it is His way of Life.

v59 "And He said unto another, Follow Me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. "

The Lord tried someone else! Now a father is a very important person in the family, and Christ knew that well, but He said, "Let the dead bury their dead" [v60]. What could he do for his father? He may not have seen him for years! But like all good, respectable people he wanted to go and bury him!

Jesus spoke to him practically. 'Let the dead spiritually bury their dead physically, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.' He knew whether the man did anything for his father while he was alive or not, or if he'd not seen his father for years! So He said, 'Let the living hear! Go and do something practical! Preach the kingdom of God!'

v61 "And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go and bid them farewell, which are at home at my house."

Here's another one like a modern-day Christian! They are all raring to serve God, but then make their excuses, proving they are not ready, like this man. His family was there, at his home, his house.

v62 "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

"Blessed are the undefiled in the way".

You can see that you cannot be happy if you are not prepared to walk in the Way! There are so many Christians who are unhappy because they think they are serving God, or they think they want to serve this wonderful Person called God...

Well, you have to abandon your whole life, all its selfishness, its self-centeredness, its indulgence in the flesh. You have to see God! Heaven is the Place where you have to go spiritually, and then God will put your feet on the Road!

"and lead Me in the way everlasting." [Psalm 139:24]

"Our heart is not turned back, neither have our steps declined from Thy way" [Psalm 44:18]

Step by step; not one step stumbled and went off the Road! There is no stumbling on that Road because there is nothing to cause you to stumble if

you are along the Road of Life – the Way that God goes. To stumble means to not be doing the right things!

Psalm 67:1 "God be merciful to us, and bless us; and cause His face to shine upon us; Selah."

You need some Light when you travel, and God is your Light. Remember, God is the One whose Way of Life you are following, so He is happily engaged in helping you to walk as He walks, realising it is a spiritual walk, and that it has no appeal to the flesh. There is no sense of adventure [as in the world's sense] in following Christ. There is only a deep, deep love and a concentration and consecration to God's purpose in life.

God's Purpose in Life is to salvage wrecks from the bog and swamp of sin – to pull out those filthy wrecks and make them living people!

v2 "That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations."

That is what we need, and on your way with God you don't necessarily have to have a call to the ministry. It will be your way of Life, and along that Road you could be imparting God's saving health and God's Happiness. To be healthy is to be happy. To be happy is to bring about your health. "A merry heart", said God, [*Proverbs 17:22*] "doeth good like a medicine." And in *Proverbs 4:22*, the Son was advised by the Father to keep His sayings [v20] "For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh."

So you are on your way with God's saving Life in your soul. You may not have much in the way of the flesh, in fleshly comforts, but God's saving health is abundant and it can be imparted, not so much by words, but by the Way you are going on that Road.

v3 "Let the people praise Thee, O God; let all the people praise Thee" – "*That Thy way may be known upon earth*" –

It is not necessary to show it in Heaven; everyone lives that way There. As *Psalm 77:13* says, "Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary" but here it has to be advertised. People have to be attracted to the Way. have you ever read "Pilgrim's Progress"? It is the story of the Way! It tells of those who tried to encourage the pilgrim on his way and those who discouraged him. You will always find both kinds!

v4 "O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: - **for God's Way has been made known!** – for Thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah.

v5 "Let the people praise Thee, O God; let all the people praise Thee."

v6 "Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us."

If you really approve of God's Way, it gives an added advantage in that people see your delight; they see your radiance, your actual enjoyment of a crucified walk; and it attracts them. Happiness always attracts; Joy always attracts, and yet it is the non-Christian who tries to be happy, and who tries to encourage his friends and family to be happy by trying to maintain a certain degree of happiness! Christians, though, seem to be unconcerned by that sort of attempt!

This verse [v7] does show that God is Happy.

v7 "God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him." – **not unhappily, but especially reverently.**

This next Psalm is of Christ's experience in Hell.

Psalm 86:11 "Teach Me Thy way, O LORD; I will walk in Thy truth: unite My heart to fear Thy name."

v1 "Bow down Thine ear, O LORD, hear Me: for I am poor and needy."

God, of course, was never in Hell, but He was appealed to that He would bow down His ear to hear His Son, as He declared Himself "poor and needy".

v3 "Be merciful to Me, O Lord: for I cry unto Thee daily."

For three days and three nights He cried unto His God; and then He says in v12, "I will praise Thee, O Lord My God, with all My heart: and I will glorify Thy name for evermore."

v13 "For great is Thy mercy toward Me: and Thou hast delivered My soul from the lowest hell."

