

Text: Ps 119.105-112

This section of the psalm is marked out by the letter *nun* (נ).

The previous section ends with “I hate every false way,” but this section begins with the word as God’s light to the psalmist’s path.

The path of life is strewn with difficulties. We think we have everything figured out, and a new difficulty presents itself.

I think this is true for everyone, believer and unbeliever alike.

The redeemed of the Lord have a resource to provide guidance in trouble, that that is God’s word, as our psalmist says:

Ps 119.105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

This opens the “nun” strophe, and it is the settled confidence of the redeemed man who faces life’s challenges.

One observation before we begin: “Alexander Maclaren comments on the fact that God’s Word is pictured both as a lamp and a light. ‘A lamp is for night; light shines in the day,’ he says. ‘The Word is both to the psalmist.’”¹

Proposition: The word of God is the enlightening treasure of the redeemed.

I. The troubles of life

A. Exceeding affliction (107)

“The verb is used ... of what one does to his enemy.”²

“He has been beaten down by his adversity, and he needs the Lord to revive his life.”³⁴

¹ James Montgomery Boice, *Psalms 107-150: An Expository Commentary* (Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Books, 2005), 1025.

² Leonard J. Coppes, “1652 עָנָה,” in *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, ed. R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer, Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke (Chicago: Moody, 1980), 682.

³ Daniel J. Estes, *Psalms 73-150*, The New American Commentary, #13 (Nashville, Tennessee: B & H Publishing Group, 2019), 425.

⁴ Daniel J. Estes, *Psalms 73-150*, ed. E. Ray. Clendenen, vol. 13, New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2019), 425.

B. Snares (from the wicked) (110)

A lot of lexicons refer to a bird trap, or a bird net, in which someone lays a snare that will entangle the victim

C. Risks (109)

“**109–110** combine risks necessarily undertaken in the course of life with risks encountered by the hostility of others.”⁵

II. The light of the word

A. The Scriptures show the path

“The Scriptures give us the information we need to determine God’s will.”⁶

B. The Scriptures give light for each step

“The word *ner* describes a small clay lamp with a single wick.”⁷

III. The testimony of the faithful

“The verbs in 109, 110 express determination: ‘I am determined not to forget ... not to stray’. We must not expect to drift by accident into devotion to the word!”⁸

Illustration: Daniel (Dan 6)

1. Daniel’s good reputation (1-5)
2. Daniel’s enemies lay a trap (6-9)
3. Daniel’s way determined by his faithful practice (10)

We are not Daniel, but God gives us light for our path, since we are redeemed by the same Lord.

⁵ Motyer, 570.

⁶ Tom Constable, *Tom Constable’s Expository Notes on the Bible* (Galaxie Software, 2003), Ps 119.105.

⁷ John D. Barry et al., *FaithLife Study Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, 2012), Ps 119.105.

⁸ J. Alec Motyer, “The Psalms,” in *New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition*, ed. D. A. Carson et al., 4th ed. (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill., USA: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994), 570.

Conclusion:

Proposition: The word of God is the enlightening treasure of the redeemed.

Let us walk in its light.