**TZADDI – STANZA #18: PSALM 119:137-144**

**The Psalm of the Bible**

Today our study takes us into Stanza #18 entitled – Tzaddi. The theme of this stanza has to do with the righteousness of God’s laws. The idea being that the laws of God are right in every way. It of course makes sense that righteous laws would come from a righteous God. There are many laws written by men that are not righteous, because they originate from a sinful heart. It is legal to have an abortion and for sodomites to marry, but those laws are wicked. As for God, His laws are righteous. We begin today with:

1. **God is righteous and so are His laws – Psalm 119:137-138 -.** In verse 137, we see two wonderful facts. They are that both God and His judgments are righteous. As I stated earlier, the righteous laws of God can only proceed from a righteous God. The word righteous has the idea of being totally right in every way. God’s righteousness is found in the fact that He is right in every way. It has mostly to do with the character of God. God is perfectly holy, and therefore perfectly right in His character in all ways. God can never sin, do wrong, or make a mistake. God is right in every way. Since God is right, so are His laws. God is right to require man to live according to His righteous laws. It makes sense then to suppose that those who do not follow God’s laws are wrong. It also makes sense to suppose that God’s motives are right in regards to His righteous laws. Man errs when he tries to use his own wisdom to find fault, in both the laws and motives of God. All that we need to know is that, the God who is only ever right has given laws that will always be right. In verse 138, the psalmist repeats the theme but now adds the word “commanded.” A holy and righteous God cannot accept anything less than perfection. God has commanded that His righteous laws be kept. Since man cannot keep them, God provided a way of perfection that man could acquire – salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. In order to be accepted by a righteous God, a person must either be right as God is, by keeping all of His righteous laws, or have that perfection credited to him through Jesus Christ. Unsaved people will have neither, and as a result must face God’s perfect and right judgment.
2. **The psalmist’s passion against disobedience – vs. 139 -.** The phrase “My zeal hath consumed me” has the idea of the sapping of one’s strength. The psalmist’s passion has to do with his enemies, and their practice of forgetting God’s words. It grieved the psalmist so much, that he felt his strength decreasing. This verse closely matches verse 135 -. Both of these verses teach us, that we should be grieved over sin so much, that it adversely affects us in one way or another. As we saw last week, many in our society today, and even worse in the church, have stopped preaching against sin, and are even embracing what that church used to militantly stand against in years gone by. The loss of this zeal has built the contemporary and emerging churches of our day. These churches are primarily focused on numbers, and as a result are fashioning their “church” to the whims of the “un-churched”. These churches are geared to make unbelievers feel good, and as a result to stick around to be a part of that church. The only way to accomplish this, is to lose your zeal about sin. Anything short of sheer hatred for what God hates will one day become an acceptance and implementation of “churches” that have “forgotten thy words.”
3. **Thy Word is very pure – vs. 140 -.** What a great verse! There is no doubt that the Bible is “very pure.” As a result, the psalmist says something that makes perfect sense – “therefore thy servant loveth it.” It is real easy to love something that is pure. To be pure is to be perfect, or without flaws. That is what the Bible is. God made sure the psalmist wrote that right here. God says His Word is pure. We have so many false Bible versions today because multitudes do not believe this verse. Most reject the Bible because they feel it has many “contradictions.” It makes sense to reject something that is flawed. The problem for many today is this verse. God says His Word is pure. That is one of many reasons why we reject the modern versions.

They are flawed in many ways. God promised in Psalm 12:6-7, that He would preserve His Word. We believe that he has done that through the KJB. If we have the right viewpoint of God’s Word, we will love it, obey it, live it and share it. The word “pure” in this verse also means “tried or refined.” It has the idea of refining metals through purifying flames. Something else that God is telling us in this verse is, that His Word has been tried through many a flame and comes out perfect. Critics have tried to disprove this book and eliminate it. But in the end, the critic’s claims go silent; they go to hell and the Bible still lives as the perfectly pure Word of God.

1. **Being consistent despite contempt – vs. 141 -.** The psalmist’s claim of being “small and despised” basically has the idea of being held in contempt by others. It is very possible that this contempt came as a result of his relationship to God. There has never been more contempt fostered on people than that of which God’s people are called to endure. Yet despite this contempt, we find the psalmist consistent in his faith – “yet (in the face of contempt) do not I forget thy precepts.” This is the greatest test of devotion for the Christian. If a believer can stay consistent in their faith in the face of contempt, he shows his devotion to God. Sadly many today wilt under the pressure of unsaved people, who hold them in contempt for their faith. We can take this back to the first two verses of this stanza. Since God is always right and His laws are right, we can rest assured that we are right for following Him, and obeying His words. The only NFL team to go undefeated was the 1972 Miami Dolphins. If someone who hated the Dolphins held a Dolphin’s fan in contempt, and stated that the “Dolphins stink”, would that fan believe him and quit being a fan? Of course not. The facts are found in their accomplishment. The same should hold true for God’s people. We have a right God and right laws, and a track record from God that shows that we follow the right way. Even if a bitter enemy of God tries to hold you and your faith in contempt, shrug him off and point to the perfect record of our God!
2. **Finding the right focus –** **vs. 143 -.** We find again in this verse, the resolve of the psalmist in the face of “trouble and anguish.” The one thing that I want to point out in this verse is the focus of the psalmist. Despite trouble and anguish, the psalmist chose to focus on the Word of God, and found great delight in it. Instead of focusing on his problems, he focused on and delighted in the Word of God. The quality of your Christian life and your relationship with God will be determined on your focus. If you focus on the problems, then you lose focus of God. If you focus on God, then you lose focus on your problems. You can’t focus on more than one thing at a time. Since we have to choose, it makes perfect sense to focus on the Lord.
3. **God’s righteousness is everlasting –** **142, 144 -.** Both of these verses teach us that God’s righteousness, and His righteous laws are everlasting. That means that neither will change. God and His laws will stay righteous forever. In our world many things change. Many times that change is not good. We never have to worry about God, and His Word ever changing. God will be just as righteous, holy and just in 100 trillion years, as He was in eternity past and still is today. God’s Word will always be right, will never be improved upon, will never get to the point where they don’t “fit” anymore, will not fade away, lose its importance, or even cease being the Word of God. Man is clamoring after everything that is temporary, and he should not be surprised when it fades away. God’s people can rest in the fact, that all that we have is eternal, and will last forever. Many people can be temporarily right; God’s people will be eternally right. Which one would you rather be?