We sing some of those verses : "For Thou art great and doest wondrous things" (v10). But it is amazing that whoever composed the tune, left out v13, not explaining why! "Thou hast delivered My soul from the lowest hell". So when you sing these (scriptural) songs, don't just sing them for the sake of singing something to keep the meeting going! That is nothing to do with the Bible. You must keep your soul going with the Truth of the Scriptures. Get them into your heart and life, and if someone could add that verse in with the metre to suit it, that would be very good! "For great is Thy mercy toward Me: and thou hast delivered My soul from the lowest hell."

v11 "Teach Me Thy way" – God's Way for Christ took Him through Hell; into Hell for three days and three nights and out of it.

He had not been in Hell before, so it was a new experience for Him. It was a bitter, grievous, filthy experience, but that was God's Way for *Him*. That will not be God's Way for *you*; God has *His* Way for you – it is the Road laid down in God's Written Word for the obedient. You have to make up your own mind whether you are in that class or not, and if you want to be and are not, to put yourself in it!

"Teach Me Thy way, O LORD; I will walk in Thy truth:" That means 'I will not depart from Your Written Word'; that is my Way. It hedges me in; it forms up my Road. It is a narrow Road. Jesus spoke of it Himself, saying that the gate was strait [*Matthew 7:13*], that is, it couldn't be enlarged to take in everyone, the disobedient as well as the obedient. But it would take in the obedient!

"Teach Me Thy way, O LORD;" He was saying, 'I behave Myself while I wait for You to take Me out of Hell.' *"I will walk in Thy truth: unite My heart to fear Thy name."* It means He wanted God to gather it all together, that there be no little bits where He felt separated from God and not be happy about His Obedience. *"unite My heart to fear Thy name"* simply means Obedience right to the End!

Then finally, *Psalms 119*. A road laid down in God's Written Word for the Obedient. It is a manner of Life; a Life-style set forth in God's Written Word for the obedient. It is God's Style of Living. It is His Way of approaching even the difficulties of being in Hell for His sake. So Christ took God's advice.

You must also take God's Advice! And it is found in God's Written Word. And so He said, *"I will walk in Thy truth:"*

Psalms 119:27 "Make Me to understand the way of Thy precepts: so shall I talk of Thy wondrous works."

Being like God, He did not know what a precept was to follow! A precept is a mandate, an authority given to you by which you should act. And that authority is always a written one. It is a written charge containing specific instructions on how you are to act.

Britain was given a mandate by the United Nations after the First Great War to supervise, to oversee, Israel as it was forming up as a nation. They had written instructions from the League of Nations as to how they were to go. So that's what a precept is!

"Make Me to understand the way of Thy precepts:" – 'how it works in My Life'; how it will work in the lives of the obedient.

v32 "I will run the way of Thy commandments, when Thou shalt enlarge My heart."

A commandment comprises a system of government, established on a fixed set of commands, and acceptable to both rulers and the ruled as the basis of all lawful government. He did not know all that! He ran Eternity on an equal basis with God. He did all the going.

"I will run the way of Thy commandments, when Thou shalt enlarge My heart." It is a manner of life; a Life-style that God demanded of man. No less Christ than of us, because it is written, *"He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God"* [2 Samuel 23:3]

v33 "Teach Me, O LORD, the way of Thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end."

Statutes are similar, but different from commandments. Statutes are a set of rules drawn up to govern all conduct. It is very general and all-inclusive. Commandments are more personal and individual, to govern all conduct or action in a particular circumstance. Statutes are a set of rules drawn up by God – "Thy statutes" – drawn up to govern all conduct or action in a particular circumstance or in all circumstances.

They are finally established by law, that is, an Act is passed legally and set down in a special book called the Statute Book. It is a permanent guide for all those in authority.

"Teach Me, O LORD, the way of Thy statutes;" Christ had to learn what God thought was the best Way to govern mankind. You have a career mapped out for you! You have to learn the Way of God; His Life-style, how to govern, how to rule. We are said to be "kings and priests unto God" [Revelation 1:6; 5:10 (20:4,6)].

Statutes then are a permanent guide for those in authority. God will expect us to conform to that. He expected Christ to. They must govern by those statutes.

"Teach Me, O LORD, the way of Thy statutes;" – the Way, the Life-style, the manner of their operation. Following that would find the community or nation ruled by those statutes would be living like God lives in Eternity. All those rules, commandments and statutes all head up into the Way that God lives, so that anybody could be doing that if following those guide lines – A manner of life set forth in God's Written Word for the obedient.

v104 "Through Thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way."

"Through Thy precepts I get understanding:" A precept is a written directive on how to operate under certain conditions. So He said, *"Through Thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way."*

God's Way is revealed through His precepts. Every other way is false.

v128 "Therefore I esteem all Thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way."

God's Written Word, His precepts, or statutes or commandments, they lay down God's Way of Life and are applicable to every kind of creature, in this case, suited to man's life, and that is the Way we have to go.

The Way; the Road laid down in God's Written Word. His Way of Living for the obedient. A manner of Life; a Life-style set forth in God's Written Word for the obedient.

Psalm 32:8 "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with Mine eye."

May the Lord give us Vision to see what His eye is showing us!

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